

PhD proposal for VST programs

Why do we need a proposal?

To apply for either of the PhD programs at the Vancouver School of Theology, the School needs to be confident that we have both the expertise and time to supervise your studies. We also need to know that you have a good idea of the research that you will undertake.

What is a VST PhD?

VST has two PhD programs, one with Durham and one with Pretoria. Both are research-only PhDs; there are no courses. Along the way towards finishing your PhD, you will have opportunities to present papers, attend seminars, and have other experiences to equip you for academic life. However, the fact that there are no courses means that the thesis and its defence are everything that counts towards the PhD.

The PhD is a significant piece of research, of 80-100,000 words. It should move the field of study on in some way, offering original insights into, and/or new interpretations of, data, texts, traditions, or phenomena.

What should my proposal consist of?

Your proposal should be about 1000 words long, plus an initial bibliography.

Your proposal should:

- Clearly state your research question.
- Show that you are familiar with the state of academic discourse on this topic. (E.g. by providing a brief literature review).
- Show that you have an understanding of how you might contribute to this discourse, including an idea of the what your original contribution might be.

What next?

If accepted by VST, there are then separate application processes for Durham and Pretoria, and further work on your proposal may be required.

Please note that good proposals may be turned down due to lack of faculty resources to supervise a topic, or other reasons.