

SEI FOUNDATION YEAR RATIONALE AND CURRICULUM



As part of Common Awards, SEI introduced an 'every-second-year entry system' from September 2016 for those students embarking upon the three-year Common Awards/Durham University Diploma of Higher Education in Theology, Ministry and Mission. Having a new cohort of Common Awards Diploma students every second year

- allows SEI to build a better sense of **community** amongst the students as the intake will be larger
- enables students to **progress** through their studies as part of a coherent year group
- means that since under Common Awards distinct teaching for each year group is mandatory, the **staffing** is feasible; only *two* groups need to be staffed and housed in the GSO, not three.

Given that there may be a considerable time-lapse between selection and beginning training (as entry into the autumn cohort closes on 1 July every year), it was suggested that SEI run a 'Foundation Year' prior to Initial Ministerial Studies (IME 1-3), giving those candidates who may need to prepare for a return to study or for the study of a new discipline time to refresh, or pick up new, study skills.

Experience over the past two years has shown that such candidates have found themselves greatly helped by having time to prepare for theological study within SEI. As Common Awards has not yet created a series of Foundation Level (pre IME1-3) modules, SEI has put together its own programme, outlined overleaf. Its content is informed by the experience of university Access Courses and of the 'pre-theological education' previously provided by the Aston Training Scheme.

The invitation to use the time between recommendation for training and embarking on IME 1-3 will be conveyed by those overseeing the selection process. A student opting to use the Foundation Year materials will not be required to do every element of the programme; the Director of Studies individually tailors the scope of such work at the candidate's initial registration meeting (which takes place immediately after a 'recommendation for training' has been received from the Bishop). At that meeting s/he is helped to discern the areas in which attention is required. In each area, a bibliography is provided and a possible piece of practical/written work suggested, such study being supported by ongoing contact with the core SEI staff. Feedback on any work submitted will be offered by core SEI staff so that candidates may judge how they have fared in the assignment, but this carries no credits, nor can it affect the recommendation for training in any way.

The candidate works independently but has contact with the SEI core staff member whose initials are beside each topic, who also reviews the resultant written work. Details of some key foundational texts in other subject areas can also be offered.

STUDY SKILLS (AT)

Ruth Ackroyd and David Major *Shaping the Tools Study Skills in Theology* DLT 1999

Steven Croft and Roger Walton *Learning for Ministry: making the most of study and training* CHP 2005

- ✚ Plan an assignment (as in Croft and Walton, 2005, 191-2)
- ✚ Write a critical appreciation of *In the Name of Jesus* Henri Nouwen DLT 1989

BIBLICAL STUDIES (MH)

Boring, M. Eugene. *An Introduction to the New Testament: History, Literature, Theology*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012.

Collins, John J. *Introduction to the Hebrew Bible*. 2nd edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2014.

Moyise, Steve. *Introduction to Biblical Studies*. 3rd edition. London: T&T Clark, 2013.

- ✚ Consider the Bible readings at services you attend, especially on Sundays. Using Moyise (on a general level), Collins (for the Hebrew Scriptures) and Boring (for the Christian Scriptures), explore the background to the readings and the insights offered by any sermons you hear based on them. Ask yourself, 'What general and specific approaches did the preacher take to this or that reading'? Then, ask yourself, 'If I were asked to talk/write about this or that biblical text, what approaches would I take; that is, after prayer and study, what have I discovered in the Scriptures that I want to share with others'?

BIBLICAL INTERPRETATION (MH)

David Holgate and Rachel Starr *Biblical Hermeneutics (SCM Study Guide)* SCM 2006

David Jasper *A Short Introduction to Hermeneutics* WJK 2004

- ✚ After reading these two books, write a short (hypothetical) piece for your parish magazine outlining what you have learned about reading and understanding scripture from these studies. What would you want to pass on to them?

FIELD EDUCATION/THEOLOGICAL REFLECTION (AT)

Duke, James O. and Howard W. Stone. *How to Think Theologically*. 3d edition. Minneapolis: Fortress Press, 2013.

Paul Ballard and John Pritchard *Practical Theology in Action - Christian Thinking in the Service of Church and Society* SPCK 2006

- ✚ Local Area Analysis Project: a practical project designed to introduce the skills of theological reflection in context

WORSHIP (AT)

Christopher Ellis *Approaching God: a guide for worship leaders and worshippers: A Guide to Leading Worship* Canterbury 2009

Richard Giles *At Heaven's Gate: Reflections on Leading Worship* Canterbury 2010

- ✚ Worship Analysis project: a practical project on the understanding what worship is and does.

IT SKILLS (MH)

As discerned at interview with the Director of Studies, and practical exercises offered as required.