



Studying African Christianity at CMS Oxford

Undergrad & Postgraduate Options

Accredited by Durham University through a partnership with Ripon College Cuddesdon

Introduction

CMS Oxford is known for her decade-long leadership in Pioneer Mission Training. This has been a helpful theological training for those involved in ministry at various levels in the UK. However, since 2021, CMS partnered with Missio Africanus to introduce a route that focuses on African Christianity in the delivery of their programmes.

In today's world, few factors converge to emphasise the significance of studying African Christianity (at any level). First is the rapid growth of Christianity in Africa, so much so that Africa now has more Christians than any other continent, and has become the global centre of World Christianity. Second is the decline of Christianity in the West, especially in the UK where, for the first time in a UK census (2021), the population of Christians are less than half of the general population. Third is the unrelenting reality of migration, such that, in the UK context, about 60 per cent of the increase in population in the last decade has been as a result of migration.

When all these factors come together, one cannot ignore the significance of Africa on the UK Christian landscape and, indeed, on the global Christian landscape. Unfortunately, it is yet to be the case that the production of Christian resources and theological writing has shifted in the same direction as global Christianity. So the world needs African (and Latin American and Asian) histories of Christianity. We need African contributions to the disciplines of theology, missions and ecclesiology. We need churches in the UK and across the Western world that will identify the multicultural gift in their cities and appropriate these gifts to the glory of God. We need pioneering mission initiatives that will deliver African flavours to the salad bowl of God's mission anywhere in the world. So the African Christianity courses at CMS are designed to meet these needs, and where better to embark on such a study than CMS whose organisational goal is to follow Jesus to the edges!

The African Christianity Pathways at CMS Oxford

Undergraduate

- Undergraduate Certificate — 1 year

Postgraduate

MA — 2 or 3 years
DTh — professional doctorate (in partnership with University of Roehampton)

The Courses

Undergraduate Certificate (Fully Online)

Level 4 Modules

- **Introduction to Black and African Theology** — offers a comprehensive exploration of the rich theological traditions and perspectives emerging from Black and African contexts.
- **Foundations for Theology and Reflective Practice** — an introduction to contextual theology, principles and methods of reflection, and their place in mission and practice (online)
- **Mission and Evangelism** — puts the Bible in conversations with culture to help us gain greater understanding about our own practice of mission, looks at historical trends and current approaches to engaging and witnessing to the world around us, along with practical engagement in mission (online with weekend residential)
- **Introduction to Church History** — an overview of church history and its social, cultural, and political context, helping you see how history might have shaped your practice and experience.
- **Introduction to the Bible** — an overview of the purpose, context and content of the Old and New Testaments, becoming familiar with approaches to biblical study and considering how to engage biblical texts in mission and ministry.
- **Spirituality and Discipleship** — explores different approaches to discipleship, considering various Christian spiritual practices and their impact on our individual spiritual lives, and how we might engage practically with them in our lives and the lives of our community (week residential)

Master of Arts (African Christianity) — Fully Online

Level 7 Modules

- **Advanced Topic in African Church History** — a course designed to help students study a particular era of church history with particular reference to Africa.
- **Christianity and African Religions** — a course designed to help students undertake an in-depth study of an indigenous religious tradition from the Global South, how such a religious tradition relates to culture and shapes a people's identity, and how it finds expression in orality, rituals and artistic forms using music and dance.
- **African Pentecostalism** — A course designed to help students engage in a systematic and comprehensive study of the nature of Pentecostal and charismatic types of Christianity.
- **Missional Ecclesiology** — A course designed to help students reflect on the role and mission of the church both historically and in the contemporary world, bringing their own experience into conversation with various perspectives.
- **Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods** — A course designed to introduce students to various research methods and approaches to theological reflection. There will be an opportunity to design a research project.
- **Reflective Practice: Leadership and Collaboration** — A course designed to enable students to discern appropriate models of leadership and evaluate their own experience in leadership. Material is drawn from both secular and Christian contexts.

Being a student at CMS



Teaching Format

All our teaching days for Undergraduate (Monday) and Postgraduate (Tuesday) kick off with a student led creative worship session from 10:30-11am, and teaching sessions are 11am-1pm; and 2-4pm.



Accredited by Durham Uni

Our programmes are accredited through Durham University as part of a suite of Common Awards. The awards are taught in Theological Education Institutes (TEIs) all over the country, of which we are one with Ripon College, Cuddesdon.



Cost? Competitively low course fees 23/24

Certificate	£3,000
Diploma	£5,900
BA	£8,800
GradDip	£3,000
MA	£5,800
DTh	£2,130 pa*

Plus Durham Uni annual student fee (which entitles you to a student card and access to nationwide student discounts and university libraries access). This fee is between £250 and £450 pa or £72 pa if you are interested in becoming a licensed lay minister.

Fees are payable upfront or by monthly standing order.

*N.B. The Dth is the only programme that is charged per year, all others are for the entire award.