



## Estonian Free Church Theological Seminary

# THEOLOGY AND SOCIETY

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### MASTER'S PROGRAM, 120 ECTS

**Our goal** is to provide the graduates with the skills necessary for a mission-oriented life within society and the upbuilding of churches.

**Who is the programme meant for?** The programme is meant for people with a bachelor's degree or an equivalent diploma. Preference is given to church members and leaders.

**Language.** The study process will be conducted in Estonian, however, proficiency in English is a requirement for achieving the learning outcomes. The curriculum will also be available in English if enough students are interested.

**Admission and graduation criteria.** To be admitted to the programme a candidate must possess a bachelor's degree or a diploma of professional higher education. They are also required to pass an entrance test and an admission interview. It is assumed that the candidate has a proficiency in English corresponding to at least a B2-level certificate. The attainment of learning outcomes specified in the programme syllabus as well as a successful defence of a master's thesis or project are required to graduate.

**Learning outcomes.** Upon the completion of the programme a graduate is able to...

- reflect on their personal as well as their fellowship's spirituality in dialogue with the development of the Christian church, the Bible, cultural and religious history;
- apply hermeneutic methods to study the Bible in the Free Church context and establish its missional message within their community;
- analyse the processes taking place within church and society through the lens of Biblical teaching and propose justified innovative solutions to urgent problems;
- engage with various factions and conduct discipleship in a way that increases trust between the church and society;
- analyse and creatively build upon the collected data to answer the theological questions raised in their master's thesis.

**Methodology.** The programme is problem centred. Motivating problems are primarily proposed by the teaching staff throughout the first year of study. Students are expected to start formulating the problems independently during their second year. One problem is expanded upon in the master's thesis or project. Problem centred study is conducted through topic-based workshops that have their own leading advisors. In addition to workshops, personal spiritual growth and the writing of master's thesis is supported through coaching groups.

The curriculum can be completed in two or three years. The in-class study will be conducted throughout the year in six 5-day sessions. In-class activities will be completed in two years and the master's thesis can be written in parallel through the second year. However, if necessary, an additional third year can be taken for the completion of master's thesis.

**Workshops or modules (120 ECTS).**

Church and mission are the cross-cutting issues of the curriculum.

<p><b>Module 1</b> <b>Bible and Society,</b> <b>36 ECTS</b></p>	<p><b>Learning outcomes.</b> Upon the completion of the programme a graduate...</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knows the story of the Bible and is able to analyse the meaning of its parts as well as the whole from the point of view of the church and societal life;</li> <li>• is able to interpret the Bible using the main methods of hermeneutics and exegesis as well as translate their research into a clear message;</li> <li>• can analyse the processes taking place within church and society through the lens of Biblical teaching and propose steps to increase trust within their church and society as a whole;</li> <li>• is able to formulate the big question of ethics and mission while discerning their mutual connections and using the Bible to answer those questions;</li> <li>• analyse the difference between various religious identities and experiences, find the commonalities between them and connect those insights with sociological data on religion.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Theological Hermeneutics and Practical Exegesis – 4 ECTS</li> <li>○ How Do Christians Read the Old Testament? – 4</li> <li>○ What Is the Bible? – 2</li> <li>○ Preaching And Teaching the New Testament – 4</li> <li>○ Gospel Of Luke and The Acts of The Apostles – 4</li> <li>○ Big Questions of Contemporary Mission – 4</li> <li>○ Christian Ethics in A Changing World – 4</li> <li>○ Intercultural Dialogue – 2</li> <li>○ Psychology Of Religion – 2</li> <li>○ Sociology Of Religion – 2</li> <li>○ Apprenticeship: From Hermeneutics to The Message – 4</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Assessment of the learning outcomes</b> is done for both individual subjects as well as the workshop as a whole.</p>
<p><b>Module 2</b> <b>Theology and</b> <b>Identity, 20 ECTS</b></p>	<p><b>Learning outcomes.</b> Upon the completion of the programme a graduate...</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knows the key problems of theology and their development throughout the history of the church;</li> <li>• is able to analyse their personal and communal spirituality through the lens of Free Church theology;</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• is able to participate in the dialogue between the Christian tradition and other religions and cultures;</li> <li>• is able to analyse societal and church processes through the lens of the Bible and church practice bringing forth the most relevant themes;</li> <li>• promotes a lifestyle of discipleship embodying the missional message within their community.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Introduction To Study of Theology – 4</li> <li>○ Christ Centred Discipleship – 2</li> <li>○ Historical Theology – 6</li> <li>○ Free Church Spirituality in The Context of Ecumenism and Secular Society – 4</li> <li>○ Philosophy Of Religion – 2</li> <li>○ Hot Topics in Theology – 2</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Assessment of the learning outcomes</b> is done for both individual subjects as well as the workshop as a whole.</p>
<p><b>Module 3 Communication and Leadership, 24 ECTS</b></p>	<p><b>Learning outcomes.</b> Upon the completion of the programme a graduate...</p>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• knows how to engage various factions, disciple people, build and develop teams as well as lead a church or some other vision-centred organisation in a mission-conscious way;</li> <li>• is aware of and ready to employ various communication and development supporting techniques in church, media and everyday environment;</li> <li>• communicates the Bible in a clear and audience conscious way within various Estonian and English-speaking church and learning environments;</li> <li>• knows the central themes of Christian counselling and is able to employ the relevant counselling methods in their life and work environment;</li> <li>• understands the language of art and media and is able to communicate the Christian message through them.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Mission-Conscious Leadership and The Synergy of Talents – 2</li> <li>○ Vision-Focused Church – 2</li> <li>○ Public Speaking and Preaching – 4</li> <li>○ Methods And Themes of Christian Counselling – 4</li> <li>○ Communication Psychology – 4</li> <li>○ Internet Age Media – 2</li> <li>○ Methods For Supporting Growth – 4</li> <li>○ The Language of Art – 2</li> <li>○</li> </ul>
	<p><b>Assessment of the learning outcomes</b> is done for both individual subjects as well as the workshop as a whole.</p>

<b>Module 4 Creativity Module, 10 ECTS</b>	<b>Learning outcomes.</b> Upon the completion of the programme a graduate...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• reflects upon their spirituality in a context-conscious way and discerns the potential for growth;</li> <li>• knows basic tools and concepts of data collection and analyses;</li> <li>• knows how to plan, organise and analyse their life, master’s apprenticeship and ongoing projects;</li> <li>• makes the relevant connections between the teachings of the church, the Bible and contemporary societal problems; is able to propose well-justified creative solutions to the arising challenges;</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Self- and Project-Management – 2</li> <li>○ Sociology 101 – 2</li> <li>○ Master’s Apprenticeship – 6</li> </ul>
	<b>Assessment of the learning outcomes</b> is done for individual subjects and apprenticeship separately.
<b>Module 5 Elective Module, 10 ECTS</b>	The module offers a possibility to pick some of the BA programme courses, tale part of electives offered or study abroad. <b>Learning outcomes.</b> Upon the completion of the module a graduate...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• has a deeper understanding of some area of theology which is relevant for their master’s thesis;</li> <li>• knows how to connect what they learned through the module with other freely chosen subjects.</li> </ul>
	<b>Assessment of the learning outcomes</b> is done for both individual subjects
<b>Module 6 Master’s Dissertation, 20 ECTS</b>	<b>Learning outcomes.</b> Upon the completion of the module a graduate...
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyses the points of overlap of theology and context and the problems, which rise up there;</li> <li>• Can plan, lead and analyse the dissertation work as a process;</li> <li>• makes the relevant connections between the teachings of the church, the Bible and contemporary societal problems; is able to propose well-justified and creative solutions to some of the arising questions;</li> <li>• Analyses and builds upon the collected data to answer the theological questions raised in the dissertation;</li> <li>• Expresses oneself clearly on the oral defence of the dissertation, explaining the work done, using the competences, acquired through the study program.</li> </ul>
	○ Master’s Dissertation – 20
	<b>Assessment of the learning outcomes</b> is based on the written dissertation and oral defence event.