

SUPERVISORS

PhD supervisors may include the following:

Rev Prof Tersur Aben *Professor of Systematic Theology* (ThM, MTS, PhD Calvin) specialises in the doctrine of God and the concise explication of traditional Christian doctrines using critical philosophical analysis for easier application to a contemporary generation.

Dr Mark Hopkins *Assoc. Professor of Church History* (MA, DPhil Oxford) has worked on the interface between Church History and Historical Theology, and more recently on that between New Testament and Systematic Theology, seeking a fresh understanding of Paul's theology of the gospel and applying this in the contemporary church.

Rev Prof Timothy Palmer *Professor of Biblical Theology* (BA, BD Calvin, ThM Amsterdam, PhD Aberdeen) specialises in Reformation theology, African Christian theology and Biblical theology.

Prof Andy Warren-Rothlin *Professor of Hebrew* (MA Oxford, MPhil, PhD Cambridge) specialises in the biblical Hebrew verbal system, Old Testament poetry, Bible translation and linguistic pragmatics.



THE BEIRUT BENCHMARKS

Doctoral study within an evangelical Christian institution is founded on an understanding of knowledge that is more than academic. In the Bible, acquiring and exercising wisdom involves a combination of faith, reason and action. It requires

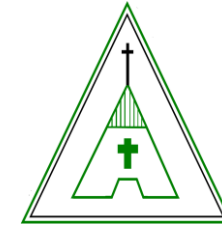
- right belief and committed trust in the living God ("the fear of the LORD is the first principle of wisdom"),
- creative and humble use of the rationality God has granted to humans made in his own image, and
- appropriate living in the world to reflect God's calling and participate in God's mission

Doctoral study, therefore, pursued on such a foundation, will be confessional, rational and missional. For a Christian, doctoral study is one dimension of what it means to "love the LORD your God with all your heart and mind and soul and strength."

Within such a framework of Christian identity and commitment, the doctoral qualification will be awarded to students who are church members commended for faithful discipleship and recognized leadership, and who demonstrate the following qualities through appropriate examination:

1. **Comprehensive understanding**, having demonstrated a breadth of systematic understanding of a field of study relevant to the Christian community of faith, and mastery of the skills and methods of research appropriate to that field.
2. **Critical skills, faithfully exercised**, having demonstrated their capacity for critical analysis, independent evaluation of primary and secondary source materials, and synthesis of new and inter-related ideas through coherent argumentation, and their commitment to exercise such skills on the foundation of biblical faithfulness to Jesus Christ and his church.
3. **Serious inquiry with integrity**, having demonstrated the ability to conceive, design and implement a substantial project of inquiry resulting in a sustained and coherent thesis, and to do so with Christian and scholarly integrity.
4. **Creative and original contribution**, having produced, as a result of such disciplined inquiry, a creative and original contribution that extends the frontiers of knowledge, or develops fresh insights in the articulation and contextual relevance of the Christian tradition, some of which merit national or international refereed publication.
5. **Contextual relevance**, having shown their capacity, in the course of their doctoral program and in their expectation of its future potential, for biblically-informed critical engagement with the realities of their cultural contexts.
6. **Ability to communicate**, having shown an ability in communicating about their area of expertise to peer-level academic audiences and where appropriate to non-specialists in local Christian communities and the wider society in culturally relevant ways, including their mother tongue, for example through teaching, preaching or writing.
7. **Missional impact**, having shown that they are committed, and can be expected, to use the fruit of their doctoral study, the skills it has given them and the opportunities it affords them, to promote the kingdom of God and advance the mission of the church (both local and global), through Christ-like and transformational service, to the glory of God.

Theological College of Northern Nigeria
PO Box 64, Bukuru 930008, Jos, Plateau State, NIGERIA
www.tcn.org



Theological College of Northern Nigeria



PhD programme

WELCOME!

TCNN is pleased to announce the start of its PhD programme from August 2012. Distinctives are:

- ▲ *service*: The programme and its staff exist to facilitate the student's own personal development and achievement
- ▲ *encouragement*: TCNN's pleasant campus and vibrant interdenominational Christian community offer a conducive environment for study
- ▲ *envisioning*: Kingdom values of mutual encouragement in the service of the Church are to infuse every aspect of the programme, from funding and administration through to scholarly research processes and product
- ▲ *quality*: Staff come from top international institutions and will select from applicants only those truly expected to work hard and excel



The Heart of the TCNN Campus seen from the air

FORMAL PROSPECTUS

TCNN offers a research-based PhD programme as follows:

Values: The programme has affiliation with the University of Jos (seeking full accreditation) and values and ethos in line with *ICETE/ACTEA* (The *Beirut Benchmarks* as overleaf), including in particular the expectation that a PhD thesis will make a 'creative and original contribution' to scholarship within its field, focussing on *depth* more than *breadth*, albeit often in an interdisciplinary way. It is expected that PhD research, as indeed all aspects of life at TCNN, should be geared towards meeting the needs of the African church, and in particular TEKAN churches as proprietors of TCNN.

Concept: The PhD is a three-year programme which does not include formal taught credits. However, it does typically include the following features:

- ▲ *Full-time student status*, usually with residence at TCNN (absolute minimum one year) and participation in college life.
- ▲ A monthly meeting with an appointed *supervisor*.
- ▲ A quarterly written *research report*.
- ▲ Shadowing the supervisor's *teaching* and taking on a teaching load of maximum one course per semester.
- ▲ Regular *seminar presentations* and seminar attendance, sometimes together with Masters students, sometimes together with staff.
- ▲ Any Masters *taught courses* recommended by the supervisor.

Fields offered may include any field currently taught by the college, subject to the availability of staff. Fields initially offered are:

- ▲ *Old Testament*
- ▲ *New Testament*
- ▲ *Church History*
- ▲ *Historical Theology*
- ▲ *Systematic Theology*

Candidates must be fully functional at admissions level, and fluent by the end of their first year, in *reading the relevant source texts in the original language* (Hebrew, Greek, Latin, German *etc.*).

A *PhD supervisor* will be a Senior Lecturer with a PhD in the same field as the candidate's research proposal, a strong record of publications, and at least three years of teaching experience since obtaining the PhD. He or she will assist in the procurement of materials for his or her students. In some cases, the principal supervisor may have a co-supervisor (who may not meet all the above requirements). A supervisor will not be responsible for more than two PhD candidates at any one time.

Applications must include:

- ▲ A fully completed *application form*, which can be bought from the college office or downloaded from the college website and paid for on submission.
- ▲ A full *CV*, including details of work and ministry experience and publications.
- ▲ Three *references*: one academic, one pastoral and one employer or equivalent.
- ▲ Evidence of a *strong 2.1 (65%) at Masters* level from an accredited and recognised institution.
- ▲ His or her *Masters dissertation* or an equivalent piece of original writing of around 30,000 words (competence with this material will be tested at interview).
- ▲ Evidence of *computer literacy* and experience with *internet research* (this will also be tested at interview).
- ▲ A *Research Proposal* (5,000 words with specialist bibliography) within a field in which he or she has demonstrated competence in his or her Masters degree or in other academic or professional work.

Admission will be subject to the approval of the Academic Board, and a *supervisor's* availability and willingness to supervise the proposed topic. If granted, admission cannot be deferred. Initial admission will be to an MPhil, with upgrading to PhD depending on a successful end-of-first-year presentation. Before commencing the PhD, which is a full-time programme, students must provide *evidence of having left any previous employment or responsibilities*.

Changes to thesis title, research topic and supervisor are permissible only with the approval of the PhD Committee.

The thesis is to have a maximum length of 100,000 words. It is to consist of new, primary research, not previously published or submitted for any qualification. The college policy on plagiarism applies. Thesis *submission* requires the approval of the supervisor and PhD Committee.

An extension beyond the usual three-year term may be granted by the Academic Board, subject to its receipt of a written statement by the supervisor, confirming his or her confidence that the student is well on track to complete. Extensions are to be made for no more than one year at a time, and two years maximum.

Graduation is subject to successful oral defence of the thesis before at least an internal and an external examiner and a representative of the accrediting authority, and satisfying other course requirements as prescribed by the supervisor, and fulfilment of any administrative formalities such as payment of fees.

On any matter not covered by the above, the *Graduate Prospectus of the University of Jos* is to be taken as applying.