

Certificate and Diploma in Jewish-Christian Studies (King's Evangelical Divinity School)

Version 3.1 (last updated February 2023)

Introduction

The Certificate and Diploma in Jewish-Christian Studies is an specialist online KEDS programme in theology developed by the school's department of Jewish-Christian Studies. The aim of the programme is to provide primarily Gentile believers with an in-depth knowledge, understanding and skills in the following areas:

- The Jewish root of the Christian faith
- Jewish-Christian biblical interpretation
- The historical and theological relationship between the Church and Israel
- History, thought, nature and issues facing diverse Jewish expressions of faith in Jesus
- Responses to the current debate concerning the Church's relationship with Israel and the Jewish people
- Ministry among the Jewish people
- History, culture and geography of Israel
- Biblical Hebrew

Structure

The programme consists of two parts. The Certificate stage is made up of of six modules, as detailed below, successful completion of which earns the Certificate in Jewish-Christian Studies. For the Diploma students must complete the Certificate stage and three further Diploma-level extended modules. Diploma modules are double the length of Certificate modules. Students are permitted to exit early with a Certificate if they wish.

Certificate Modules - General Content

JCS1 Israel, the Church, the Bible and Theology

- Introduction to the module and programme
- Survey of Jewish-Christian relations and Jewish-Christian studies

- Why this matters as a theological issue
- Introducing Christian Zionism and Christian anti-Zionism
- Different expressions of supersessionism (punitive, economic, structural)
- Response 1: Israel in the canonical narrative (calling, covenant, role/purpose, the New Testament, eschatology)
- Response 2: Study of Romans 9-11

JCS2 Israel, the Church and Biblical Interpretation

- Jesus, Paul and the Bible
- What is Midrash?
- Hermeneutics and the New Testament authors
- Rabbinic hermeneutics
- Israel and hermeneutics
- Interpretation of the book of Matthew
- Passover and paschal theology
- Trinity of the Godhead: A Jewish-Christian perspective

JCS3 Israel and Church History

- The New Testament period
- Post-apostolic period and the parting of the ways
- The Ebionites - early church Jewish expressions of Christianity?
- Medieval period
- Spanish Catholicism and the Jews
- Protestants and Israel
- The European churches and the Holocaust
- Post-holocaust theology
- Modern Christian anti-Zionism

JCS4 Israel, the Church and the Gospel

- The Jewish New Testament Church and evangelism
- Forced Jewish conversions in medieval Europe
- Early Christian missions to the Jews
- The Hebrew Christian Movement
- Emergence of the modern Messianic movement
- Modern Jewish evangelism - groups and methods
- Jewish responses to Jewish evangelism
- Engaging in Jewish evangelism - issues, challenges and responses

JCS5 Israel, the Church and Ecclesiology

- A Primer for Gentiles - issues of identity, ecclesiology, Torah-observance and praxis for Jewish believers in Jesus
- Historical survey of the modern Messianic Movement

- Nature, thought and expressions of the modern Messianic movement
- What is it Christians are “grafted into”?
- Gentile fixation with the Messianic movement
- Gentiles and Torah obligation
- Gentiles and the festivals of Israel

JCS6 Israel, the Church, Politics and the Land

- Jewish presence in the land
- Emergence of a modern Jewish homeland and the establishment of the State of Israel
- History of modern Israel since 1948
- Christian Zionism and Christian anti-Zionism
- Christians and the Boycotts, Disinvestment and Sanctions (BDS) movement
- Portrayal of the Jewish people and Israel in the media
- Jews, Christians and the Media
- Evangelicals and the Land
- Israel and eschatology

Diploma Modules

JCSD1 Biblical Hebrew for Beginners 1

JCSD2 Biblical Hebrew for Beginners 2

The Hebrew modules provide students with an introduction to the Biblical Hebrew language, giving students the basic skills needed for the exegesis of the Hebrew Old Testament. These modules also enable students to understand and make use of technical commentaries on the Old Testament, in turn providing a foundation for the further study of Old Testament texts in Hebrew.

JCSD3 Lands of the Bible

This extended module explores the geography, topography, history and culture of the land of Israel, both in the past, as a key exegetical tool for the treatment of relevant biblical texts, and in the present, providing additional context for an advanced understanding and treatment of the issues covered in JCS6.

Regulations

1. Registration Period

Each stage of the programme must be completed within two calendar years. Therefore, the maximum permitted time to complete the Diploma in Jewish-Christian Studies is four

years. Note that the full programme can be comfortably completed in 2-3 years, so the four year limit allows students additional time in the event of unforeseen circumstances. The minimum registration period for each stage is six months, that is, completion of the Diploma in a calendar year.

2. Minimum Study Requirements

Students must complete a minimum of three Certificate modules a year. Assignment deadlines are 14 weeks after commencement of a module. A module can be extended once for a further three weeks if circumstances demand.

Note that students can begin the programme any time of the year and registration periods and assignment deadlines are calculated based on a student's start date.

3. Assessment

All modules are assessed by the submission of written assignments. There are no examinations. If a student does not pass a module they are permitted to re-submit assessments. First resubmissions are capped at 60% and second resubmissions are capped at the minimum pass mark. Students resubmitting work five or more times across the Certificate stage are not permitted to advance to the Diploma stage of the programme.