



**SOUTH AFRICAN THEOLOGICAL**  
**S E M I N A R Y**  
Bible-based · Christ-centred · Spirit-led

## Master in Theology Programme Outline

### **Admissions Criteria**

Candidates must be computer literate and have internet access and email, both of which are necessary for communication and research purposes.

To register the Masters programme, prospective students should have an appropriate four-year theology/ministry degree or a Theology Honours Degree on NQF level 8. In addition, candidates must have achieved at least a 60 percent aggregate for their undergraduate degree or Honours degree to qualify for the MTh. Students who have Masters Degrees in a field outside of Theology will be required to also have 240 Credits of theological studies before gaining entry to the Master of Theology degree.

### **GEN4121 Theological Orientation**

All new postgraduate students to SATS will take the compulsory postgraduate introduction course, GEN4121 Theological Orientation before starting with the Masters programme. This is a 12 Credit, 3-month course that will introduce you to online studies, MySATS, theology as research and research academic writing.

### **MRS5240 Research Concept Development**

This compulsory course aims to familiarise students with advanced theological research at SATS and academic writing. You will receive guidance to help you conceptualise your research project.

### **Full Thesis Masters**

The Full thesis MTh provides you with the opportunity to engage in an extensive research project on your topic of choice. This may be within traditional theological research fields, or it may venture into new areas of scholarship. We will appoint a supervisor with the relevant expertise to guide you along your thesis journey. After the orientation process, you will design your research proposal and write a thesis that is approximately 50,000 words in length (about 150 pages).

We have faculty who are able to supervise a Master's thesis in any of the following fields:

Practical Theology	Church Leadership	Christian Education
Pastoral Counselling	Missiology	Systematic Theology
Biblical Studies	Bible Translation	Children's Ministry
Church History	Homiletics	Sports Ministry
Biblical Greek	Biblical Hebrew	Worship Studies
Youth Ministry	Theological Ethics	

The thesis journey is structured according to 5 phases:

### **Phase structure:**

#### **Phase 1: Research Concept development (9 months)**

Phase 1 takes the candidate from the point of enquiry to the formulation of a suitable research concept. The Phase includes the GEN4121 Theological Orientation and MRS5240 Research Concept Development courses. This phase includes:

- assessing whether the applicant meets the admission requirements,
- appraising the applicant's aptitude and preparedness for independent research,
- introducing the candidate to the Seminary and the PG School,
- orienting the candidate to academic writing and advanced level theological research
- selecting a research topic and key research method
- drafting a research concept
- production of a Draft 0 research proposal
- This phase ends with a clear research concept and appointment of a research supervisor.

#### **Phase 2: Research proposal writing (3 – 6 months)**

Phase 2 begins with the completing of the RP Draft 0 and appointment of a supervisor, and culminates when the candidate's research proposal is approved by the Postgraduate Committee (PGC). This phase includes:

- introduction to the supervisor(s),
- refinement of the research proposal under the guidance of the supervisor,
- submission of the proposal to the PGC, this is usually done at least twice,
- Correction of the proposal to the satisfaction of the PGC.
- This phase ends with formal approval of the RP by Postgraduate Committee –PGC. The PGC meets monthly; this should encourage you in setting up specific measures towards working around a certain deadline. The formal approval of the RP is marked by a letter from the Registrar to welcome you into the new phase.

### Phases 3-4: Research and Writing (6 – 12 months each)

Phase 3 and 4 commences after the research proposal is approved by the PGC. This is the research and writing part of the thesis process. We have divided it into two phases because it constitutes the largest part of the research process.

- Phase 3 (Thesis writing 1st half): This is a phase that covers the first half of research and writing (up to 50% of the thesis). It is important that the student indicates the mid-point of a thesis writing journey in their Research Proposal.

When the mid-point is reached the student submits a Draft-to-date to their supervisor who completes the mid-point review.

- Phase 4 (Thesis writing 2nd half): This phase covers research and writing process of the second half. Phase 4 ends once the supervisor is happy with the students full thesis draft.

### Phase 5: Moderation and examination (3 – 6 months)

Phase 5 begins when the supervisor has signed off all the chapters of the thesis and the thesis as a whole. In this phase, the candidate must:

- submit a draft of the full thesis for the supervisor's review,
- submit the corrected version for moderation (the formal Internal Review)
- edit the approved thesis in preparation for external examination,
- submit the final thesis for external examination, and
- Make changes and corrections as required by the external examiners.

### Pricing

Payment for the MTh is per phase, with payments made at the beginning of each new phase. Additional costs apply when candidates exceed the time-frames stipulated for each phase.

The fee structure is as follows:

#### Master of Theology

Phase	South Africa	Majority World	Elsewhere
1 (orientation)	R4460	\$393	\$769
2 (research proposal)	R5954	\$526	\$1026
3 (first half of thesis writing)	R7442	\$656	\$1270
4 (second half of thesis writing)	R7442	\$656	\$1270
5 (examination and finalisation of thesis)	R4460	\$393	\$769
<b>Total</b>	<b>R29758</b>	<b>\$2624</b>	<b>\$5104</b>

Kindly note all fees paid to SATS are non-refundable.  
Prices are increased annually in January.