

Studying at Ridley

An introductory guide to our courses and how to apply



Applying to Ridley *An overview of the process...*

Applying as an ordination candidate

The very first step towards ordination is usually to talk to your own parish priest. Normally it is crucial for him or her to support your application to your Diocesan Director of Ordinands (DDO), which is the second step. Once the DDO gives approval you may meet with your Bishop, who must also give approval, and a date is arranged for your Bishops' Advisory Panel – or BAP for short. We advise prospective ordinands not to wait until after their BAP before requesting an interview at Ridley – once you have a date set for your BAP, get in touch with us. We'll ask you to complete an application form and will then arrange for you to have a place on one of our Interview Days, which gives you the chance to see the college.

Applying as an independent student

We also have a small number of places for those who are not training for ordination in the Church of England but want to engage in theological study in a vibrant community setting to equip them for some form of ministry in the Church of England or the wider Anglican Communion. Applications and enquiries should be made to the Admissions Office.

Ridley's Interview Days

Our Interview Days normally take place within University term time and on a Thursday, which is our 'community day' when students' families come in to meet up in the morning and stay for lunch in the dining hall. If you are married or engaged, your spouse or fiancé(e) is very welcome to accompany you on your visit – it's an ideal opportunity to meet with partners of current students and find out about life at Ridley from their perspective.

Our Courses *at a glance...*

Name	Length	Summary	Awarded by	Qualification	Assessment	Taught by	Entrance Requirements
Certificate of Higher Education in Christian Theology	1 yr	A one-year introductory course for Christian ministry through ARU with a creative mix of theology and application	ARU	CertHE	Essays	CTF (1)	None, but please see note (4)
Certificate in Theology for Ministry	1 yr	A one-year Cambridge University course for those preparing for ministry offering a range of options	CU	CTM	Essays and exams	CTF (1)	None, but please see note (4)
Foundation Degree Award in Christian Theology	2 yrs	ARU's two-year vocational 'Foundation' degree in Christian theology offering a blend of theory and practice	ARU	FdA	Essays	CTF (1)	None, but please see note (4)
Bachelor of Arts in Christian Theology	3 yrs	ARU's full three-year vocational degree in Christian theology which offers opportunities for independent study	ARU	BA	Essays and dissertation	CTF (1)	None, but please see note (4)
Bachelor of Theology	2 or 3 yrs	Cambridge University's vocational degree for Christian ministry combining theological and practical study	CU	BTh	Essays and exams	Primarily CTF (2)	None, but please see note (5)
Bachelor of Arts in Theology (Tripos)	2 yrs	Cambridge University's traditional theology course that promotes learning through rigorous individual study and small-group supervisions	CU	BA	Primarily exams	CU	At least a 2:1 in a previous degree in another subject (6)
Master of Arts in Pastoral Theology	1 or 2 yrs	A flexible Master's-level course in pastoral studies delivered through a mixture of small group lectures and seminars	ARU	MA	Essays and dissertation	CTF (3)	Normally the successful completion of at least two years of theological study (7)
Master of Philosophy	1 yr	A one-year course in advanced theology which includes the opportunity for independent research	CU	MPhil	Exams and dissertation	CU	At least a high 2:1 in a previous theology degree (See note (8) for additional requirements)
Doctor of Philosophy	3 or 4 yrs	A unique opportunity for serious independent study and original research at an advanced level	CU	PhD	Thesis	Supervisor from or appointed by CU	At least a high 2:1 in a previous theology degree (See note (9) for additional requirements)

ARU = Anglia Ruskin University **CU** = The University of Cambridge **CTF** = The Cambridge Theological Federation, including Ridley Hall

Notes on course teaching

- (1) The CertHE, CTM, FdA and ARU's BA offer a rich variety of subjects taught by a wide range of teachers. Many subjects are team-taught by a group of teachers from across the Cambridge Theological Federation, including Ridley Hall, but some draw on the talents of people with expertise from outside the Federation.
- (2) The BTh is taught within the Cambridge Theological Federation. Many subjects are team-taught by a group of teachers from across the Federation, including Ridley Hall. BTh students attend lectures alongside ARU BA students, but have their own group and individual supervisions. Some subjects are taught alongside Tripos students in the Divinity Faculty.
- (3) The MA is taught mainly by staff from the Cambridge Theological Federation, including Ridley Hall. Teachers with expertise from outside the Federation also make a significant contribution.

Notes on entrance requirements

- (4) Many students who do the CertHE, CTM, FdA, or the BA in Christian Theology have degrees in other subjects, but they may also be successfully undertaken by students without a degree or A levels. When we consider your application we look for evidence of your ability to benefit from and meet the academic demands of the course.
- (5) There are no formal educational requirements for the BTh, but most students who undertake it are graduates. Normally, as a graduate you would be expected to have a 2:1 or higher in your first degree. Non-graduate students need to show evidence that they have the academic ability to handle the demands of a degree course. In the 3-year version, a Qualifying Examination is taken at the end of the first year. This is the basis for matriculation (becoming a Cambridge University student) and entry to a University college (alongside membership of Ridley). For 2-year candidates some prior theological study is preferable.

(6) The BA Tripos is only available to those studying for ordination. Training is completed by a further year of certificate study.

(7) Occasionally this requirement is relaxed to allow entry to a well equipped and motivated person who has studied theology for less than two years.

(8) **Ordinands** wishing to undertake the MPhil need to have the approval of their DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) and Ministry Division. MPhil students should have studied theology for at least two years, normally having taken a degree in the subject and attained at least a high 2:1. **Independent students** who wish to undertake the MPhil should note that application must be made directly to the University of Cambridge and that Ridley does not offer an 'inside track' in the application process; entry into the University also requires acceptance by one of the normal matriculating colleges. Living as part of the Ridley community entails additional fees on top of the matriculating college and University charges for the degree.

(9) **Ordinands** wishing to undertake the PhD need to have the approval of their DDO (Diocesan Director of Ordinands) and Ministry Division. PhD students should have studied theology for at least two years, normally having taken a degree in the subject, attained at least a high 2:1, and successfully completed a year's study at Master's level. **Independent students** who wish to undertake the PhD should note that application must be made directly to the University of Cambridge and that Ridley does not offer an 'inside track' in the application process; entry into the University also requires acceptance by one of the normal matriculating colleges. Living as part of the Ridley community entails additional fees on top of the matriculating college and University charges for the degree.

Deciding on your course *Some helpful guidance...*

We will talk through all the options open to you and discuss your particular circumstances one-to-one during your interview day (or by email in the case of international students). So there's no pressure to decide on a course in advance, but you might want to think through some of the key factors that will influence your choice:

- 1. Length of study:** If you are training for ordination, the length of your course is set by Ministry Division and depends on your age and level of previous theological study. Contact us for more information or visit our website. Independent (non-ordination) students choose to study from one to three years, depending on their personal situation and source of funding.
- 2. Your previous experience of study:** We have a course for you whether or not you have A-levels, a degree or previous study of theology. See the 'at a glance' table inside this leaflet for details on the entrance requirements for each course.
- 3. How the courses are assessed:** Some courses are assessed primarily by exam, others by essays, and some by a combination of both. See the 'at a glance' table inside for details.
- 4. Opportunities to specialise:** When you come for interview, we can discuss your hopes for the future and any particular areas of interest which might make one course stand out as ideal for you. If you are thinking about training for Ordained Pioneer Ministry contact the Revd David Male now on 01223 746585 to find out more about OPM training at Ridley.

Finding out more

If you are interested in finding out more about a course, or would like to know more about formational training at Ridley, visit our website www.ridley.cam.ac.uk or contact our admissions office on admissions@ridley.cam.ac.uk or **01223 746587**. We look forward to hearing from you and hope to meet you in person soon.

Considering Ordained Pioneer Ministry?

Pioneers are those who work primarily in fresh expressions of church. These take a variety of shapes and forms. Ridley has a cohort of pioneers, whose training is directed by the Centre for Pioneer Learning and has a particular emphasis on mission and practical experience with local fresh expressions of church.

Call 01223 746585 or visit www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/cpl

Thinking of Sabbatical study?

Ministry today, whether ordained or lay, offers great opportunities. But it also makes great demands. The Ridley Hall sabbatical scheme provides you with time to let go of your responsibilities and enjoy the 'space' of a relaxed setting, sharing in our community of learning and grace.

Call 01223 746590 or visit www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/sabbaticals

Interested in training for work with children and young people?

Our Centre for Youth Ministry offers training which promotes excellence, professionalism and integrity in Christian work with children, youth and families, in church, school and community contexts.

Call 01223 746583 or visit www.ridley.cam.ac.uk/cym