

Entrance Qualifications

Dated 25-02-08¹

As has been the case in the past, the academic level of the "Training for Service" course is such that the majority of students (at least 75%) enter the course under the standard access route described below. However as the historical roots and ethos of the college is to prepare God's people for works of service, it is important that those who haven't yet be able to demonstrate an academic competency are given access to the training, provided their participation in the class doesn't hinder the class progress or cause any other student to fail to achieve their own capabilities in study.

Access is as follows:-

1. Standard Access to the Certificate Course
 - Academic Qualifications
 - Christian Commitment
2. Regulations for Special Access

1 Standard Access to the Certificate Course

The aim of Standard Access is to ensure that the prospective student has the academic and personal ability to sustain the programme of study, and that the student has clearly evidenced commitment to Christian truth, values and ethics on the basis of a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour.

1 a) Academic Qualifications

- For students aged 17 and above: The student must have successfully completed secondary education as evidenced by at least three SQA Highers at grade D or above or three GCE AS levels or two A levels or academic equivalent. (In terms of UCAS Tariff points, a minimum of 210 points)
- For students aged 21 and above: The student must not have attempted to achieve standard entry qualifications in the last 5 years, but must have attained one SQA Higher or GCE AS level at Grade D or other equivalent, ideally in English, and some work experience preferably that included working in a team, report writing or leadership responsibilities.

1 b) Christian commitment. Unlike other disciplines, the study of theology at any level requires consistency between the subject matter and the lives of the students. Therefore the student is required to give evidence of a personal commitment to Jesus Christ and to Christian truth, ethics, values and community. Such evidence must include:-

- A written personal testimony of relationship with Jesus Christ and spiritual growth.
- A written recommendation from the student's local church, giving evidence of the student's relationships and role in the local church.
- A written recommendation from one other person (non-family member), giving evidence of Christian commitment and character.

Proficiency in English

For all students presenting secondary school qualifications that were obtained in a non-English language, the student must demonstrate that they have sufficient comprehension of the English language, ideally by holding a pass in a recognised English proficiency test such as TEOFL Grade 6 or better.

¹ Modified 4-09-10 regarding UKBA English proficiency requirements of 12th August 2010.

Non-EU students, from countries that are not officially recognised as English speaking, must produce evidence of having passed an English language test with an approved test provider for UKBA Tier 4, and have achieved at least the Common European Framework of Reference CEFR level B1 in all four components (reading, writing, speaking and listening).

2 Special access requirements

As the underlying ethos of Tilsley College is to train people for service in the Christian Church, we recognise that not all true servants of Christ and the church have been able to complete full secondary school level in academic terms. We are prepared to train any prospective student provided they can demonstrate the ability to read and study at a rate that can keep abreast with the class being taught at the accredited certificate level. The following provisions apply to mature students, who are defined as age 21 or over and who can demonstrate that their professional or personal experience has produced results comparable to the outcomes of a given certification. In some exceptional circumstances an under-21 year old may also be considered under this category.

The following are example of acceptable proof of competency to entry the course:-

- **Professional or in-service training certificates and work experience**, especially where they have necessitated reading, study, and writing of an analytical nature.
- **Equivalency examination.** The student will be asked to study a Biblical passage or theme and to write a 1,000 word essay on a given question. The work will be marked according to the usual course assessment procedure and the student should achieve a grade C or above.
- **Study Unit Basis:** In exceptional cases where none of the above is achieved, a student may be accepted to study on an “auditing” basis (see below) but where the study unit assignments are completed and marked. If the student demonstrates by achieving an average mark of Grade D or above, the studies will be credited to them and permission granted to join the class as an accredited course student.

In all student cases the sections above regarding Christian commitment and proficiency in English fully apply.

Open Access and other part time students may be accepted onto the accredited course on the same criteria as detailed above as for full time students.

Students Studying on an Auditing Basis

By “auditing basis” we mean a student who we accept to do the course but for various reasons has mutually agreed with the college that he or she will not write all the study unit assignments. Reasons for this may include a time pressure in the case of part time students, certain learning difficulties or stress related issues. Auditing students are normally only admitted to the class on a term by term basis, so that there is ongoing assessment as to how an individual student is coping with the work, the impact he or she may be making on overall class progress and the suitability of he or she continuing with any contingencies detailed out to deal with specific issues raised by the previous term’s work.

Where a student has completed the full course on an auditing basis a modified type of College Certificate will be awarded which indicates that the course has been attended on an auditing basis only. The accompanying student report/transcript will make it plain that there is no grading or ECTS equivalence and no reference is made to any accrediting body. To distinguish from a student studying the fully accredited course, the wording on the College certificate indicates the student has completed a one year “Training for Service” course in Biblical Studies and Christian Ministry. (See Appendix sample).

As noted in the introduction to this policy, the permission given for students to attend and participate in the course as auditing students is granted only “provided their participation in the class doesn’t hinder the class progress or cause any other student to fail to achieve their own capabilities in study.”