

**INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY FOR GRADUATE STUDIES**  
**FACULTY OF CHRISTIAN COUNSELLING AND SPIRITUAL DIRECTION**  
**Doctoral and Master's Degrees**

**I. Philosophy:** The primary mission of the educational programmes in Christian Counselling and Spiritual Direction coursework is:

- A. To develop competent, critical reviewers and well-informed researchers, professors and clinicians;
- B. To enhance and promote a comprehensive basis for teaching, researching and practicing Christian Counselling and Spiritual Direction;
- C. To promote systems that respect the diversity of client populations as well as approaches to research, teaching and clinical practice;
- D. To advance the body of academic literature within the field through the promotion of research outcomes and analysis, research and clinical ethics, teaching and clinical effectiveness, special populations, evidence-based practice, and mental health concerns;
- E. To inculcate excellence and critical thinking within the field.

**II. Outcomes:** Students must demonstrate the following prior to graduation:

- A. Comprehensive knowledge of Christian Counselling or Spiritual Direction clinical theory and practice via literature review, bibliography, and the development of an annotated outline for the dissertation or project;
  - 1. Thorough knowledge of research methodologies via formulation of a Christian Counselling or Spiritual Direction research question, and the selection of an appropriate means of data collection and analysis;
  - 2. Well-developed critical thinking skills, including those of analysis and synthesis including approaches in awareness and advantages of qualitative and quantitative research methods;
  - 3. Postgraduate-level written and oral communication skills;
  - 4. Ease with discourse about subject matter via dissertation defence or oral examination and when appropriate at roundtable discussions with peers and faculty;
  - 5. A mastery of examination materials and ability to participate in analysis of research articles and to translate these articles into components of clinical practice.
  
- B. For Christian Counselling:
  - 1. Ability to effectively utilise well-researched psychological and clinical practices as well as spiritual resources for healing and growth;

2. Ability to move beyond the typical “illness model” by providing psychologically sound therapy that recognises a client's spiritual dimension;
3. Ability to integrate theology and other faith-tradition knowledge, spirituality, the resources of faith communities, the behavioural sciences, and systemic theory.

C. For Spiritual Direction:

1. An integrated spirituality grounded in self-awareness and engagement with modern culture, as well as with classic and contemporary resources in the Christian tradition;
2. Spirituality literacy grounded in biblical, theological and psychological competencies; spirituality praxis through personal engagement around spiritual themes;
3. Professional skills in spiritual direction;

### III. Content.

A. IUGS offers the following Degrees in Christian Counselling or Spiritual Direction:

1. Master of Arts (MA);
2. Master of Science (MSc);
3. Doctor of Philosophy (PhD).

B. The MSc Project is oriented toward practical application in a chosen area of Christian Counselling or Spiritual Direction and tends to involve more primary research.

C. The MA thesis and PhD dissertation tend to be theoretical and involves more secondary then primary research in the chosen area of Christian Counselling or Spiritual Direction.

D. The student’s portfolio and transcripts are examined by the dean after discussion with the student to determine his or her goals. A maximum of 27 (for master's students) or 66 (for doctoral students) credits of advanced standing will be approved after this process.

E. Domains included in these credits as assessed and approved by the Dean of the Faculty of Christian Counselling or Spiritual Direction that may be accepted for advanced stranding include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. For Christian Counselling:

- a. Theories of personality and personality development;
- b. Interpersonal relations;
- c. Marriage and family dynamics;
- d. Group dynamics;

- e. Personality and culture;
- f. Psychopathology;
- g. Psychology of religious experience;
- h. Theories of counselling and psychotherapy;
- i. Personality assessment and statistics;
- j. Theories of the pastoral office, including the history and theory of pastoral care;
- k. Research methods;
- l. Orientation to the helping professions and ethics;

2. For Spiritual Direction:

- a. Foundations of Christian Spirituality;
- b. Biblical Foundations, Christian Origins, Literature of Ancient Israel;
- c. Theological Foundations / Christian Doctrine;
- d. Psychological Foundations / Human Person & Psychological Development;
- e. Introduction to Spirituality Praxis;
- f. Advanced Spiritual Accompaniment Praxis;
- g. Spiritual Accompaniment Practicum;
- h. Ethics of Pastoral Counselling and Spiritual Direction;
- i. Personal Spiritual Direction;
- j. Spiritual Paths in World Religions;
- k. Christian Moral Theology and Ethics;
- l. Spirituality Field Project.

C. Only grades of "C" or better will be accepted in transfer for academic standing. In addition the student's overall average for transfer credits must be "B" or better.

D. Graduation requirements:

1. MA and MSc: 42 post-baccalaureate credits, including the following:
  - a. A total of 27 post-baccalaureate credits in transfer from other institutions or taken by distance-learning through IUGS;
  - b. Successful completion of the distance-learning course Research and Design (6 credits);
  - c. Successful completion of the Graduate Seminar (3 credits);
  - d. Thesis and Oral Defence, or Project and Oral Examination (6) credits;
  
2. PsyD: 93 post-baccalaureate credits, including the following:
  - a. A total of 66 post-baccalaureate credits in transfer from other accredited institutions or taken by distance-learning through IUGS;

- b. Successful completion of distance-learning courses Research and Design I and II (12 credits);
  - c. Successful completion of the 5-day Graduate Seminar at the 7-day Residency (3 credits);
  - d. Project and Oral Examination (12 credits);
3. PhD: 93 post-baccalaureate credits, including the following:
- a. A total of 66 post-baccalaureate credits in transfer (earned before or after admission) or taken by distance-learning through IUGS;
  - b. Successful completion of distance-learning courses Research and Design I and II (12 credits);
  - c. Successful completion of the 5-day Graduate Seminar at the 7-day Residency (3 credits);
  - d. Dissertation and Oral Defence (12 credits).

#### IV. Sequence

- A. Advanced-standing course credits may be taken before or after the student's matriculation at IUGS. Master's students must complete their 27 credits advanced standing and doctoral students their 66 advanced-standing credits before undertaking Research and Design I.
- B. For doctoral students, Research I must be completed, approved and filed before work begins on Research II.
- C. Research and Design I (and for doctoral students Research and Design II) must be completed, approved and filed before the first draft of the Master's Project, Thesis, Doctoral Project or Dissertation is submitted.
- D. The Graduate Seminar may be completed at any time during the student's enrolment at IUGS but must be successfully completed before graduation.

#### V. Instructional strategies will include, but not be limited to, the following:

- A. Assigned readings of texts and academic journal articles;
- B. Seminar review of these assigned readings;
- C. Interactive lectures;
- D. Small group discussions, where students will be evaluated on their level of participation;
- E. Use of electronic media (Questia online library provided by the University and other sources selected by the student, mentor, and Dean);
- F. Examinations (cumulative and comprehensive examinations to ensure subject-matter

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