



Graduate Certificate in Youth Ministry (GCert YM) (05/08)

Union Theological College offers a Graduate Cert YM to existing students and to recent graduates who meet the requirements, including additional courses, as set out below. The College hopes to make this Certificate available on a wider basis in the near future (particular to existing Youth Pastors on an “in-service” basis).

The course seeks to build a bridge between the academic study of the degree syllabus and the practical and applied needs of those preparing for ministry, especially for ministry among young people.

The aim of the course is twofold: to equip students to apply their theological training to “ministry” contexts in general and then to focus on “youth” contexts in particular.

The Certificate will be awarded by the Presbyterian Theological Faculty, Ireland, which is incorporated by Royal Charter.

The requirements (from 07/08 onwards) will be as follows:

ACADEMIC

1. The Certificate will normally be taken concurrently with a Union College / QUB undergraduate or MDiv degree course.
2. The Faculty may also admit to the Graduate Certificate course candidates who have recently completed a degree course in Theology (at Union or a comparable course elsewhere). Preference will be given to immediate past graduates of Union and / or to candidates who are currently employed in Youth-Ministry contexts.
3. An associated undergraduate degree pathway should normally include at least two modules in each of Old Testament, New Testament, Systematic Theology, Church History, and Pastoral Theology / Missiology. Should a student not meet one or more of these module requirements within his / her degree programme, then he / she may instead “audit” a relevant module, together with the submission of assignment work, normally totalling 1500 words.
4. Union MDiv students should take at least one biblical module at level 7 and at least one level-7 module in Pastoral Theology / Missiology. In addition to the MDiv curriculum, candidates will be expected to “audit” the UG PT1 module (with assignment work as above).

GENERAL MINISTRY

5. Candidates should take a Ministry Track in each of Old Testament and New Testament. These ministry tracks will normally be closely correlated with the degree modules on offer in the particular year and will seek to apply the biblical material to ministry contexts.
6. Students should also take a Ministry Track in Apologetics – which will include discussion of key doctrines which are at issue in the contemporary church context.
7. Candidates should also take a Ministry Track in Worship and Communication. The coursework will include a class presentation.
8. These Ministry Tracks will focus on the application of academic theology from a faith perspective in a ministry context. A class paper (or equivalent) of up to 1,000 words will be required for each Ministry Track. There will be a 75% attendance requirement at each of the required Tracks.

YOUTH MINISTRY

9. Candidates should take (or audit with course-work as above) at least one of the UG YM modules as part of their degree course.
10. Alternatively candidates may take (or already hold) the PCI Youth and Children's Board evening-class certificate in Youth Ministry.

TWO-DAY RESIDENTIAL

11. Attendance at and participation a two-day residential programme for Training and Reflection will be a requirement for those who commence the course in or after September 2007. Topics for study and discussion will include:
 - Contemporary culture / context
 - Pastoral care of Young People
 - Conflict resolution
 - The Spiritual development and health of those involved in youth ministry
 - Youth evangelism

REFLECTIVE PRACTICE EXERCISE (RPE)

12. Candidates will be required to undertake a Reflective Practice Exercise based on supervised involvement in some practical expression of Youth Ministry. It is up to the student to identify and arrange an appropriate RPE, subject to guidelines which will be issued and to the approval of the course organiser.
13. The project should involve at least 25 hours of "ministry" – and can be (for example) ongoing weekly activity or a special summer activity. It may be an activity in the candidate's own Church or a project in which the candidate is already involved.
14. Prescribed reading will be required in advance of the RPE. An evaluative reflective journal will be required at the end of the Exercise as will a brief report from the student's agreed "link" person for the purpose of the Exercise.

GENERAL

- The cost of the Certificate will be £180.00 including the cost of the "residential".
- The option of upgrading to a Graduate Diploma will be available.
- Numbers will be limited, and if the course is oversubscribed a selection process will be arranged. Preference will be given in the first instance to final year students at Union and to those involved in youth-ministry in PCI congregations.
- Certificate classes will normally be on Friday mornings in term time.