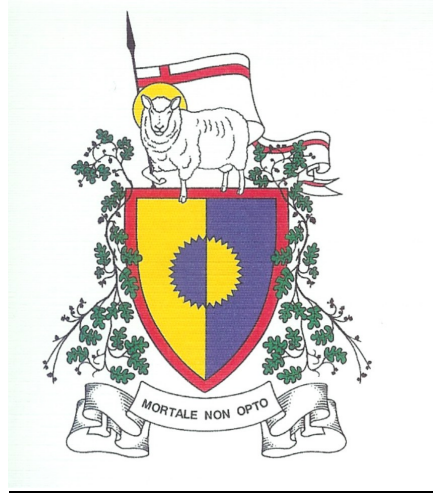


# NCI University & Theological Seminary



## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies

DISTANCE LEARNING DEGREE PROGRAM

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As a global church we have come through some extraordinary times of change in every sphere of society in the last two millennia, but we are still called to the same mission with the same mandate –

"To Reach the Whole World with the Life Changing Power of the Resurrected Christ who Lives in Us through the Person of the Holy Spirit "

This means that as The Living Body of Christ, we need to be trained and equipped to utilize our head, our heart, and our hands in representing Him.

In other words, we must become "God With Skin On" to the world where we live!

NCIU seeks to train and equip men and women everywhere with relevant and culturally appropriate education to embrace these three areas.

Our specialty is the field of distance education through one-on-one mentored degree study programs to "polish the fine cutting edge" of those who see themselves as instruments in the hands of God.

"Learning without doing will hopefully increase your knowledge level - but learning that requires knowledge being applied, will translate into a vocational skill resource that can be more easily replicated again and again through faithful learners."

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION and APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS**

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# Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies

## M.Phil (ICS) - Distance-Learning Degree Program Outline

### Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies PURPOSE

The world hasn't really shrunk – it just feels like it. Not all people of different cultures and religious beliefs live halfway around the globe in some remote and perhaps exotic land. Today in our world of shifting populations and religious plurality we now find that many of these formerly foreign nationalities are now living halfway down our own block!

Many of these non-Christian people appear to be happy with their religions, and seemingly are not searching for a better way. Content in their own religious structures and belief systems, they indicate they have as much satisfaction with them as Christians profess about their own.

This NCIU graduate degree program is designed to help fill in the gaps and enable the student to find the most effective way to build bridges to other cultures, and to be able to share the unchanging truth of God's Written Word with those of differing faiths.

It has been specifically shaped for those mid-career missionaries, church planters, and pastors wanting to equip themselves for the changing global environ of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.

This degree exposes students to a wide range of new possibilities for missiological praxis that will enable them to meet the challenge of contextualizing the gospel in an increasingly urbanized, international, and highly "wired" technical global community.

The program begins with a broad training in intercultural studies and world religions so that students can interact with faculty and gain further competency in seven key areas as needed:

- theology of mission and relevant methodology
- understanding biblical and philosophical world views and meaning of life
- cultural anthropology and world religions
- cross-cultural communication
- leadership and team building
- integration and urbanization
- church development and planting

The program also provides and ensures that the student has essential foundations in graduate level theology competency.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies PROGRAM OBJECTIVES

The NCIU Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies is designed to enable the student to achieve the following outcomes in their life and ministry-

- Be able to conduct basic biblical interpretation and application with reference to the English Bible texts.
- State a basic understanding of the primary elements of Christian theology and godly living.
- Demonstrate basic knowledge, values and competencies associated with spiritual, worldview and leadership formation.
- Develop a philosophy and practice of mission which is informed by biblical, theological, historical, cultural and strategic perspectives.
- Be skillful in demonstrating and facilitating intercultural relationships by seeing the influence of culture upon theological understanding, personal formation, and missional engagement.
- Evaluate and apply traditional and emerging models of intercultural work and ministry.
- Understand historical and contemporary demonstrations of how the church has related to culture and how the church has engaged in global mission with a view to extending the Kingdom of God in this present generation.
- Serve the global church by continuing spiritual formation of one's own character, embodying the gospel in both word and deed as an incarnational ambassador for the Kingdom of God and Christ as Lord of All the Earth.
- By developing a strategic worldview of the contemporary role of the Body of Christ today, and by partnering with various expressions of the local church and mission enterprise all over the world.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies requires the successful completion of 48 semester credit hours. The four modules in the curriculum provide studies that will allow the engagement, increase and assessment of the student's capacities in affective, cognitive and psychomotor domains –

- Module One: Foundational Studies in Bible and Theology - 12 credits
- Module Two: Core Competencies in Missiology - 12 credits ,
- Module Three: Concentration & Electives - 12 credits , and
- Module Four: Dissertation, Guided research and Praxis - 12 credits.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

- 1) Applicants should normally hold a GED or High School Diploma, or approved alternative recognition in general education equivalents
- 2) All students should hold either a Bachelor degree award (124-136 semester credit hours) or equivalent academic credits by composite diplomas and/or RPL units from accredited or recognized institutions.
- 3) All students must complete the NCIU Degree Application Form, which requires the standard resume information concerning the student's academic history and background in ministry, as well as their goals and dreams for the future. This information is vital to enable the faculty to build a picture of the student and their particular ministry focus, which of course is paramount to "customizing" the most suitable pathway to achieve the desired ministry objectives.
- 4) Provision is also made for mature students who do not have the prior academic qualifications to gain acceptance through "knowledge content" examinations, and/or alternative assessment based upon the validation of life-experience equivalency units.
- 5) Standard testamentary evidences including transcript documentation are required for verification of credit hours and admission as Advanced Standing status student. Full details of verification details are listed in the NCIU Degree Application Information forms.
- 6) In order to enter this program, students must have a minimum of three years of cross-cultural and or urban pastoral ministry experience, or ministry service operating outside one's own cultural context with a people of different ethnicity.
- 7) Foreign language students are welcome but if they are unable to communicate clearly in English, they may be required to include a practicum (8 credits) in their program in place of a writing project.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies TRANSFER CREDITS & RPL UNITS

Students who enroll with sufficient RPL (Recognized Prior Learning) semester credit hour units that have already been assessed and validated by NCI University & Theological Seminary as being equivalent credit hour units, may be granted exemption from the completion of Module 1.

Under Florida Statute this assessment of RPL units is granted solely at the prerogative of the institution.

Determination is made of allowable transferable credit units when the student completes the required academic personal data that is verified with official transcript documentation.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

All students enrolled in this program and wishing to graduate are required to

- Satisfactorily complete a total of 48 semester units as outlined in the curriculum beyond the Bachelor award level.
- Complete at least 24 semester credit units taken at this institution.
- Obtain a 3.0 GPA on a 4.0 scale with no grade below "C+" in all courses to be credited toward graduation.
- Complete the entire program with this institution within four years from commencement, unless special circumstances are approved in writing by the institution upon application.
- Successfully pass all written assignments for each study unit as detailed in the Unit Study Guide as supplied, and or complete any additional position papers assigned by the institution as replacement unit assignments.
- Comply with all academic demands for rectification: Students, who are placed on probation after the first 15 credits, are granted one semester in which to bring their academic work up to the required level for continuance in the program. A student cannot graduate while on probation.
- Have all financial and academic requirements satisfied 30 days before desired graduation event and release of academic transcript documentation.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies PROGRAM PATHWAY

Students in the Master of Philosophy distance-learning degree program will be required to do all their course works in a prescribed sequence. Under Florida Statute, all Arts and Science degree programs must include 25% of total credit requirements be earned in general education subjects. Unless a student needs remedial general education, all students receiving Advanced Standing Status are exempted this requirement through substitution of Module 1.

This curriculum consists of four modules as stipulated. Module 1 focuses on Foundation subjects and general education. Module 2 focuses on the student's missiological and intercultural studies. In the third module of the program, students get to delve more deeply into the agreed area of concentration. Module 4 provides the opportunity to complete a writing (dissertation) project which involves researching in the area of their concentration, integrating relevant coursework and research findings, reflecting on cross-cultural experience, and applying those findings to future service.

The 48 semester credit hour program provided by NCI University & Theological Seminary requires the student to sequentially follow the four module pathway as specified:

- Module 1 - Foundational Studies in Bible & Theology track - 12 semester credit hours (4 x 3 credit units)
- Module 2 – Core Competencies in Missiology: Understanding World Religions, Cross-cultural communication, Cultural Anthropology and Biblical Worldview track -12 semester credit hours (4 x 3 credit units)
- Module 3 – Concentration & Electives: Church planting, Ministry, and Leadership Development track -12 semester credit hours (4 x 3credit units)
- Module 4 – Ministry Praxis and Dissertation track – 12 semester credit hours (1 x 8 credits and 1 x 4 credit units)

## MODULE 1, 2, 3 (12 credit hours each)

Modules 1, 2 & 3 - each module has three component units:

- Unit 1: Specified textual study assignment based on designated text nominated by the institution, with written assignment (2 x 3 credit units). A study guide is supplied by NCI University & Theological Seminary.
- Unit 2: Guided research and specified reading assignments. The institution will provide a recommended reading list relative to the nominated concentration. Students will normally read a total of 1,500 pages for 3 credit units, and are required to submit the NCIU "Reading report Form for Research Texts," upon completion of the assignment.
- Unit 3: A one- or two-week intensive seminar of classroom interaction, (either NCIU or an alternative institute) including faculty presentation and peer discussion; or a course project which applies the reading and class work to the ministry setting. Generally the project is 15-25 pages for 3 credit units.
- Note: In some locations students may not be able to attend a recognized seminar or special classroom interaction program due to a variety of factors. Where this is the case, and dialog has taken place between the student and adjunct professor, NCI University & Theological Seminary may give consent for a variation to the above being agreed to in writing. Each case must be evaluated upon its own merits. The overall credit hour requirement will not however be reduced but must be maintained through the approved replacement module.

## MODULE 4 (12 credit hours)

The fourth and final component of the Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies degree program is the ministry intervention praxis (field project) and a dissertation on the praxis.

The Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies praxis and dissertation normally requires six months of advanced preparation and another three-six months following approval to complete the module project.

Students at NCI University & Theological Seminary have carried out a wide range of ministry praxes, including

- Training church members to provide pastoral care for those needing social care
- Early child-care and education development programs involving children with disabilities
- Graduates have also produced training and development programs for those needing spiritual healing and wholeness
- Creating structures for the discipling of new converts and church members
- The development of church planting programs that target specified cultural and or ethnic groups amongst others
- Social service programs to reach new immigrants
- TESOL programs for new immigrants
- Cross-cultural counseling study courses and training programs etc.

Students are encouraged to begin to explore ideas and to consult with their adjunct-tutor/mentor about ideas for ministry praxis early in their program. Obviously in choosing their ministry praxis, students would be wise to recognize their own particular gifting and skills abilities, as well as the needs of the target group to whom they will minister.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies DISTANCE LEARNING

This degree program like all of the religious vocational degree award programs offered by NCI University & Theological Seminary is designed to be completed totally by Distance Learning.

Distance learning with NCIU includes correspondence courses, online courses, directed textual study courses, supervised practical field projects (under supervision of a recognized proctor) guided research and specified reading plus the writing projects.

In some special study units, students may be required to attend a campus-based program for partial studies at a recognized and/or approved institution, with a credits earned being part of the total NCIU program.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies TIME LIMITS

In order to ensure that a degree, when granted, represents education that is current and reasonably focused (not acquired a little at a time over an unreasonably long period), all credit applied to the degree must be earned within a specified period of time.

- For the Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies degree at NCI University & Theological Seminary, this period has been set at five years, without formal written extension.
- This period does not include credit earned elsewhere and applied to the degree, as transfer (RPL units) credits.
- The time limit for the written papers (research and guided reading) projects is six-nine-months.
- Written extension is normally granted when there are extenuating circumstances such as prolonged illness, family death, ministry disruption or financial disaster. The program does require concentrated discipline and application.
- If a student drops out or discontinues without written notification and agreement, they will be subject to an assessment revision for readmission, with subsequent increase in fees based on fee structure at that time, not original enrolment date.
- There is a real measure of flexibility within the program to accommodate most vocational ministries, but this must be resolved with the Adjunct Tutor/Professor assigned as mentor to the student.

## Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies CONCLUSION

The proven design features incorporated into this curriculum should allow students to continue their present ministry functions while pursuing this external Master of Philosophy degree program without major disruption to their vocation.

As a Distance-Learning degree program, the Master of Philosophy in Intercultural Studies degree study pathway can be completed entirely at the domicile location of the student.

All studies and interaction with the mentor can be conducted through electronic means and email connections. Where necessary, the student can view special ministry class sessions via internet facilities or other electronic media.

We welcome your inquiries into this exciting opportunity to further develop your potential through the expanding of your ministry function and vision.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION & APPLICATION ENROLMENT FORMS

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