

Degrees and Diplomas granted by the Faculty of Theology

BTh 3/4 years (in English and local languages)

MDiv 3 years (in English and local languages)

MTh 2 years

MA 2 years Christian Studies/Biblical Studies (MACS/MABS)*

MA 2 years Christian Management and Leadership Studies *

DMin 3 years (in English and local languages)

DMin to PhD: 1 year

PhD Theology and Religious / Christian Studies / Christian Management

*These degrees may be taken by part-time students using blended learning methods and the program duration may vary according to the scholar's pace.

An Integrated Doctoral Degree (ThM and PhD)

A 40-credit **ThM** program offered by the University in a blended format provides the specialised training and intensive theological research and methodology required for advancement in Church or marketplace ministry. This also facilitates entry into a doctoral program to teach at the university and theological Colleges / Seminaries.

(BD / MDiv graduates can apply)

Martin Luther Christian University

The Light of Truth

Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies



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THE CHALLENGE OF PURPOSEFUL THEOLOGICAL EDUCATION IN MLCU

Every individual is endowed with a high aspiration as manifested in the proverbial depiction of The Apple of ambition and infinite desire. Education is one of the many attempts to achieve that.



Daniel envisioned a time when knowledge would increase (Dan 12.4) and today, humans have acquired more knowledge than at any other time in history. Yet, we are living in a fanatical world today. In the unprecedented crisis throughout the world with the impact of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the world as we knew it has changed and the need to adapt to this situation is not only urgent, but fraught with challenges. More and more children are growing up in broken homes. Violence, hatred and communal strife are rampant, and the most vulnerable are cut off from immediate help due to quarantines and lock-downs. Can't the Church do something? In taking sides with the poor, Jesus attacked the Pharisees and Sadducees for their self-indulgence and greed. Today, more than ever, at a time of mental turmoil and social-distancing, the community of faith is called to be a church where it matters and should seek opportunities for engagement with a service of hope rather than retreating with fear and self-protection. The Church is called upon to embrace, engage and continue with its task of being an agent for transformation and change. In all the domains

of the head, the heart, and the hands, the Church can provide effective ministries and outreach services beyond its walls and into the life of the community.

Any religion that professes to be concerned about the souls of men and is not concerned about the slums that damn them, the economic conditions that strangle them and the social conditions that cripple them is a spiritually moribund religion awaiting burial.

(Martin Luther King, Jr)

As an alternative influential presence in our societies, the Church shares the responsibility of providing moral and sound leadership today, and universities have the role to prepare candidates for leadership who will help face the many challenges in the world. Theological Education today should address and be focused on the pertinent issues of poverty, injustice, health, morality, dehumanisation and exclusions of peoples and societies – and as part of a multi-disciplinary university, scholars in MLCU have the opportunity of interacting with students and faculty of other departments such as Social Work, Counselling, Education and Management.

Christ stood against forces of discrimination and oppression, setting a great example. Historically the Church followed Him, supporting the suffering and sick, embracing the outcasts, providing them with love, compassion and hope, and challenging the forces of oppression. We recognise that at all levels, gender equity and empowerment of men, women and children is essential to both the Church and society's response. (NCCI. Policy on HIV and AIDS. 2009).

Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies

MLCU aspires to make a difference in society. The vision of the University for the service of the Church and Christian community is articulated in 2019 by starting the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies (FTRS) with the aim of imparting university-level theological education to candidates – pastors and laity – that will support the needs of the people and society. To enhance Christian leadership roles and to support Churches and Christian institutions meet the challenges of relevant ministerial witness and service in the world, MLCU offers the MTh, DMin, PhD and other courses.



MTh is to create a community of learners and help individuals in their continuous professional development. It is a non-residential regular program offered at the University, and is conducted by a unique team of faculty members from theological and secular backgrounds, facilitated by MLCU's multi-disciplinary environment. These scholars understand the contemporary challenges of ministry and mission experienced by the Church and Society in the twenty-first century with field internships and research being distinctive components of this program.

Disciplines are: *Christian Counselling, Christian Education, Christian Missions, and Communication and Media Studies.* (BD / MDiv graduates can apply)

DMin is designed to expand and advance the understanding and general practice in specialised ministry of women and men for professional, vocational or personal reasons.

(BD / MDiv with three years of ministerial experience can apply)

PhD in theological studies aims at equipping competent leaders in their field of specialisation with relevant research, cultural and contextual relevance, and trains scholars to be both researchers and teachers. The **PhD** is offered in the following theological disciplines: *Biblical Studies, Systematic and Contextual Theologies, History of Christianity, Christian Mission, Christian Ministry [Counselling, Education, Leadership, or Communication]*

(MTh or its equivalent with two years of experience can apply)

PhD in Religious / Christian Studies / Christian Management: aims at promoting research in Christian ideology and theology in the pluralistic, multi-religious and secular context of Indian reality. A degree in Christian Leadership and Management Studies is designed to help the Church and Christian NGOs with training on fundamental principles of leadership and management, backed by Biblical and Christian values.

(MTh / MA in Christian Studies / Christian Management can apply. Other PG degree holders may have to take a bridge course or have adequate professional experience to qualify).