CANTERBURY CHRIST CHURCH UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

Code of Practice for Quality Assurance (Research Students):
Approval of New Research Programmes

THEOLOGY & RELIGIOUS STUDIES: MPhil

1.1 Award and Title

MPhil in Theology & Religious Studies

1.2 Length and Mode of Registration

2 years full time
3 years part time

1.3 Entry Requirements

A good upper Second Class Honours Degree of a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject; e.g., Religious Studies or Theology or a cognate Humanities subject. Holders of other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

1.4 Anticipated Total Student Registrations

It is anticipated that 2 FTEs will be recruited to research degrees in Theology and Religious Studies each year.

1.5 Programme Management

The programme will be managed by the Director of Research at Canterbury Christ Church University College in consultation with the Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.

1.6 Proposed Start Date
1.7 **Opportunity and Need**

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies has an established record of supervising PhD students to completion. Members of staff within the Department are experienced in supervision and have published extensively in their subjects. The Department receives growing numbers of applications and enquiries about research programmes from students aware of the opportunities the University College offers in Theology and Religious Studies. The Department currently includes a British Academy Studentship candidate among its PhD students.

1.8 **Aims and Objectives**

The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute knowledge to the discipline. In order to be eligible for the award of the degree of Master of Philosophy (by research and thesis) a candidate is required to show in the thesis appropriate ability to conduct an original investigation, to test ideas, whether the candidate’s own or those of others, and to understand the relationship of the theme of his/her investigation to a wider field of knowledge. The candidate is also required to show appropriate ability in the organisation and presentation of his/her material in the thesis.

This will equip them to be employed in a wide variety of professional situations, such as academics in Higher Education, lecturers in Colleges of Theology, teachers of RE in schools, as well as work in church ministry.

1.9 **Programme Outline**

- Research Training: students will be expected to participate in the University College’s Graduate School Research Training programme. Training will be given on Library Research Skills. If students need assistance with other skills (IT, writing skills etc)
the Student Learning Advisory Service may be contacted for support and additional training sessions. Where students require assistance with language skills, the English Language Unit may be contacted.

- Seminars: Research Students will be expected to attend the Department Seminar programme. As their research progresses, students will host a seminar to improve their presentation skills.

- Progression: Students will be required to meet with their supervisory team on a regular basis to ensure that they are making satisfactory progress. They will be subject to annual review by their supervisory team, which will ensure that the proposed programme of study remains viable, attainable, and on schedule.

- Assessment: the final assessment of the MPhil will be done by examination of a written thesis and performance in an oral viva voce examination.

1.10 Approved Supervisors

Two members of the Department (Professor Gareth Jones and Dr Brian Capper) have already received approval as First Supervisors within the Department. Approval is now being sought to add Dr Pilkington to the team of First Supervisors. (All documentation is attached.)

1.11 Research Environment

- The Department has an established and well-resourced research environment. All 6 academic staff within the Department are research active and regularly publish and present papers in the national and international arenas (seminars, conferences). The Department was awarded a 3A grade in RAE 2001. We are also engaged with other Departments within the University College in discussing possibilities for collaborative research within the
Faculty of Arts and Humanities, with a view to applications for research funding.

- We are able to offer a varied seminar programme through external speakers visiting our Department. Regular invitations are received for our staff to speak at other institutions. Students are expected to attend the Departmental seminars and encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences at external venues.

- Students have access to dedicated student resources in the Department, and are able to share fully in the resources provided by the Graduate School and by the University College as a whole.

1.12 Student Support and Guidance

- Students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members of the Department with one supervisor being designated as the primary contact. It is the expectation that the student should meet with the First Supervisor once every 2–3 weeks. It is expected that the supervisory team will help students make use of the services offered by the Student Learning Advisory Service and Student Guidance and Welfare where appropriate.

- The student’s progress will be monitored officially through the biannual report, where both the student and the supervisory team will be expected to comment on the progress made over the preceding 6 months. The departmental director of research will review these reports. An Annual Review report is forwarded to the College’s Director of Research and to the Research Degrees Sub-Committee.

- Should students experience problems with their supervisory team, they are encouraged to speak to the Director of Research
(or Head of Department). The Department has a complaints procedure that is known to students.

1.13 Departmental Quality Assurance and Enhancement

- The Department Meeting meets regularly, and Research Students are represented at all such meetings. The Meeting is an opportunity for students to give feedback to the Department about their courses, facilities etc. It is also an opportunity for the Department to inform students about future developments to their research programmes.

- The Department is committed to Staff Development and ensures that details of appropriate training courses are communicated to the staff who would most benefit.

1.14 Departmental Resource Implications

It is anticipated that this programme will not require any additional resources at this time.

1.15 Professional Accreditation

Not applicable for this programme.
1.1 **Award and Title**

PhD in Theology & Religious Studies

1.2 **Length and Mode of Registration**

3 years full time
4 years part time

1.3 **Entry Requirements**

A good upper Second Class Honours Degree, or a Masters Degree, from a British University (or equivalent) in an appropriate subject; e.g., Religious Studies or Theology or a cognate Humanities subject. Holders of other qualifications will be considered on an individual basis.

Students are expected to register for the MPhil in the first instance and be upgraded to the PhD in accordance with University regulations.

1.4 **Anticipated Total Student Registrations**

It is anticipated that 2 FTEs will be recruited to Research Degrees in Theology and Religious Studies each year.

1.5 **Programme Management**

The programme will be managed by the Director of Research at Canterbury Christ Church University College in consultation with the Head of the Department of Theology and Religious Studies.
1.6 Proposed Start Date

September 2002

1.7 Opportunity and Need

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies has an established record of supervising PhD students to completion. Members of staff within the Department are experienced in supervision and have published extensively in their subjects. The Department receives growing numbers of applications and enquiries about research programmes from students aware of the opportunities the University College offers in Theology and Religious Studies. The Department currently includes a British Academy Studentship candidate among its PhD students.

1.8 Aims and Objectives

The programme aims to equip students to design and carry out research that will contribute knowledge to the discipline. The PhD thesis should be an original contribution to knowledge or understanding in the field under investigation and should demonstrate the candidate’s ability to test ideas, whether his/her own or those of others, and to understand the relationship of the theme of the investigation to a wider field of knowledge. It should be of such scholarly merit as would on that ground justify its publication either as submitted or in an abridged form.

This will equip them to be employed in a wide variety of professional situations, such as academics in Higher Education, lecturers in Colleges of Theology, teachers of RE in schools, as well as work in church ministry.

1.9 Programme Outline
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• Seminars: Research Students will be expected to attend the Department Seminar programme. As their research progresses, students will host a seminar to improve their presentation skills.

• Progression: students will be required to meet with their supervisory team on a regular basis to ensure that they are making satisfactory progress. In order to transfer from MPhil status to the PhD programme, students will be required to attend an ‘upgrading seminar’ which will usually take place after 18 months (fte) of study. The upgrading panel will normally consist of the supervisory team, the departmental director of research and one other member of staff. The student will normally be asked to submit a sample of their written work and either present a public seminar, or attend a vice voce exam. Once the upgrading panel is satisfied that existing and proposed work is of PhD standard, a recommendation will be made by the Panel that the student’s registration be upgraded to PhD candidate status.

• Assessment: the final assessment of the PhD will be done by examination of a written thesis and performance in an oral viva voce examination.

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- We are able to offer a varied seminar programme through external speakers visiting our Department. Regular invitations are received for our staff to speak at other institutions (see attached for our programme of external seminars over the past year). Students are expected to attend the Departmental seminars and encouraged to attend open seminars and conferences at external venues.

- Students have access to dedicated student resources in the Department, and are able to share fully in the resources provided by the Graduate School and by the University College as a whole.

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