

With Jesus  
With each other  
To the edges



# Studying African Christianity at CMS Oxford

Theology, Ministry & Mission



# Introduction

**CMS Oxford is known for her decade-long leadership in Pioneer Mission Training. This has been a helpful theological training for those involved in ministry at various levels in the UK. However, since 2021, CMS partnered with *Missio Africanus* to introduce a stream that focuses on African Christianity.**

In today's world, few factors converge to emphasise the significance of studying African Christianity (at any level). First is the rapid growth of Christianity in Africa as Africa now has more Christians than any other continent, and has become the global centre of World Christianity. Second is the decline of Christianity in the West, especially in the UK where, for the first time in a UK census (2021), the population of Christians are less than half of the general population. Third is the unrelenting reality of migration, such that, in the UK context, about 60 per cent of the increase in population in the last decade has been as a result of migration.

When all these factors come together, one cannot ignore the significance of Africa on the UK Christian landscape and, indeed, on the global Christian landscape. Unfortunately, it is yet to be the case that the production of Christian resources and theological writing has shifted in the same direction as global Christianity. So the world needs African (and Latin American and Asian) histories of Christianity. We need African contributions to the disciplines of theology, missions and ecclesiology. We need churches in the UK and across the Western world that will identify the multicultural gifts in their cities and appropriate these gifts to the glory of God. We need pioneering mission initiatives that will deliver African flavours to the salad bowl of God's mission anywhere in the world. So the African Christianity courses at CMS are designed to meet these needs, and where better to embark on such a study than CMS whose organisational goal is to follow Jesus to the edges!

**“We need pioneering mission initiatives that will deliver African flavours to the salad bowl of God's mission anywhere in the world...”**

# African Christianity Stream at CMS Oxford

## Undergraduate

- **Certificate** – one year

## Postgraduate

- **Certificate** – the first year of a master's
- **Diploma** – the first and second years of a master's
- **MA** – the first and second years of a master's, **with a dissertation**
- **DTh** – Professional Doctorate in Practical Theology (**in partnership with the University of Roehampton**)

## Ordinands and Licensed Lay Ministers

- For Anglicans, depending on the diocese you are in, you may be able to train to be an ordained minister of the Church of England or a Licensed Lay Minister.
- If you are interested in ordained ministry or licensing as a lay minister, contact Helen Harwood ([helen.harwood@churchmissionsociety.org](mailto:helen.harwood@churchmissionsociety.org)) for more information.
- If you are not a member of the Church of England, your denomination may have a different process, but you still may be able to train with CMS.

## Why train with Church Mission Society?



### Be understood.

A course by pioneers for pioneers. We get it and we will help you help others get it. Our students discover a language that works.



### Be recognised.

The pioneering gift should be recognised and appreciated. Our qualifications are accredited by Durham University.



### Be trusted.

A whole 200+ year mission community and a vast network behind you who believe in you. Really.



### Be supported.

You can't do this alone. You'll be part of a dynamic learning community and wider network of pioneer hubs and friends.



### Be you.

Connect and learn with others like you who have discovered the freedom of not fitting in.

For more info go to:  
[pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org](http://pioneer.churchmissionsociety.org)

# Undergraduate Certificate modules (taught fully online)

## Certificate – Level 4 modules

- **Introduction to Black and African Theology** – offers a comprehensive exploration of the rich theological traditions and perspectives emerging from Black and African contexts.
- **Global Pentecostalism** – This module focuses on the growth and influence of Pentecostalism globally, with an emphasis on its role in African Christianity. Students will engage in independent research, exploring Pentecostalism's historical roots, theological principles, and cultural impact.
- **Foundations for Theology and Reflective Practice** – an introduction to contextual theology, principles and methods of reflection, and their place in mission and practice.
- **Mission and Evangelism** – puts the Bible in conversations with culture to help us gain greater understanding about our own practice of mission, looks at historical trends and current approaches to engaging and witnessing to the world around us, along with practical engagement in mission.
- **Introduction to Church History** – an overview of church history and its social, cultural, and political context, helping you see how history might have shaped your practice and experience.
- **Introduction to the Bible** – an overview of the purpose, context and content of the Old and New Testaments, becoming familiar with approaches to biblical study and considering how to engage biblical texts in mission and ministry.
- **Spirituality and Discipleship** – explores different approaches to discipleship, considering various Christian spiritual practices and their impact on our individual spiritual lives, and how we might engage practically with them in our lives and the lives our community.



**Sheila Akomiah-Conteh**

African Theology  
Undergraduate Lecturer

# Master of Arts modules (taught fully online)

## MA – Level 7 modules

Six taught modules over two years; final year for dissertation

### Core modules:

- **Advanced Topic in African Church History** – A course designed to help students study church history with a particular focus on Africa.
- **Theologies in Global Perspective** – A course designed to help students engage in theologies from around the world and to understand how some of these theologies emerged from particular religious traditions which have shaped a people's identity and theology.
- **Mission and Ecclesiology in Contemporary Contexts** – A course designed to help students reflect on the role and mission of the church both historically and in the contemporary world, bringing their own experience into conversation with various perspectives from around the world.
- **Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods** – A course designed to introduce students to various research methods and approaches to theological reflection. There will be an opportunity to design a research project.

### Choose any two modules from:

- **Reflective Practice: Mission and Evangelism** – A course that provides a comprehensive understanding of mission and evangelism from a global perspective while encouraging students to reflect on their context and experiences. Through the exploration of key themes and metaphors, they will engage critically with contemporary mission issues.
- **Reflective Practice: Leadership and Collaboration** – A course designed to enable students to discern appropriate models of leadership and evaluate their own experience in leadership. Material is drawn from both secular and Christian contexts.
- **Political Theology in Mission** – A course drawing on mission and political perspectives to explore how we witness in public spaces as individuals, churches, and Christian communities. This module is residential; students must be able to attend in-person in the UK.

### Dissertation (final year)

- A piece of work of 12,000 to 15,000 words which enables you to follow an area of interest in depth.

"We're hoping to create a movement of **post-colonial missionaries** who will be able to work across cultures and races."

**Dr Harvey Kwiyani**

African Christianity Programme Lead



"With CMS Oxford's **multicultural learning community**, studying African Christianity is a timely gift!"

**Joseph Ola**

African Christianity MA Lecturer



# Being a student at CMS

## Teaching Format

All our teaching days are on Tuesdays and begin with a student-led creative worship session from 10:30–11:00 a.m. Teaching sessions then run from 11:00 a.m.–1:00 p.m. and 2:00–4:00 p.m. (Some undergraduate modules also include a residential component.)

## Validated by Durham University

Our programmes are validated by Durham University as part of a suite of Common Awards. The awards are taught in Theological Education Institutes (TEIs) all over the country, of which we are one with Ripon College, Cuddesdon. In other words, at the end of your study, you will be getting a University of Durham qualification.

## Cost? Competitively low course fees 25/26

- Certificate **£3,200** (120 credits)
- Certificate **£4,800** (180 credits)
- MA **£6,600**
- DTh **See details at <https://www.roehampton.ac.uk/study/postgraduate-taught-courses/practical-theology-dth/>**
  - Besides the above fees, there is also the **Durham University annual student fee** (which entitles you to a student card and access to nationwide student discounts).
  - This fee is **£302** per annum or **£86** per annum if you are interested in becoming a licensed lay minister in the Church of England.
  - Fees are payable upfront or by monthly standing order.
  - Bursaries are available by application.

For more info go to:  
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# What our students say...

*"I signed up partly because I need the tools to better engage in mission in Bristol where almost 200 nationalities are represented and close to 100 different languages are spoken. My experience has been enriching and humbling. I've found myself taught by the experience of others. The MA course has been stretching and equipping – the MA is shaping my practice."*

*Rosie*

*"The course is designed with African-background learners in mind. This makes it easy for students to apply what they have learned to their own contexts on the African continent and across the diaspora."*

*Gowi*

*"It's been a brilliant course. It's introduced me to African leaders, thinkers, and theologians who I just wouldn't have discovered by myself."*

*Felix*

*"Taking the Christianity in the African Diaspora course has not been what I thought it would be, but it has been so much more. It has helped me knock down walls that I had built around my own heart, to see more clearly the fields that are before me, and helped to fill me with new courage and determination to speak boldly and courageously as I work towards reconciliation that can only be found at the feet of Jesus."*

*Angel*

**PIONEER  
MISSION  
TRAINING**

“If you want to learn  
something about  
Christianity today, **you  
must know something  
about Africa**”

Andrew Walls, British Historian



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