

DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY (PhD)
IN
INTERCULTURAL STUDIES (ICS)
&
NEW TESTAMENT (NT)



**86-89 Medavakkam Tank Road
Kilpauk, Chennai 600 010
Tamil Nadu, India**

Phone: 044-2642119& 2643758 extn 111 & 115

Email: smeshack@gmail.com

Website: www.hbionline.org

INTRODUCTION

Hindustan Bible Institute & College ministering to the Christian Church in training transformational leaders for the past 63 years. It has entered into a new phase in its ministry to develop transformational leaders of the society to impart value based education and training in higher professional education affiliating with Martin Luther Christian University, situated at Dongkietih, Lower Nongrah, Shillong, created by Act No. 11 of 2005 of the Legislative Assembly of Meghalaya.

The Ph.D programme of Hindustan Bible Institute and College train and develop scholars, servants, and leaders of the church and the society through constructive and critical engagement with the Christian faith in its complexity and diversity, with religious, cultural and intellectual traditions. It aims at enabling candidates to lay a broad and sufficient foundation for the moment within the field of Intercultural and New Testament studies.

HBI's PhD programme envisages fostering excellence in (1) research (2) teaching, and (3) academic formation with the vision to honour God and honour learning to fulfil the mandate of the risen Christ to go into all the world to make disciple. The programme envisions:

1. a thorough commitment to learning foundational resources, research traditions, and contemporary discussions within and across disciplines; expertise in basic methodologies, required languages, and analytical skills; commitment to thorough, original scholarship contributing to the advancement of knowledge;
2. to develop the art of good teaching, and intellectual formation and challenges of working with candidates in ethnic, religious and cultural diversities;
3. to develop self-criticism, collaborative work in pursuit of scholarly engagement in a motive of serving God and neighbour, Church and academic community.
4. to disseminate knowledge and information to the church and society at large through seminars, consultations, workshops, training programmes and publications.

General Admission Requirements:

The following are general admission requirements for the PhD programme. Apart from these requirements, there will be special requirements for the fields of studies as indicated in the section for entrance requirement.

- Candidates must hold an M.Th degree either from ATA accredited or Serampore affiliated institutions with at least high second-class standing (B) or any post-graduate degree equivalent to MTh., in a high second class grade.
- Candidates must possess a high level of competency in oral, aural and written English.
- Candidates should have completed thirty years of age and with a minimum of 5 years of teaching, pastoral or research experiences. Exceptionally good candidates shall be given admission after 2-3 years of post-M.Th. experience in teaching, writing and publications grounded in research.

- Candidates must submit a letter of sponsorship by a sponsoring body, such as an established Church and Ministry/Missions Organization indicating that the candidate will be involved in working with the Institution or will be a professional in theological education and /or ecclesiastical services. It will also indicate that the candidate will be accountable to the sponsoring body during their studies.
- Every candidate should demonstrate their capacity to meet the financial needs for their studies which includes their tuition, research, board, room and related expenses.

Admission Procedure

- Application form can be obtained either from the Registrar's office at HBI or online from the website <http://www.hbionline.org>.
- Completed application with all the following:
 - transcript of grade certificates,
 - personal testimony,
 - sponsorship letter from the sponsoring body,
 - letter of recommendation from the institution where last studied,
 - letter of recommendation from a professor under whom the candidate studied and
 - letter of recommendation from the pastor/minister of the candidates local congregation

It should be sent to the Registrar along with Rs.500/= as application processing fees.
- After scrutiny by the Registrar's office, the registrar will send a confirmation to the effect the application are in place for PhD., and will be sent to the Director of Higher Education. After scrutiny from the Higher Education Office, the candidate will receive a formal letter of acceptance of the candidate for entrance examination from the Registrar's office.
- The candidate will be called for the entrance examination in the areas mentioned below:
 - A written examination on the area of specialisation
 - A written examination on Research Methods with practical application in the intended area of research – a discussion on the tentative plan on research.
 - An examination on the analytic and communication skills
 - A personal Interview with the Principal, Registrar and the Department Head and faculty.
 - The candidates are required to bring all the original transcripts of records and other letter for the personal interview.

- After the personal interview, and when the results are announced, the accepted candidates are expected to sign a letter of intent/ code of ethics on academic integrity.
- The candidates should pay the prescribed fees in full for the year or for the semester along with the registration fees.
- Following the registration, the candidates should be prepared to undergo the courses on research methodology and the introductory course.

DESIGN AND NATURE OF THE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) degree program requires 74 credit hours of study, including the doctoral dissertation. The program is delivered in a blended format, leveraging online technology with face-to-face seminar experiences, resulting in a model of delivery that fits the lives of adult learners. Because of this alternate delivery method, the PhD Studies in both Intercultural and New Testament Studies will be accessible to men and women who are actively engaged in full-time teaching in a seminary/theological college or Christian ministries and are unable to enter a traditional residential program. These candidates will join a cohort of peers who, together, will progress through a prescribed sequence of seminars, develop sustainable habits of scholarly inquiry, and enjoy the benefits of functioning in a cooperative learning environment.

Through the PhD in Biblical Studies, candidates will realize a greater mastery of biblical languages, exegetical studies, historical backgrounds, and theological frameworks. In addition to the more common humanities-based research model for biblical and theological research, candidates will have the option of focusing their dissertation research in the area of biblical instruction by using empirical methodologies as well as humanities-based research designs. The integration of these studies and disciplines will enable the candidates to conduct doctoral level research and will equip them to serve in the educational and ministerial fields which require the highest level of academic degree achievement

The design of the program can be seen in three phases.

PHASE-I (32-38 Credit Hours/18-24 Months)

Phase I includes **36 credit hour** of course work consisting of **10 Core Seminars**, and a comprehensive examination. There are two options for the candidates to choose from.

Option I

Candidates who prefers to do a fulltime residency programme requires a minimum period of **18 - 24 months** to complete all the course work with the comprehensive examination at the end of this period.

Option II

For the benefit of those in service of teaching and other ministerial services a residency period of three weeks duration twice a year to complete two seminars at a time is required. Candidates will be guided to work on the seminar presentation within this period of three

weeks under the supervision of professors. The course seminars will be organized in the month of February - March and October-November of every year. There will be online discussions with the professor concerned before the session begins to enable the candidates to prepare in advance for the course. In a year, a candidate can complete four course seminars. This option is given for the benefit of those faculty members who are involved in teaching and keeping up with the current research trends that will help in their continual study and research.

Core Seminars:

Though a candidate might have completed the courses offered in his/her M.Th. studies; at the doctoral level, courses will be of an advanced nature to enable the candidates to focus on recent scholarship in the area concerned and sharpening their critical and analytical thinking and innovative research competence. Hence, professors will guide the candidates in sharpening their research skills at the doctoral seminars.

Extensions for Course Assignments

The doctoral candidates are expected to complete all course requirements during the course. If they are unable to complete the coursework on time, the professors concerned may grant them extension. However, it may not exceed 30 days. A candidate who does not complete the assignment will not be permitted to take the next course, until the course is completed to the full satisfaction of the professor concerned and the Director of the PhD studies.

Comprehensive Examination

A candidate will be deemed ready to sit for the comprehensive examination upon the completion of all required course work. The Comprehensive Examination consists of two written examination, i) one covering both general and special areas of knowledge pertinent to the field and interdisciplinary competence and ii) competence on research methods pertaining to the candidates field of study followed by an oral examination as a viva voce. The duration of comprehensive examination will be six hours (3+3).

In the event of an unsuccessful examination, the candidate may be permitted for one retake. Upon successful completion of all required course work and comprehensive examination, the candidate will advance to Phase II stage.

PHASE-II

Phase II includes **21 - 27 Credit hours** of dissertation proposal writing and presentation and guided research consisting of six major paper presentations in a cohort group. This phase will require minimum of **12 months**.

Proposal Preparation

After the comprehensive examination, a formal dissertation proposal shall be presented to and approved by the doctoral committee. The proposal should include dissertation title, statement of the problem, purpose statement, research questions or hypothesis, research objectives, a literature review related to the research, methodology to be employed, an explanation of how the findings

will be reported, categories for the conclusions and recommendations, and a preliminary outline of the dissertation with the timeline. With the approval of the dissertation proposal, the candidate will be assigned an adviser/supervisor whose research expertise is directly related to the projected research identified in the proposal in order to develop the study programme, where needed a co-supervisor may also be given on the nature of the subject of the dissertation.

Guided Research

During the second phase, the candidate will develop the framework for six guided research that will inform the major components of his or her dissertation. These six guided research should be related to the candidate's dissertation research. Candidate will select the topic with the approval of the dissertation supervisor. Six major papers of 40-45 pages will be written and presented. They should work with their cohort group in consultation with the advisor/supervisor. Presentations of guided research project or paper will be once in two months. Candidates should present their guided research paper in the cohort group. Candidate may re-do if the research project is not up to the mark.

PHASE-III

Phase Three includes **15 credit hours** of Research and Dissertation writing. This phase will require a minimum of **12 months**.

Dissertation - General Considerations

A dissertation demonstrating the candidate's ability to perform and creatively interpret advanced research is an essential requirement of the doctorate which can normally be completed in the four year of study. Though it is difficult to constitute a satisfactory description of a doctoral dissertation or thesis, it is advisable to take note of the following guidelines:

1. It should be kept in mind that a Dissertation/Thesis is an argument. It does not simply summarize research, brilliant as that summary may be, and rather, it takes a position and argues a thesis on the basis of well-gathered research.
2. The thesis/dissertation shall deal with a significant topic, so defined as to permit adequate treatment of the subject matter. A candidate should make a thorough search of the thesis/dissertation archives in the library to make sure that their topic is original and worth studying.
3. It shall include an introductory section, a clear statement of the investigation: the hypothesis or the claim to be established, the source material, and the method to be employed.
4. It shall demonstrate a thorough knowledge of the scholarly literature in the area of the topic, including literature in foreign languages.
5. It shall reflect a fair and open-minded presentation of a subject and its problems. A dissertation/thesis worthy of passing must demonstrate an evidence of analyzing and interpreting relevant data, competence in handling theories, and methods pertinent to the

field of study and presentation of the findings in a clear and coherent manner and thus making an original contribution to its field of knowledge.

6. It shall show the candidate's capacity to think independently, to organise concepts and materials, and to express his or her thoughts in a literate fashion.
7. It shall give evidence of the candidate's ability to draw pertinent conclusions and to present them in a coherent and relevant manner.
8. It shall reflect awareness of implication for related fields and of remaining unsolved problems in the areas.
9. It shall exhibit adequate documentation from primary and secondary sources, and such sources shall be listed in correct form in an appended bibliography.

All theses/dissertations must conform to the specifications set forth in Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for the Writers of Term Papers, Theses and Dissertations*, latest edition. In the field of Biblical studies, the thesis/dissertation must conform to the specifications of the Society of Biblical Literature's guidelines (You may get the Candidate Supplement for The SBL Handbook of Style).

10. Candidates should allow at least a year of full-time work for dissertation writing which must not exceed, including footnotes but excluding bibliography, 80,000 words and not less than 60,000 words. (ATA is 60000 to 75000 words).
11. The advisor/mentor is under no obligation to edit work that has been carelessly prepared with inadequate attention to detail. Such work may instead be returned unread to the student for revision and resubmission.

Faculty Advisor/Mentor

The major purpose of the faculty advisor/supervisor is that of an academic and spiritual mentor. The advisor will facilitate the doctoral candidate in planning an appropriate strategy for the completion of course requirements. Individual advisement and counsel is usually arranged by appointment and should be initiated by the candidate.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

- A Candidate should have completed all the required credit units, seminars, reading assignments and contact sessions of the program at a grade B level
- A Candidate should have completed the research and produce the dissertation in the required format assigned by ATA/ MLCU with the approval from the supervisor/mentor.
- A Candidate should submit three copies of the final draft of the dissertation/thesis with a softcopy in a CD.
- A Candidate should defend his/her research in the form of viva before the Doctoral Committee/MLCU.

- A Candidate should have settled all the financial requirements and settled all the administrative matters with the Administrative Dean and return the Library books.
- A Candidate should have published two articles in any of the recognized peer-reviewed journals before submitting the dissertation.

ACADEMIC INTEGRITY

The community at Hindustan Bible Institute and College is committed to integrity in all areas of life. Academic integrity is essential in the search for and promotion of truth. This pursuit of truth, while being an important goal in itself, is integrally connected with other essential beliefs foundational to the HBI community.

No form of plagiarism and cheating will be tolerated within the HBI community. Plagiarism and cheating break the relationship of trust; discourage individuals from developing creative talents, erode the moral fibre so vital in an academic community, and do not promote truth.

Any candidate who breaks the standard of academic integrity by cheating or by committing plagiarism will be dealt with severely. This may result in a failure of the course, expulsion from the course/institution, or a revocation of a degree already granted.

SUBMISSION OF THE THESIS/DISSERTATION

The dissertation must conform to the standards given in the latest edition of *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*, by Kate L. Turabian, and the latest edition of the “Supplement to Kate L. Turabian, *A Manual for Writers of Research Papers, Theses, and Dissertations*,” available online. On anything that is not available in Turabian, the candidates are advised to refer to the latest edition of *The Chicago Manual of Style*. For clarification of standard abbreviations used in contemporary biblical and theological scholarship students should consult the latest edition of *The SBL Handbook of Style for Ancient Near Eastern, Biblical, and Early Christian Studies*.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

The normal length of the PhD programme is expected to be four years. For the convenience of the candidates, fees can be paid either annually or semester-wise. Those who wish to pay annually, should pay the annual fees on or before 10th of July, every year and those who wish to pay on two instalment per year may do so first instalment on or before 10th July and the second instalment on or before 10th November every year.

REGISTRATION WITH MLCU or ATA

Candidates are given the option to register with either Asian Theological Association (ATA) or Martin Luther Christian University (MLCU); accordingly the Registration fees will be collected at the time of registration.

Continuation Fees

Candidates are expected to complete submitting the thesis/dissertation in four year. Candidates who are unable to submit the dissertation/thesis within the four year will be required to register for a continuation course every June until they submit within the period of seven years.

Time Limitation and Degree Completion

It is envisaged that candidates should complete the program between 4 to 6 years. Only under exceptional circumstances, candidate may be given an extension, provided the chosen area of research does not become outdated. The doctoral committee will reserve the right to decide on the feasibility of the extension and the relevancy of the topic once the 6-year deadline is over on the recommendation of the supervisor.

LIBRARY

HBI library is well equipped for doctoral research particularly in the two disciplines namely New Testament and Intercultural Studies. It has a collection of **58,000 volumes**, and subscribes to **EBSCO Discovery Services** holding millions of journal articles and e-Books along with ATLA. All registered candidates of PhD program will be registered for the off-campus online access of EBSCO Discovery Services to work from their home or work places.

RESIDENTIAL ACCOMMODATION

Accommodation facilities are available at the HBI campus and are provided at the subsidized prices for the PhD candidates. Although the candidates are free to find their own accommodation, they are encouraged to stay on the campus during their course seminars. For all enquiries on accommodation and food, please contact the hospitality department at hospitality@hbionline.org or the registrar at academic@hbionline.org

BRANCHES OF STUDY OFFERED:

- 1. New Testament Studies*
- 2. Intercultural Studies*

1. NEW TESTAMENT STUDIES

The Ph.D. in New Testament Studies is the highest academic research degree offered by the college intended primarily to equip candidates for vocations of teaching and research in theological schools, colleges, and universities, or for the scholarly enhancement of ministerial practice. It aims at preparing candidates to become scholars and teachers in the advanced exegesis and interpretation of New Testament.

Program Rationale

There is a dearth of adequate and competent New Testament Scholars in our country. There seems to be a steady decline in the higher research in Biblical Studies. Many of theological colleges/seminaries encourage and promote hermeneutics from their own contextual perspective and not from the Biblical context and text.

HBI aims at developing a high level of scholarship that does not compromise the authority of the biblical text and evangelical ethos. The Indian Church and theological institutions is in need of New Testament scholars who can contribute to develop and enhance future research and scholars with a bias towards evangelical ethos and produce New Testament literature in relevant socio-cultural and political issues of the time.

The Uniqueness of the Program

- The course will be Biblical with no compromise to the truth.
- It will be based on the exegetical model. Where the focus is on the lexical, syntax, historical, cultural, critical and synthesis of the study.
- It will honour the ministry of the Holy Spirit, the author, the culture and context in which it was written.
- It will uphold the supernatural involvement in the development of the revelation and at the same time give a strong defence to the faith we have in the revelation of God.

The PhD candidates are expected to be rooted in strong Christian faith and are expected to display Christian commitment, character and a calling for ministry to the church at large so as to influence the churches in India and in Asia at large.

PROGRAM PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES

Vision:

The PhD in New Testament Studies (NTS) of HBI looks forward to a generation of God-loving, Christ-honouring and bible-believing New Testament Scholar-Leaders for India and beyond.

Purpose:

The PhD in New Testament Studies (NTS) offered at Hindustan Bible Institute and College provide candidates with an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the New Testament in its original linguistic, historical, socio-economic, political, and cultural contexts, gaining competencies in reading and understanding New Testament in its original Greek texts, exploring theological developments within the New Testament canon, and developing the ability to evaluate critically the contributions of modern interpreters and making original and significant contributions to the area of New Testament scholarship, that the candidates might make an impact on the wider theological and ecclesiological world.

Objectives:

- To enable the candidates to do creative, contemporary research that assumes, and is founded on, knowledge of the historical, philosophical, theological, and methodological issues of the chosen major area of study.
- To help the candidates to demonstrate exemplary skills in doing research in New Testament and will also demonstrate excellence in applying research to the benefit of church at large.

- To bring an awareness to use other interpretive criticisms, hermeneutical principles and methodologies.
- To make them understand the important theological issues prevalent in New Testament theology and its contributions to Biblical theology and Christian faith.
- To help them demonstrate knowledge of primary contributors to New Testament studies, both historical and current, and the nature of their contributions, utilizing appropriate research languages in addition to Hebrew and Greek.
- To help them develop the ability to understand and engage in New Testament studies within the broader context of theological method and worldview.

Outcomes:

- Candidates would acquire a very strong foundation for the development of equipping and developing NT scholars, so the word of God will come alive and bring transformation in the lives of individuals, churches and communities.
- The candidates will develop the necessary skills to exegete the word and effectively apply the truth, teach, conduct research; that the candidates will not only have skills to understand the Word of God but also have the ability to apply the truth personally so that they may transcend the traditional practices and begin to reflect the kingdom realities in more meaningful ways and the world may see God and glorify the Father in Heaven.
- The candidates will develop a passion for multiplying themselves and leaving a legacy to the next generation.
- Candidates can also get equipped as translators with the skill of contextualization. Thus, HBI envisages developing a new generation of translators who are indigenous and contextual in nature.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Apart from the general admission requirement stated above, the New Testament candidates shall have the following language requirements.

Language Requirement

- Show proficiency in Advanced level Exegetical work in Greek and a basic knowledge in classical Greek)
- Basic Knowledge in Biblical Hebrew and exegesis;
- At least one foreign language, such as German, French, Spanish, Latin, etc., depending upon their research area, before they begin their dissertation work.

Entrance Examination

- Every candidate is required to write the following entrance exams:
 - Greek Advance level Grammar and Exegesis Exam. If they fail to qualify, they may be given an opportunity to do some more study and write the exam to qualify for the same before the commencement of the programme.
 - Basic Level Biblical Hebrew Grammar and Exegesis Exam (if found inadequate, must undergo a course on Basic Level Grammar and Exegesis in Hebrew, either offered by the college or doing independently, but prove their efficiency in Hebrew grammar and exegesis needed for research in New Testament).
 - Candidate's ability of strong analytical, problem-solving and critical thinking abilities and writing skills will be evaluated.
 - Candidates will be required to write and present an exegetical paper between 4000 - 5000 words.
- Every candidate is required to appear for personal interviews.
- Candidate, who is poor in Hebrew Grammar and Exegesis, will be given an opportunity to take extra courses to qualify within one year of registration.

THE PROGRAM DESIGN

Prerequisites

1. Language Seminars: Greek and Hebrew
2. Advanced Greek Grammar and NT Exegesis
3. Introductions to NT Background
4. Introductions to NT Approaches

2. INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

The PhD program in Intercultural Studies at HBI aims to serve the national church to move from the state of dependence and independence to interdependence. Rooted in the Word of God, the church must become interdependent nationally and globally in its understanding of the great commission, the role of the local church and the development of various paradigms in fulfilling the same in a pluralistic context that is responding to the Gospel and growing in an unprecedented rate.

PROGRAM PURPOSE, OBJECTIVES, AND OUTCOMES

Vision and Mission

The PhD in Intercultural Studies of HBI looks forward to a generation of God-loving, Christ-honouring and bible-believing Scholar-Leaders for India and beyond.

Its mission is to equip scholars to be competent researchers, developing creative writing and reflective action from an integrated Christian worldview to contribute to new understandings of cross-cultural and multicultural issues.

Purpose:

The purpose of the HBI PhD Intercultural Studies is to prepare candidates to be transformative missiologists to contribute to the development of cross-cultural leadership and intercultural praxis. It aims in developing leaders who can provide relevant, credible and professional leadership, to teach, do research and consultancy in developing Indigenous missional leaders.

Objectives

1. To identify and recruit leaders with experience in ministry and leadership in order to equip them with professional, Missiological understanding and skills.
2. To provide an integrated Missiological centre that facilitates a learning community based on Kingdom values, Missiological ethos, academic integrity and relevant research.
3. To provide a unique program of study consisting of seminars, research, guided studies and on-going mentoring relationships that will provide a holistic Missiological understanding and skills.
4. To impact the church at large through seminars, publications, consultations and research to foster transformational movements and missional leaders.

Outcome

- Demonstrate research ability by engaging in original research around a pioneering missiological issues, problems, or opportunities.
- Acquire advanced specialized knowledge of the literature of a chosen area within the field of Missiology with analytical and interpretive skills and mastery of theoretical construct in the field of their research in intercultural studies.
- Acquire ability to actively participate as part of a community of scholars;
- Demonstrate relevant anthropological, historical, and theological understandings and identify relevant and scholarly seminal works relevant to intercultural studies.
- Engage in independent research and publication in intercultural, cross-cultural and multi-cultural studies.

Admission Requirements

1. Follow the general admission requirements.

FOR FURTHER ENQUIRIES

For all other enquiries pertaining to your academic work please feel free to contact the Director of Higher Education at smeshack@gmail.com or the Principal at academic@hbionline.org

Prof. Dr. Samuel Meshack
Director of Higher Education,
Hindustan Bible Institute & College