

Durham Ph.D. Program at Vancouver School of Theology

Application Process

VST has partnered with the Department of Theology and Religion at Durham University in the United Kingdom to deliver a Ph.D. program in Vancouver. The Department of Theology and Religion at Durham is ranked third in the world by QS University Ranking. It is a department that is thoroughly engaged with the church through St John's College and Cranmer Hall, where candidates are prepared for Anglican Ministry. This program, while suited to those with an academic vocation, is also suited for the clergy and other leaders who want theological depth and interdisciplinary research for the practice of ministry.

The international research Ph.D. program through Durham/VST is a residential program. It is a three-year program for full-time students and a six-program for part-time students, although extensions may be granted by successful petition. Students who wish to apply to this program must live within commuting distance of VST. The expectation for both full and part-time students is that they participate in the academic culture of the school, in the class-room as teaching assistants, in the research colloquium, and in conferences hosted by the school. This program is for permanent residents and citizens of Canada.

Students in this Ph.D program must plan for a trip to Durham within the first year to be oriented to a research Ph.D. Periodic engagement with both advisors, the Durham advisor online, is required to keep research on track.

To familiarize yourself with the department of Theology and Religion and Durham, visit

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/>

A useful information handbook about the Ph.D. program – 'pure research' - in Theology and Religion at Durham, its requirements, costs, expectations and faculty can be found here and downloaded:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/resources/theology.religion/postgrad/PGStudiesUsefulInformationHandbook2017-2018.pdf>

For further details around the application process, forms and dates, entry requirements and Durham based scholarships and funding see:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/postgrad/researchdegrees/>

Please note: residency requirements are met through meetings with your VST advisor, and your Durham advisor online. Additional scholarship funding is available through VST up to \$5,000.00 a year. A list of funds and foundations that support doctoral students in theology is available through the financial aid office.

Application Process:

1. Students applying to the VST/Durham Ph.D. program should contact a faculty member of VST in the subject area of their research interest. They should also submit their research proposal to Dr. Jason Byassee to be considered at the Research Studies Committee. Do not apply to Durham until you have secured the agreement of a VST faculty member and received an approval to do so from the Research Studies Committee. This does not imply that the student is accepted to the Durham Ph.D program. It is an initial step.

2. The student applies to Durham University, copying their full application to VST. Durham University, the Department of Theology and Religion, determines a students' academic fitness for the program. The application procedure is detailed here:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/postgrad/researchdegrees/to.apply/> The application procedure requires a student to secure an advisor at Durham. The application requires some time. In the British system, a research proposal is a crucial part of the application procedure. We have some copies of successful proposals. They will be made available to students once they have secured a VST advisor. Durham provides important guidance around a solid proposal:

<https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/resproppguide/> Durham will inform candidates of the decision on their application in four to six weeks after it is submitted.

3. Students accepted into the program at Durham will then also receive a formal acceptance to the joint VST/Durham Ph.D program from VST. Admission at both at Durham and VST are necessary for this program.

4. Student fees and tuition are paid to the Vancouver School of Theology. The rates for the 2018-2019 academic year can be found here: <https://www.dur.ac.uk/theology.religion/postgrad/feesfinance/>. An international research Ph.D. is expensive, and students should use research skills to secure funding through the sources available to them through Durham, VST and by using the inventory of funding sources provided to them through the financial aid office. A bursary to defer 'student fees' applied to their account at our school is available.

For more information about the program please contact: Prof. Jason Byassee jbyassee@vst.edu

For more information about applying to the program contact: Registrar Anita Fast, afast@vst.edu