

# APPLICATION FOR ADMISSION DEGREE & DIPLOMA

The **Vancouver School of Theology** is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders.

Please submit your application:

**By mail or in person:**

Admissions Office  
Vancouver School of Theology  
6015 Walter Gage Road  
Vancouver, BC, V6T 1Z1  
Canada

**Email:**

Margaret Trim  
admissions@vst.edu

## PROGRAM OF STUDY

PLEASE INDICATE THE PROGRAM TO WHICH YOU ARE APPLYING:

### Graduate Diplomas

- Diploma in Theological Studies
- Diploma in Denominational Studies
- Diploma in Indigenous and Inter-religious Studies

### Graduate Degrees

- Master of Divinity
- Master of Arts in Public and Pastoral Leadership (MA PPL)
- MA PPL in Spiritual Care
- Master of Arts in Theological Studies
- Master of Arts in Indigenous and Inter-religious Studies

### Advanced Graduate Diploma and Degrees

- Graduate Diploma in Theological Studies (GDTS)
- Master of Theology (ThM)
- Durham PhD  
Contact Prof. Jason Byassee  
jbyassee@vst.edu

Yes  No Do you plan to complete at least 50% of your program via Distance Education?

## PERSONAL INFORMATION

Family Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Given Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

PO Box/Apt/Unit: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Prov/State: \_\_\_\_\_ Postal Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Country: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of Birth (YYYY/MM/DD): \_\_\_\_\_

Citizenship/Immigration Status in Canada: \_\_\_\_\_

Faith Expression/Denomination: \_\_\_\_\_

Tribal affiliation (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**EMPLOYMENT & VOCATIONAL BACKGROUND** (Option: submit a current resume or CV)

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Employer: \_\_\_\_\_ Dates: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Type of Work: \_\_\_\_\_ Position Held: \_\_\_\_\_

Please indicate any specialized or professional training:

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Are you recognized by your denomination as a candidate for ordained ministry, or in the process of seeking such recognition? If so, please give the name and body of your denomination responsible for your ordination process, and indicate your current status:

\_\_\_\_\_

Yes  No Do you intend to pursue candidacy for ordination in your denomination?

**LANGUAGES**

**ENGLISH**

English is the language of instruction at VST. Applicants whose first language is not English must demonstrate English proficiency. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), or International Language Testing System (IELTS) test results must accompany the student's Application for Admission. *Applicants who have completed an undergraduate or graduate degree in English are exempt from this requirement.*

**BIBLICAL LANGUAGES (ThM APPLICANTS ONLY)**

Language	Proficiency Level	Institution	Date
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Greek \_\_\_\_\_

Hebrew \_\_\_\_\_

**ACADEMIC BACKGROUND**

Provide details of your post-secondary educational background. Please include schools, universities, seminaries attended, and degrees or diplomas received or in progress (please include an estimated completion date).

Please request one transcript from each institution and arrange to have them sent directly to the Admissions Office at Vancouver School of Theology. *Official transcripts must arrive stamped & sealed by the sending institution.*

Institution	Location	Dates Attended	Degree/Diploma	Date
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\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## REFERENCES

Three reference letters are required from persons who can speak to your academic abilities & character.

For applicants to the MDiv Program, one letter of the three should come from an individual familiar with their suitability for public and pastoral leadership.

For the IIS Programs, one letter should come from an elder within your community.

All letters must be sent directly to the Admissions Office by mail or emailed to [mtrim@vst.edu](mailto:mtrim@vst.edu).

The Reference Form can be found on page 5.

Please list your references below:

Name	Phone #	Occupation	Relationship

## WRITTEN SUBMISSIONS

### 1. All Applicants:

**Personal Statement** - 1000 words maximum, typed, and double spaced

**Please answer the following questions:**

- Describe briefly your educational and/or vocational goals. What and who have been the formative influences on your faith and/or life that led you to pursue these goals?
- After reading the VST Mission, Vision & Values along with the Competencies document for the program into which you are applying, discuss how your educational and vocational goals intersect with the vision and goals of the VST program you hope to pursue. The Vision and Competency documents can be found on pages 6 - 10.
- For M.Div and MA PPL applicants, please describe briefly the community or denomination that you anticipate will be your community for accountability and practice during the program to which you are applying.

### 2a. Diploma, M.Div and MA applicants only:

**Theological Reflection** - 1250 words maximum, typed, and double spaced

**Referring to at least one theologian of significance in your journey, reflect on the following:**

- Select what you understand to be one of today's most critical issues and reflect on it in terms of your own theological/religious/cultural/philosophical expression.
- How have your faith/religious/cultural/philosophical expressions and life been shaped by pluralism in today's world? (e.g. class, culture, religion, sexual orientation etc.)

### 2b. GDTS, ThM Applicants only:

**Academic Paper** - 5000 - 7000 word total, typed, and double spaced

Please submit with your application an academic paper previously written for another program (this paper can be returned to you upon written request), or a digital recording (audio or visual) demonstrating academic competence.

**Proposed Area of Study:**

Please provide a 500-750 word statement indicating the general area or topic you wish to study and how you understand VST as well positioned to help you meet your academic goals.

## FINANCIAL PLANNING

Theological education is an investment. Full-time tuition is estimated at \$7,000 - \$9000 per year at VST. An additional \$20,000 - \$25,000 per year is required, on average, for school supplies & fees, living, and other expenses. To help VST understand your investment, please indicate the financial avenue(s) you expect to use to pay for your education:

- Personal     Employment Income     Loans     VST Financial Aid\*     Other sources

\*Subject to eligibility. Applied to tuition fees only.

More information about budgeting and financial aid can be found on the VST website.

## HOW DID YOU HEAR ABOUT VST?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Website  | <input type="checkbox"/> Poster<br>Location: _____                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Email Marketing                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Word of Mouth<br>From Whom?: _____       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Church<br>Denomination/<br>Faith Expression: _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Print Media<br>Which publication?: _____ |

## APPLICATION FEE: \$75.00 CAD (NON-REFUNDABLE)

The Application Fee needs to be paid before your application will be considered for admission. Please make cheques payable to: Vancouver School of Theology. Payments can be made by phone: VST Accounting, 604-822-3550. International Students can pay via Flywire ([www.flywire.com](http://www.flywire.com)).

## APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

If accepted to Vancouver School of Theology, I intend to be a responsible and participating member of the VST community, abide by the policies of the School, and pay all tuition and fees applicable to my program of study.

The Vancouver School of Theology is committed to being a welcoming and diverse community of students, faculty, and staff. VST admits qualified students to its programs of study regardless of age, colour, gender, sexual orientation or preference, national or ethnic origin, or disability. VST does not discriminate on the bases of any of these in the administration of its educational priorities, admissions policies, bursaries, or other programs administered by the School.

The Vancouver School of Theology is a theological school whose core work is preparing Christian leaders for ministry.

- I have read the Applicant's Statement, and acknowledge VST's Diversity and Core Work statements.

Applicant's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### FREEDOM OF INFORMATION AND PROTECTION OF PRIVACY

Your personal information on this form is collected under the authority of the Vancouver School of Theology Act (1992) and is needed to process your application. If you have any questions about the collection and use of this information, please contact the Privacy Office at 604-822-9504. All information is held in confidentiality.

## REFERENCE FORM

**Please return directly to:**  
**Vancouver School of Theology**  
*Please do not return this form  
to the applicant.*

**By Mail:**  
Vancouver School of Theology  
6015 Walter Gage Road  
Vancouver, BC V6T 1Z1  
Canada

**Email:**  
Margaret Trim  
mtrim@vst.edu

Confidential statement concerning: \_\_\_\_\_

The Admissions Office of Vancouver School of Theology would appreciate a confidential statement from you concerning the person named above who has applied for admission to the School. Please indicate the length and nature of your relationship with the applicant. Information is desired especially on the following points:

1. Character and personality
2. Academic ability
3. Emotional stability
4. Leadership and vocational qualities
5. Potential, in your opinion, for study in theology and ministry of the Church.

Please use the space below, or attach your reference letter.

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Position & Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for your effort in assisting us with our admissions process.

# VISION, MISSION & VALUES

## VST VISION

The Vancouver School of Theology is called to educate and form thoughtful, engaged and generous Christian leaders.

## VST MISSION

An education at VST invites:

- Faithful discernment of the demands of Christian service.
- Rigorous engagement with Christian tradition and contemporary learning.
- Hospitable and respectful collaboration with Indigenous spiritualities and other cultures and faith traditions for the good of all creation.

## VST VALUES

As a community of faith, we commit to:

- Theological education (theological, biblical, pastoral, ethical, historical, Indigenous and inter-religious studies) and formation for the flourishing of God's people.
- Inspiring lives of discerning Christian discipleship within and outside this community.
- Respect for the dignity of every person.
- Learning and scholarship undertaken with diligence and openness.
- Encouraging prophetic speech and just action for the love and welfare of creation

# MDiv COMPETENCIES

A graduate of the MDiv program at VST will be equipped and prepared to exercise a vocation of theological scholarship in the service of the flourishing of God's people:

## SELF AND CONTEXTUAL KNOWLEDGE

1. Articulate critical knowledge of self, one's own denominational or faith tradition, and contemporary cultures, communities and contexts both locally and globally

## BIBLE, PREACHING AND WORSHIP

2. Demonstrate knowledge of biblical texts and their contexts in order to integrate biblical vision with contemporary realities in varied expressive formats such as preaching, teaching, and social ministry that witness effectively the mission of the church
3. Demonstrate theoretical and practical knowledge of worship traditions and lead worship celebrations that interpret divine agency and hold space where God and people meet

## PASTORAL AND PUBLIC LEADERSHIP

4. Evidence spiritual maturity to care effectively for the pastoral and spiritual well-being of individuals, congregations or communities
5. Demonstrate deep formation within the student's own denominational tradition
6. Practice effective leadership in pastoral and public situations amidst a climate of change, being a sign of Christ's presence while making use of and possibly going beyond current models of ministry

## INDIGENOUS AND INTER-RELIGIOUS STUDIES

7. Demonstrate awareness of a variety of Indigenous ways of knowing and being and show willingness to engage the Indigenous community locally and advocate for Indigenous issues globally
8. Demonstrate knowledge of and sensitivity to religious traditions other than one's own and show ability to identify and engage in areas of 'overlapping consensus' for the good of the world

## THEOLOGY AND HISTORY

9. Demonstrate knowledge of theology and history in the service of the flourishing of the church

## INTEGRATION

10. Demonstrate integration of knowledge drawn from scripture, history and theology with spiritual and practical insights to analyze and respond imaginatively to contemporary challenges in the practice of ministry

## MA PPL OUTCOMES

A graduate of the MA PPL program at VST will know, articulate and integrate aspects of religious heritage, cultural context, and public and pastoral leadership:

1. Demonstrate Masters level knowledge of biblical, theological, and historical traditions and contexts, including the student's own denomination or faith tradition
2. Analyze the relationship between religious faiths and contemporary culture, and demonstrate how engagement with both impacts one's contribution to public and pastoral leadership
3. Analyze and interpret various cultural, congregational, and organizational contexts where ministry is practiced
4. Demonstrate positive growth in self-knowledge, emotional maturity, and spiritual vitality necessary for leadership in community
5. Articulate and practice an ethical and theological framework for decision-making and action
6. Articulate the student's own purpose or call within their community of faith and wider society, making use of and possibly going beyond current models of ministry
7. Demonstrate integration of the knowledge, reflection and skills described above in theological reflection on the practice of ministry and leadership, in relation to major challenges facing contemporary religious communities and society
8. For those in the Spiritual Care concentration, demonstrate skills as a practitioner in spiritual care, working with a care team in a clinical institutional setting



## MATS OUTCOMES

Graduates of the program will be equipped and prepared to exercise a vocation of theological scholarship, characterized by independent initiative, personal responsibility, collegial cooperation, ethical behavior consistent with academic integrity, and an appreciation of the limitations of one's own work and discipline, of the complexity of knowledge, and of the potential contributions of other interpretations, methods and disciplines.

1. Demonstrate an introductory knowledge of theological disciplines:
  - a) Apply appropriate hermeneutical methods to accomplish an introductory level interpretation of a biblical text both in its ancient context and in contemporary contexts.
  - b) Analyze the central topics in theology and engage in theological reflection in light of particular issues and topics and articulate an understanding of the theological task.
  - c) Demonstrate analytical skills applied to historical data such as use of primary and secondary source materials.
  - d) Demonstrate introductory level awareness of the content, methods, issues, and contexts of one other theological discipline (spirituality, public and pastoral leadership, inter-religious studies, Indigenous studies, or ethics).
2. In the student's discipline of concentration, identify the basic working concepts in the critical study of the discipline, offer discussion of the basic content of the discipline, and employ research skills sufficient to present the basic content of that discipline.
3. For an Integrative Studies concentration, demonstrate intermediate level familiarity with the content, methods, issues and contexts of two or more theological disciplines, and ability to make comparative and integrative judgments between or among the fields chosen.
4. Demonstrate proficiency in clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms; the construction of a logical argument; the making of informed judgments on complex issues, and the use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing.

## MA IIS OUTCOMES

A graduate of the MA IIS program at VST will be able to:

1. Demonstrate basic knowledge of four traditions (Indigenous traditions, Judaism, Islam and Christianity) and awareness of commonalities, complexities and varieties of approach among them.
2. Demonstrate in-depth knowledge about the following aspects of particular Indigenous traditions and at least one of Judaism, Islam or Christianity:
  - What is knowledge
  - Definitions of authority
  - Cultural identities
  - Sacred texts or narratives and canon
  - Performative practices
  - Spiritual formation
3. Describe and demonstrate practices and strategies for intercultural communication, understanding and peacemaking.
4. Demonstrate respectful communication, capacities for inter-religious dialogue, and leadership skills in interactions with communities and organizations related to religious traditions.
5. Demonstrate growing self-awareness and understanding of critical concerns of contemporary communities within the traditions on issues such as identity, authenticity, prejudice, survival, etc.
6. Demonstrate awareness of tensions between traditions on issues such as power, appropriation, and assimilation.

## ThM OUTCOMES

A graduate of the ThM program at VST will be equipped and prepared to exercise a vocation of theological scholarship reflecting an advanced level of knowledge and skills:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of their discipline of concentration commensurate with a second degree in theology, including ability to:
  - Offer informed and critical discussion of the basic content of the discipline of concentration.
  - Deploy research skills to discuss the content of that discipline knowledgeably.
  - Describe and assess the relative strengths of various scholarly approaches in the discipline.
3. Engage with a second discipline of theological study in order to demonstrate awareness of the content, methods, issues, and contexts of a theological discipline outside of the area of concentration.
4. Demonstrate ability to produce standard forms of scholarly engagement at a level commensurate with a second degree in theological study, including the following skills:
  - Clear and effective communication in both oral and written forms, including written and oral presentation of a major research paper.
  - The use of standard conventions of style for scholarly writing.
  - The creation of a research proposal, including a well-defined thesis statement and construction of logical arguments in support of that statement.
  - The ability to propose and defend their own approach to a research topic.
  - The making of informed judgments on complex issues including offering conclusions on approaches to the topic under investigation.
5. Demonstrate vocational responsibility, including recognition of:
  - The importance of working with scholarly peers and associates in a collegial manner.
  - The ecumenical character of theological scholarship and its place within the broader world of scholarly discourse.
  - The importance of faith and ecclesial life to the student's scholarship.