

2010 Bachelor of Ministry Prospectus

Talua Ministry Training Centre

Santo, Vanuatu

Description. The Bachelor of Ministry (BMin) program at Talua is a primary professional degree equipping students for ministry of the word of God in Vanuatu and the South Pacific. For three years students engage in a systematic, contextual study of the central disciplines of Christian ministry: biblical studies, theological studies, Christian historical studies, and pastoral theology. Alongside academic study is a program of supervised field education designed to prepare students for their future ministry.

Purpose. The purpose of the BMin program is to raise up well-equipped, ecumenically-minded leaders who can make a strategic, critical-creative, biblical-theological contribution to whatever ministry God calls them to. It is anticipated that graduates will take up ministry roles in pastoring, lecturing, teaching (including Religious Education), chaplaincy, leading, writing, and designing and administering programs that serve the church, evangelism, mission, and the community in a variety of ways. The program prepares some graduates to go on to Masters degree studies. The degree program will help the church provide effective leadership in the midst of a rapidly changing social environment in which higher education is a prominent feature.

Students. The BMin program accepts: experienced pastors who come to sharpen their skills and prepare for specialised ministry; pastoral students whose church sends them to train for the ordained ministry; and private students who desire to understand the Bible better so that they can serve Christ in whatever they do.

Talua Foundation Year. The Foundation Year helps students raise their English, academic, mathematics, and computer skills to the level necessary for the BMin program. Some knowledge of the Bible and theology is also taught, although the focus is on raising academic skill levels. Those who have these skills already may apply to enter the BMin program directly, bypassing the Foundation Year.

Bachelor of Ministry Calendar. The program consists of three years of study. Each year consists of (a) a three-week pre-term intensive in January followed by (b) three twelve-week terms. Presently the schedule for Foundation Year and the start of year one in the BMin program is as follows:

- 2009, 2011 Foundation Year programs begin;
- 2010, 2012 BMin programs begin.

Core units, elective units, and majors. Three quarters of the BMin units are core units that every student takes. One quarter of the BMin units are electives that each student chooses. By concentrating six electives in one discipline a student chooses to major in that discipline. For example, if a student takes six pastoral theology electives, he is *a pastoral theology major*. Alternatively, a student may spread out his or her electives over all the disciplines and in this way choose to be *an interdisciplinary major*.

Curriculum for Foundation Year 2009 and BMin 2010-2012

Only the names of units are given here; fuller descriptions of the units can be found toward the end of this Prospectus.

TALUA'S CORE UNITS (35 required)

Biblical Studies and Greek (14 courses):

Biblical interpretation 1 (Biblical theology)	New Testament 2 (Gospel traditions)
Biblical interpretation 2 (Biblical poetics)	New Testament 3 (Early NT church)
Biblical interpretation 3 (Biblical history)	New Testament 4 (Five letters)
Old Testament 1 (Genesis—2 Kings)	Apocalyptic writing
Old Testament 2 (Prophets)	Greek 1
Old Testament 3 (Ezra-Nehemiah & Writings)	Greek 2
New Testament 1 (NT Background)	Greek 3

Christian Thought and History (9 courses):

Theology 1, Knowledge of God	Church History 1 (South Pacific)
Theology 2, God and work of Christ	plus any <i>two</i> of the following:
Theology 3, Anthropology	Church History 2 (Early Church)
Theology, 4 People of God	Church History 3 (Reformation)
Gospel and culture	Church History 4 (modern church)
Contextual theology	

Pastoral studies (7 courses):

Pastoral theology 1, Introduction to pastoral theology
Pastoral theology 2, Exegesis and preaching
Pastoral theology 3, Philosophy of Christian education for children, youth, and adults
Pastoral theology 4, Catechesis, spiritual formation, and teaching
Pastoral theology 5, Worship
Pastoral theology 6, Evangelism and discipleship
Pastoral theology 7, Producing Christian education materials

Support studies (5 courses):

Linguistics 1, Sociolinguistic issues in Vanuatu and writing in Bislama
Linguistics 2, Introduction to Language
Cultural anthropology
Academic writing
Reasoning skills

Talua's Electives (10 required):

Each elective enables a student to do further study on a particular topic of interest to them. Six electives in one department marks out a student's major (in biblical studies, history of Christian thought, or pastoral theology).

Electives may be taken in several modes: (a) as an ordinary class or seminar with lecturer; (b) as an intensive class or seminar with a lecturer; (c) as a USP unit; (d) as directed reading—agreed upon and assessed by a lecturer; (e) as a genuine project or research project—agreed upon and assessed by a lecturer; (f) as a genuine project or research project with a field education component—as agreed upon and assessed by both the Field Supervisor and lecturer.

The BMin Dean approves all agreements reached between lecturers and students regarding electives, at least until the time when clearer policies for elective agreements and assessments are developed.

Not all of the electives listed below will be available; these are a sampling of the sort of electives that would be suitable for the program. The likelihood of any elective being offered increases with the number of students expressing interest in it.

*indicates unit could be taken more than once

Biblical Studies:

Greek 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and more if requested

Hebrew 1, 2, 3, 4

*Directed reading in biblical studies

*Bible Seminar (for example, on Genesis, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, John, or Romans)

*Writing project that helps people understand the Scriptures

Biblical research project

Christian Thought and History:

Additional history unit (whatever missed of Ch Hist 2, 3, or 4)

Historical theology

Reformation theology

Ethics

Historical hermeneutics (Jewish, medieval, Reformation, Enlightenment, post-modern)

*Directed reading in Christian history

*Directed reading in theology

*Seminar in Christian history

*Seminar in theology: for example, political theology

*Writing history today

*Writing project that serves the church's theological understanding

Theological research project

Pastoral Theology:

Leadership

Counseling

Community based education

*Directed reading in pastoral theology

*Seminar in pastoral theology

Gospel response to dark spiritual powers

Teaching at church or Bible school

Children and youth ministry

Marriage, family, money, and ministry

Missiology (Perspectives on the World Christian Movement)

Rural mission

Urban mission

*Writing project that serves gospel ministry

Pastoral theology research project

Support Studies:

Philosophy 1, 2

USP units (see list under course descriptions below)

Graduation with Bachelor of Ministry degree

The Bachelor of Ministry degree is awarded after a student earns a total 135 credit hours including 105 cr hrs of core curriculum and has paid all school fees. When six elective units are taken in one discipline, or are spread over all the disciplines, then a major is recorded on the degree *testamur* and transcript.

Entrance requirements for the Bachelor of Ministry

The successful applicant to the BMin program will have:

- ✓ a lively faith in Jesus Christ and godly Christian character;
- ✓ some Christian ministry experience (for example, taught Sunday School, led Youth Group, or participated in evangelistic campaign) or community service;
- ✓ the approval of applicant's church to apply to the program:
 - if applying as a pastor, the approval of your Presbytery or bishop or equivalent church authority is required;
 - if applying to be a pastoral student, the approval of the church leadership is required (for Presbyterians the Presbytery; for COM, the bishop; or the equivalent for applicants from other denominations);
 - if applying as a private student, a recommendation from one's local pastor or session is required (or the equivalent in other churches);
- ✓ English academic skills:
 - A university level of English and academic skills are necessary for entering into BMin studies. No one can be admitted to the BMin program until he or she has:
 - i. graduated from Year 13 with a 'B' in English;
 - ii. or sat the *Talua English Language Skills Assessment (TELSA)* test and achieved a band 3, 4, or 5;

TELSA is a Talua test designed and marked by independent English language teaching professionals outside of Talua based on a standard that approximates the English Language Skills Assessment test administered by the University of the South Pacific; the TELSAs and the ELSAs are both similar in many respects to the IELTS test.
 - iii. or sat the University of the South Pacific English Language Skills Assessment (ELSA) test and achieved a band 3, 4, or 5;
 - iv. or sat the IELTS test and achieved a band 6 overall with a minimum of band 6 for writing.
 - The TELSAs test is administered twice a year: in August and in November. It can be taken at Talua or elsewhere with one month's advance notice prior to taking the test so as to have time to arrange the test time, place, and supervision. If an applicant wishes to see a sample TELSAs test they can request one from the Dean of the Bachelor program.

Process of application to the Bachelor of Ministry program:

1. **In 2009 later dates may be accepted than those listed below.**
2. **In July** applicants should arrange to take the TELSAs in August. If they don't achieve a band 3, 4, or 5 with the TELSAs in August but are close to it, they can try again in November. To arrange taking the TELSAs, contact the Dean of the Bachelor program (presently Dr Andrew Williamson, ph: 37413; andyrose2@gmail.com).
3. **In September** application forms must be filled out, mailed, and received by the Dean of the BMin program along with all accompanying documents. A proper application includes: English language qualification (see options above); the application form filled out; copies of all documents requested; letters of recommendation as requested in the application form. See application form at end of this document.
4. **In early October** the Dean of the BMin reviews completed applications and invites those applicants whose applications that are in order to have an interview with a Talua representative.
5. The Academic Life Committee (ALC) of Talua reviews the results of the application documents and interview. If the ALC approves the application, and the applicant gets a band three, four, or five in the TELSAs test, then it is reported to the Talua Staff Council and submitted to the

Talua Committee for final approval. **In October or November**, the Dean of the BMin will inform applicants who are successful and applicants who are not successful of the results of the Talua Committee decisions.

6. Talua students who wish to complete their present program and go directly into the FY or BMin program should follow the application procedure given above for all applicants. It is possible that the Academic Life Committee or the church of the graduating student will consider it best for the applicant to get some ministry experience first and then reapply.
7. For Talua students who would be best served by transferring from an existing Talua program into the FY or BMin program:
 - a. Talua lecturers or deans take the initiative to identify students in other Talua programs who look as if they could qualify to enter the FY and BMin program. The matter is first considered by the two Deans who also consult with the lecturers of the student. If the Deans are agreed, they discuss the possibility with the student. If the student is agreed, he or she takes an English diagnostic test to see if he or she has the required academic skills. The Deans then take the test result and their recommendation to the Academic Life Committee.
 - b. If the Academic Life Committee agrees with the proposal of the Deans, then the Academic Life Committee contacts the student's church about the proposal. If the student's church supports his application, then the student may proceed with an application.
 - c. The student presents his formal application to the Dean of the Foundation/Bachelor program. The Dean interviews the student. If it is necessary to take a TELSA test at this time, the Dean administers it. The Dean brings the results of the student's application, his church's approval, and his English test to the Academic Life Committee who decide whether the student is transferred or not. After the Academic Life Committee approves the application, it is reported to Talua Staff Council and submitted to the Talua Committee for final approval.

The Foundation Year

The Foundation Year helps students raise their English and academic skills to the university entrance level. The Foundation Year is for: (a) those who have completed year twelve at school; or (b) have successfully completed the USP LLP13 course; or (c) have taken a USP diagnostic result that indicates the USP LLF11 as the next appropriate step for English and academic skills study. It is also possible to consider students whose English or schooling is less than this if they show an ability to learn quickly. However, participation in the Foundation Year is no guarantee of attaining the university entrance level of English or of entering the BMin program at the end of the year.

The Talua Foundation Year is similar to the USP Foundation Year in that it concentrates on English skills and academic skills for university level studies and adds an appropriate mathematics unit for ministry purposes. Talua also adds in units to develop computer skills. Both the USP Foundation Year and the Talua Foundation Year prepare for the topics to be studied in the Bachelor program. At the USP this means introductory courses in either science or social science. At Talua this means some introductory biblical and catechetical studies. At Talua general knowledge of the South Pacific, global issues, and world history is an important secondary focus for free reading time.

The Foundation Year succeeds in its purpose when students achieve a level of English competency and academic skills that qualify them for the Bachelor of Ministry program or university studies.

The successful applicant to the Foundation Year will have:

- a year twelve level of English as demonstrated by a school transcript;

- or a USP diagnostic test that indicates LLF 11 English studies as appropriate;
- or an unusual ability to learn quickly so that he or she can achieve two to three years of academic progress in one year.

Process of application to the Foundation Year:

Applicants apply to enter the Foundation Year by filling out and submitting their application form anytime before or in September before the start of the program in January of 2011 or 2013 (unless a decision is made to have a yearly Foundation Year program). See the application form at the end of this document.

Student fees for the Bachelor of Ministry and Foundation Year program:

	<i>vt/term</i>	<i>vt/year</i>		
tuition	12000	36000		
administration	2000	6000		
course materials	8000	24000		
married accomm	14500	43500		
single accomm	7250	21750		
single food	9000	27000		
single living allowance	6000	18000	<i>pre-term intensive (3 weeks in January):</i>	
spouse's program	6500	19500	pre term tuition	3000
Book allowance	12000	36000	pre term course materials	2000
married food + living allowance	16000	48000	pre term married accomm	17728
1 child food allowance	2100	6300	pre term single accomm	14062
2 child food allowance	4050	12150	pre term single food	2250
3 child food allowance	6000	18000	pre term married food allowance	3635
<i>accommodation</i>	<i>vt/term</i>	<i>vt/year</i>	<i>with pre-term</i>	
single	56250	168750	190062	
married no children	71000	213000	239363	if wife is in women's program
married both study	84500	253500	281863	if no children
married one child	73100	219300	245653	if wife is in women's program
married two children	75050	225150	251513	if wife is in women's program
married 3 children	77000	231000	257393	if wife is in women's program

plus add:

- about 30,000 vatu if taking one elective at UP
- about 50,000 vatu for a personal computer

Spouses of Talua staff who qualify and are accepted into the BMin program pay a reduced rate as follows: tuition (36,000) + course materials (24000) + book allowance (36,000) plus pre-term tuition (3000) and pre-term course materials (2000) = 101,000vt.

Exchange rates: although there are often significant fluctuations, generally \$AU1 = 80 vatu, \$NZ1 = 65 vatu; \$US1 = 105 vatu.

Scholarships

A great effort is made to find scholarships for qualifying applicants who are unable to pay the fees. We are working on a financial structure that will provide scholarships from churches (for example,

from the PCV and COM), the Vanuatu government (perhaps from AusAid), from partner churches, trust funds, foundations, and private donors. It is possible that the scholarships will be competitive and that they could be revoked for poor performance.

Computers

Every FY and BMin student must have a personal laptop computer, preferably a model that has a long-life battery and low power requirements so that it can work for six to eight hours on the battery. Every incoming student to the BMin must know how to use a computer for word processing, email, internet research, and Bible study programs. These things are taught in the Foundation Year.

Spouses of BMin students

Spouses of BMin students are eligible to apply to any Talua program for which they qualify at the cost of the spouses' program listed above. Wives join the women's program unless they have already passed through the women's program or they join another program.

Schedule of Units

The following table is subject to changes but only within the framework of the BMin requirements. All units are three credits unless otherwise indicated.

Foundation Year for 2011*

1 st term	2 nd term	3 rd term
Grammar and general vocabulary Speaking, listening, conversation	Grammar and acad vocabulary Speaking, listening, conversation	Grammar and theological vocabulary Conversation, public speaking, reading Scripture aloud
Reading comprehension Writing: narratives, summaries, note taking	How to read a book Writing: paragraphs	Writing essays and reports Reasoning skills
Learning & study strategies Computer skills and typing Mathematics for ministry Bible reading & catechism	Finding info in a library Computer programs Mathematics for ministry Bible reading & catechism	Computer internet skills Bible reading & catechism
*If students believe they are competent in the knowledge and skills of any of the above units, then they may sit a challenge examination. If they demonstrate the skills and knowledge at an adequate level of the intended learning outcomes of a unit, then they may take a unit in: world history reading (2); and/or Pacific issues reading (2).		

First Year of BMin: 2010, 2012

Pre-term
Greek 1
1 elective for 2009 Greek students

1 st term	2 nd term	3 rd term
Biblical interpretation 1 Linguistics 1 Academic writing Reasoning skills Greek 2	Biblical interpretation 2 OT1 PTh 1 Exegesis and preaching Church history 1 Greek 3	Biblical interpretation 3 OT2 PTh 2, Introduction Linguistics 2 Elective: Greek 4

Second Year of BMin: 2011, 2013

Pre-term
Elective: Greek 5

1 st term	2 nd term	3 rd term
NT 1, NT background Systematics 1	NT 2, Gospel traditions Systematics 2	NT 3, Early church Systematics 3

Cultural anthropology Gospel and culture	Church history 2 PTH 4 Chrstn ed materials	PTH 3 Catechesis, sp'l form., and teaching
1 elective	1 elective	2 electives

Third Year of BMin: 2012, 2014

Pre-term
Elective: Pre-term Hebrew 1 Elective

1 st term	2 nd term	3 rd term
NT 4 (NT letters) Apocalyptic literature Systematics 4 Church history 3	OT3 NT 5, four letters Contextual theology Church history 4	PTH 6 Evang and discp PTH 7 Chldrn and Yth Mnstry PTH 5 Worship
Elective: Hebrew 2 Elective	Elective: Hebrew 3 Elective	Elective: Hebrew 4 2 electives

Challenge examination

Challenge examinations can be set for students who believe they are already qualified and do not need to take a particular unit, for example, ministry maths, computers, Greek or Hebrew. Students must apply to the Dean of Studies before the term begins to sit the challenge exam. If they pass they exam, course credit toward graduation is given.

Cross-crediting

Students may apply for cross-crediting from other accredited BMin programs, with credit given based on the merits of the case as determined by the Academic Life Committee.

Project and research options

Students who demonstrate strong writing and reasoning skills may consider doing a project for 6 to 12 credit hours (the time equivalent of two to four normal units of 3 credits hours each). There are two sorts of projects: *an authentic project* producing a high quality Christian education resource for the church; or *a research project* researching and reasoning one's way to a clear position on some relevant, important issue today related to the Scriptures, theology, history, or pastoral practice. Application to do a project is made to the Dean of the BMin.

Graduation with honours (*cum laude* or *magna cum laude* or *summa cum laude*):

Appropriate honours at graduation for outstanding student performance are yet to be decided upon. Also to be decided is the possibility of an additional *honours* year for research or the production of an educational resource for the church.

Field Education

Ten percent of a student's time is given to field education. There are three streams of Field Education in the BMin program:

- students on a pastoral training track join with the pastoral students of the Diploma program under the direction of the Field Supervisor; several elective units may be given over to training for ordained service;
- students who have graduated from the Diploma of Theology work under the direction of the Dean (or any other faculty assigned by the Dean) to (a) improve their ministry competencies and skills, and (b) develop the particular knowledge and skills needed for their specific future ministry through work on projects, reading, and travel for that purpose;

- private students join with the pastoral students or mission students, unless they have a specific future ministry that is best prepared for in some other way; the student is under the direction of the Dean (or any other faculty assigned by the Dean).

Each year students make a contract with their Field Supervisor about what they will do and the basis for assessment for that year. Contracts can be renegotiated at the end of a term if necessary. It is possible to join an elective with field education by making a joint contract involving a lecturer, the Field Supervisor, and the student.

It is possible to fulfil the Field Education requirements week by week, term by term, or over holidays. Field education can include any form of ministry, including the ministry of preparing materials for use by the church. In that case, field education would involve the development, the testing, and the deployment of the materials produced.

Bachelor of Ministry Course Descriptions

The following course descriptions will undergo some revision as lecturers and student actually undertake the units.

Key

- ▼ indicates a Foundation Year unit
- * indicates a core unit which is compulsory for all BMin students
- ** indicates a unit that may be taken more than once

Supporting Studies Department

- ▼ Grammar and General Vocabulary
- ▼ Grammar and Academic Vocabulary
- ▼ Grammar and Theological Vocabulary
- ▼ Speaking, listening, conversation 1
- ▼ Speaking, listening, conversation 2
- ▼ Conversation, public speaking, reading Scripture aloud
- ▼ Reading comprehension
- ▼ How to read a book
- ▼ Writing: narratives, summaries, note-taking
- ▼ Writing: paragraphs
- ▼ Writing: essays and reports
- ▼ Learning and study strategies
- ▼ Finding information in a library
- ▼ Computer skills: typing
- ▼ Computer skills: programs
- ▼ Computer skills: internet searches
- ▼ Maths for ministry 1
- ▼ Maths for ministry 2
- ▼ ***Reasoning Skills:** Concepts of reasoning (following Richard Paul and others): eight elements of thought; nine universal intellectual standards; eight intellectual virtues; identifying arguments, assumptions, reasons, evidence, conclusions, and implications; making arguments; identifying fallacies, distinguishing proper authorities; reasoning and creativity; the structure of reasoning to a conclusion; reasoning and grace in personal relationships; reasoning and faith in God.
- *Academic English**
- *Linguistics 1:** socio-linguistics in Vanuatu; speaking and writing in village Bislama
- *Linguistics 2:** grammar and phonology for learning English, Greek, and other languages

Philosophy 1: The first half of unit introduces the topics of philosophy: metaphysics (what is real), epistemology (how do I know), ethics (how should I live), philosophical and theological anthropology, as well as a Christian view of philosophy and science. The second half of unit introduces ancient philosophy concurrent in NT times: Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, the Stoics, the Epicureans, the Cynics, the Sophists, and Philo.

Philosophy 2: History of philosophy from a Christian perspective focusing on Augustine, Aquinas, the Reformation, the Enlightenment and modernism, and post-modernism.

***Cultural Anthropology:** Anthropology for Christian purposes in Vanuatu; understanding cross-cultural communication; understanding the layers behind behaviour: values—beliefs—and worldviews and their relevance to gospel ministry; various proposals for the relation between gospel, culture and contextual theology.

Biblical Studies Department

***Greek 1** pre-term intensive, **2, 3** (3)

Greek 4, 5 pre-term intensive, **6, 7, 8** (3)

Greek 9, 10, 11 (2)

Hebrew 1 pre-term intensive, **2, 3, 4**

***Biblical interpretation 1: biblical theology:** investigates a narrative biblical theology based on a Christ-centred hermeneutic; explores the implication of the canon for interpretation; notes the ongoing tension in biblical theology between the unity and diversity of the Bible; considers the implication of biblical theology for biblical, Christ-centred preaching.

***Biblical interpretation 2: biblical poetics:** focuses on the literary art of the Scriptures and its role in biblical interpretation: genres, the role of narrative criticism, literary art and devices, and intertextuality; selected biblical texts are used for lectures and assignments.

***Biblical interpretation 3: biblical history:** focuses on history and geography in the Bible. The different meanings of 'biblical history' are distinguished: the Bible's record of events; the actual events that occurred; the history of the production and transmission of the text; or the history of historical critical studies of the Bible. Biblical history is: compared and contrasted with modern scientific history (which itself is critically examined); is compared and contrasted with myth, epic/saga, fable, and parable; is considered as rhetoric with religious and political implications. Historical skepticism is weighed with respect to Jesus' words, miracles, and resurrection; the primeval history; the Patriarchs; the exodus and conquest; Davidic history; and Acts as history. Students learn the history, dates, empires, and geography of Israel's history as they are found in the Bible.

***OT 1: Genesis to 2 Kings:** matters of introduction to the primary narrative of the OT (theories of authorship/composition/ date, genre(s), canon, comparable Ancient Near East texts); a literary and theological overview; time and place (using a biblical historical atlas); study of selected texts; use by Christians.

***OT 2: Prophets:** matters of introduction (theories of authorship/composition and date, genre(s), canon); times and places (using a biblical historical atlas); a literary and theological overview; study of selected texts; use by Christians.

***OT 3: Writings:** matters of introduction (theories of authorship/composition, date, proposed history, canon, genre, use); a literary and theological overview; study of selected texts.

***NT 1: Background to the New Testament:** an introduction to the Jewish, Greek, and Roman cultural environment of the NT through a perusal of the history and literature of the period. Special attention is given to the Hellenism, the revolt of the Maccabees, the philosophical schools and sophists, the history and ideology of the Roman empire, Jewish communities in the empire, and the fall of Jerusalem.

***NT 2: Gospel traditions:** introduction to the genre, literary art, and theology of the gospels; special attention to Jesus' preaching of the kingdom of God, his parables, ethics, miracles, titles, passion, and resurrection; investigation of the theories of authorship/composition/date; and an evaluation of the history presented; study of selected texts.

***NT 3: Early church:** The expansion of the church as reflected in the NT documents, especially Acts: the Jerusalem church, early Christian preaching, Stephen and the Hellenists, the Pauline mission and churches, the Council of Jerusalem, schism, heresy, and external threat.

***NT 4: Seven Letters:** An exploration of the main issues confronted in seven NT letters; an examination of the authorship and canonicity of these epistles.

- Apocalyptic: OT, Jewish, and NT:** an investigation into the genre of apocalyptic literature in the OT, Jewish writings, and NT, with special attention to Daniel and Revelation.
- Historical hermeneutics:** Jewish hermeneutics, medieval hermeneutics; classical Reformed hermeneutics; Enlightenment hermeneutics; post-modern hermeneutics; implications of hermeneutics for theology; finding a basis for evaluating hermeneutical options.
- **Bible Seminar:** as available (perhaps on Genesis, Deuteronomy, Isaiah, Romans, 1 Corinthians).
- **Individual reading on biblical topic:** with approval of a lecturer supervisor, directed reading on a biblical studies topic or author. Students produce an annotated bibliography that interacts critically with their reading.
- **Biblical research paper:** the exegesis of a text making use of full range of exegetical tools including biblical languages.

Christian thought and history department

Theological study consists of readings from the various church traditions of students. In practice this means that: Presbyterian students make special use of Robert Reymond's *New Systematic Theology of the Christian Faith*, Louis Berkhof's *Systematic Theology*; M. Erikson's *Christian Theology* and the Reformed creeds; Anglicans may choose Alistair McGrath's *Systematic Theology* alongside Anglican creeds; the Churches of Christ and Assemblies of God students may choose Wayne Grudem's *Systematic Theology*; and everyone will be exposed to the classical ecumenical theology of T. Oden's *Systematic Theology* and the contextual theology represented by the *South Pacific Theological Journal* and the *Melanesian Theological Journal*. Students are encouraged to get to know one systematic text well.

- *Systematics 1: *knowledge of God:*** This unit introduces systematic theology: its historical origin; its promise and limitation; its roots in both revelation and culture; its distinction from other kinds of theology; its knowledge of God based on revelation of Jesus Christ, the inspiration of Scripture, illumination, and reason, in the context of tradition, culture, and personal experience. This unit also explores the relation between God and the world, creation and providence, and the problem of evil and sin. Particular concerns, questions, and contributions from Vanuatu and the South Pacific are explored.
- *Systematics 2: *God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit:*** This unit explores how the acts of God reveal his being, Trinity, and attributes; the person, work, and history of Jesus Christ in election, reconciliation, and redemption; and the Holy Spirit. Particular concerns, questions, and contributions from Vanuatu and the South Pacific are explored.
- *Systematics 3: *grace, anthropology, and eschatology:*** The gospel; the law, grace, and the fulfilment of the law; grace and human response; the order of salvation; humanity in God's image, in sin, and in Christ; first things and last things ruled by Christ; the present and future kingdom; the present and future judgment; death, intermediate state, resurrection, heaven, and hell. Particular concerns, questions, and contributions from Vanuatu and the South Pacific are explored.
- *Systematics 4: *the people of God:*** the kingdom of God and the Jews and the church; the nature of the church (visible and invisible, earthly and heavenly, temporal and eternal); the mission and authority of the church; the ministry of the word and sacraments; church government; ecumenism, interdenominationalism, parachurch, and other religions; political theology and church–state relations. Particular concerns, questions, and contributions from Vanuatu and the South Pacific are explored.
- History of doctrine:** traces the development of doctrine (the doctrines of God, Christ, the Spirit, grace, Scripture, sacraments, and church) with special attention to creeds. Uses Louis Berkhof, *The History of Doctrine*; also *Creeds of the Churches*, ed. John H. Leith; also Alistair McGrath, *Historical Theology*.
- *Gospel and Culture:** a sociological investigation into culture issues facing man Vanuatu today for the sake of pastoral consideration; on the one hand, Vanuatu traditional culture poses questions and issues for Christians today; on the other hand, an educated, vatu-based, high-tech global culture is increasingly shaping youth, business, politics, and education, frequently in a way that undermines both traditional values and Christian values. This unit is a scientific look into what is happening to Vanuatu culture with a positive agenda of seeking a way to nurture Christian life and witness in our fast changing environment.
- *Contextual theology:** an exploration into the issues raised by contextual theology in relation to biblical theology, classical theology, liberal theology, and post-liberal theology; bibliography includes

selected articles from the *South Pacific Journal of Theology*, Ma'afu Palu's DMin thesis on *Contextual Theology in the South Pacific*; and *Communicating Christ Cross-Culturally* and *Contextual Theology* by Hesselgrave.

Ethics: explores the sources for ethics and practices ethical thinking over a range of current ethical issues. Sources of ethics include: the OT (biblical law and narrative, prophets, wisdom), NT (Jesus, Paul, and Spirit), classical ethical theories, the implication of theology for ethics, traditional Vanuatu ethics, and global culture ethics. Specific issues are explored that relate to personal life, the church, Vanuatu society, and the South Pacific region today.

Reformation theology: in this unit students read selections from the writings of Luther and Calvin and the 16th and 17th century Reformed creeds.

Theology seminar: as available. Possibly: history of the doctrine of atonement.

Political theology seminar: a seminar investigating the meaning of the political language of the Bible in regard to God, ethics, and salvation for political life in Vanuatu and the world today; the seminar consists of presentations and discussions based on reading the biblical texts on government, considering various historical interpretation of the relation between church and state, and reading seminal Christian authors on the topic; is Vanuatu a Christian nation or not, and what are the implications for how one answers that questions?

****Individual directed reading of a theologian or on a theological topic:** with approval of a lecturer supervisor, directed reading on a theologian or theological topic; all reading is accompanied by writing that critically interacts with the reading; the end product is an annotated bibliography.

****Theological research paper:** with approval by a lecturer supervisor, a critical examination of a theologian or locus of theology or theological methodology or current issue that explores a problem and argues through to a conclusion.

*** Pacific church history**

***Two of the following three are core courses, the other is an elective:**

Early Church: lectures and secondary reading provide background for focusing on a critical reading of primary sources.

Reformation: lectures and secondary reading provide background for focusing on a critical reading of primary sources.

Modern Church: with special attention to evangelical revivalism, mission movement, ecumenical movement, liberalism, fundamentalism, evangelicalism, Pentecostal and charismatic movement, new churches and old denominations, and the Presbyterian and Anglican history to the present.

Pacific church seminar: an investigation of theological issues facing churches in the South Pacific.

****Individual historical research**

****Writing history today:** either a modest-sized research paper (this is only 3 credit hours) or the production of an authentic history resource for use by children, youth, or adults.

****History seminar**

****Individual directed reading of history**

****Historical research paper**

Pastoral Theology Department

***PT 1, Introduction to pastoral theology:** the need for pastors to look to their own relationship with God and integrity, as well as pastor others; the need to develop pastoral thinking which is biblical, theological, and centred on the gospel; the need to apply such pastoral thinking to worship services, baptism, Lord's Supper, marriage, funerals, ordination, visitation, pre-marriage and marriage counseling, church discipline, moderating a session, and any other pastoral role; contextual issues for pastoral care in Vanuatu where both traditional ways and new global culture ways especially amongst the youth must be considered; distinguishing ritual and form from content; need for evaluation and planning in pastoral work; providing for both catechesis and pastoral care programs; Christian character and Christian ministry competencies.

***PT 2, Exegesis and preaching:** the preaching method taught by Langham Preaching International: moving from a biblical-theological exegesis to relevant communication and application; introduces preaching clubs.

- *PT 3, Philosophy of education for children and adults:** introduction to the classical tools of learning (grammar, logic, and rhetoric) applied to Christian education; theory of pedagogy and androgogy; opportunity for practice.
- *PT 4, Catechetics, spiritual formation, and teaching:** a biblical, theological, historic, and pastoral examination into the initiation process into Christian faith and church life for children, and again for adults; an examination of how a pastor thinks through a teaching program for his congregation so that they continue to grow in their Christian lives; how to teach catechetically.
- *PT 5, Worship:** thinking biblically and theologically about worship; an historical overview of Christian worship; Calvin's view of worship; worship in Vanuatu over the past 150 years; issues in the present; prospects for the future; preparing and leading worship.
- *PT 6, Evangelism and Discipleship:** doing evangelism and discipleship and training others for evangelism and discipleship. Students review a variety of approaches and evaluate them on the basis of biblical-theological, anthropological, and historical criteria. This unit is taken after the anthropology and catechetics units.
- *PT 7, Producing Christian education materials:** this unit walks through the process of defining, writing, critiquing, editing, designing layout, perhaps illustrating, Christian education materials for children, youth, or adults. Students produce such a work.
- Leadership:** different kinds of leadership (community, institutional, charismatic, functional, missional, and others); valid and invalid interpretations of leadership models from the Bible; leadership linked with servanthood, humility, correctability, vision, good personal relations, understanding other points of view and other personalities; motivating others; evaluation and planning; Melanesian big man or chiefly leadership style; leadership competencies and skills; leadership in a context of divisions, party-spirit, gossip, and slander; abuses of leadership.
- Community based education:** bringing together the three kinds of leaders—pastor, chief, and government representative to work together for the good of the community and the gospel.
- Marriage, family, money, and ministry:** biblical wisdom and practical help for marriage, raising children, handling family finances, and ministry.
- Church government:** structures of decision-making; meeting procedures; vocabulary of government; participating in and moderating meetings; writing minutes.
- Perspectives on the World Christian Movement:** based on book and seminar by same title, explores the biblical/theological imperative of mission; the history of Christian missions; the contribution of anthropology to cross-cultural communication; and mission strategy.
- Rural mission**
- Urban mission**
- **Pastoral studies seminar:** as available.
- **Individual directed reading** (2-3 cr hrs), with lecturer/supervisor approval, involves written critical interaction with reading that may take the form of a journal, an annotated bibliography, or an argument sustained with help from the readings undertaken.
- **Pastoral theology research paper:** a theological investigation into some aspect of pastoral ministry based on Scripture, bibliographic research, and field testing that argues for some conclusion; under the supervision of a lecturer.

University of the South Pacific Electives

If USP opens the opportunity, and if scholarship funds are available, students are encouraged to take an elective from the USP during their 2nd or 3rd year. It may be convenient for an entire class to take a USP unit and have the lecturer visit Talua to offer the unit as an intensive.

AF100, Accounting and financial management for the non-specialist;
 DG402, Pacific thought, philosophy, and ethics;
 HYF01 Introduction to Pacific history;
 HY102 Contemporary world history, 1750 to present;
 LW110 Law and society;

MG 101 Introduction to management;
 UU 104 Pacific worlds: and introduction to Pacific studies;
 TA101 Theatre arts: performance;
 SO100 Theses and perspectives in sociology;
 SO114 Pacific Youth.

Lecturers. Ps Philip Baniuri, MDiv, International School of Theology, Manila, Philippines; Bp Hugh Blessing Boe, MTh, Birmingham Univ; Glen Connor, BSc, BEd, BTh, Moore College, Sydney; Ps Masia Nato, MTh, Pacific Theological College, Fiji; Ps Fiamia Rakau, MA Pastoral Theology, Western Theological Seminary, Michigan, USA; Ps Shem Temara, MDiv, Manila, Philippines; Ps Andrew Williamson, BA, MDiv, MTh, PhD, University of Western Sydney; Mrs Rosemary Williamson, BA Hons, SIL training, MA Biblical Studies, Reformed Theological Seminary, Jackson, Mississippi; Ps Selerick Michel MA Christian Leadership, International School of Theology, Manila, Philippines.

Guest lecturers include but are not limited to: Maafu Palu, MTh, DMin, PhD candidate, Univ of W Sydney; Jon Paschke, Grad Dipl Ministry, MA Theology candidate; Randall Prior, Dip Mission, MTh; Ian Smith, BA, Dip Ed, MEd, MTh, PhD, University of Sydney; Ps Kalsakau Urtalo, MTh, Pacific Theological College, Fiji; Kevin Ward, MA (Hons), BD, DipEd, PhD, Otago University.

Accreditation. Presently Talua is in discussion with the South Pacific Association of Theological Schools (SPATS) and the Vanuatu Qualification Training Council (VQTC) regarding accreditation. Accreditation is critical to the credibility of the program, and the BMin program is pursuing it earnestly. SPATS accredits an institution only upon the graduation of the first graduating class, though the process begins years earlier. The VQTA has yet to set up accreditation standards for a bachelor level program in theology but work on it is in process. We are seeking sister institutions to act as a benchmark for student assessment and staff development.

Board of Studies. The Talua Board of Studies meets annually and advises the Bachelor of Ministry program from the perspectives of the board members as church leaders, pastors, or educationalists. All input is welcome, but especially in relation to the program objectives, curriculum, academic standards, educational methods, field education, and financial structure. The Board of Studies offers their advice in a report to the Talua Committee. Members so far include: Roy Obed (Director of Educational Service), Mrs Helen Tamtam (Center for Excellence in Learning and Teaching, USP), Ps Kalsakau Urtalo (Clerk of the PCV GA), Ps Allen Nafuki (PCV mission secretary), Dr Robert Early (Pacific languages, USP), Bp James Ligo (Diocese of Vanuatu, COM), Ps Philip Baniuri. Overseas advisors include: Rev. Randall Prior (Principal of Uniting Church Theological College, Melbourne); Dr Ian Smith (Principal, PTC, Sydney), Dr Kevin Ward (New Zealand).

Application Form for Talua Bachelor of Ministry Program

Full Name:

Address (Island, Village):

Phone access (public or private):

Email access (yours or a friend's):

Denomination:

Local Church:

Layman ____; or ordained pastor ____.

If pastor, list any formal studies of the Bible and theology (if necessary, attach details separately):

institution _____

program _____ year(s) _____

Single ____; Married ____; Single parent ____; Divorced _____. Number of children under 18 ____ (Talua accommodation is limited to three children under sixteen years old with parents.)

Name of spouse:

Educational attainment of spouse:

TELSA (or ELSA or IELTS) test date and result: Date, _____; Band or number ____.

Talua Bible and theology test (only for those never in a Talua program): Date _____; place: _____.

Please attach the following (if you have already done so for the FY program you need not do so again, only say that you have already submitted the items):

- write or two pages on how faith in Christ has changed or shaped your life;
- write one paragraph on why you want to apply to this program;
- curriculum vitae: list date of birth, date of marriage, year of educational attainments, work, and years involved in ministry experience or community service;
- copies of academic certificates from high school, Bible college, training centre, or university;
- a letter from a doctor certifying your health for study at Talua.
- an explanation of how you will be able to pay your fees, or how you hope to find the funds;

If you are applying as a pastoral student, include a letter of recommendation from your Presbytery, bishop, or equivalent church authority. The letter should include a description of your faith, character, and ministry or community service experience.

If you are applying as a pastor or priest, include the recommendation of your Presbytery or bishop, or equivalent church authority.

If you are applying as a private student, include the recommendation of your pastor, or priest, or session, or bishop to the BMin program.

If possible, ask an appropriate person from your most recent educational experience to send Talua a letter regarding your academic readiness for the Bachelor level program.

Send application and attachments—or direct any questions—to: Dr Andrew Williamson, Dean of the Bachelor program, Talua Ministry Training Centre (P. O. Box 242, Luganville, Santo; ph. 36761; email: andyrose2@gmail.com)

Application Form for Talua Foundation Year Program

Full Name:

Address (Island, Village):

Phone access (public or private):

Email access (yours or a friend's):

Denomination:

Local Church:

Layman ____; or ordained pastor ____ . If pastor, list formal biblical/theological studies:

institution _____

program _____

Single ____; Married ____; Single parent ____; Divorced ____ . Number of children under 18 ____ (Talua accommodation is limited to three children under sixteen years old with parents.)

Name of spouse:

Educational attainment of spouse:

Explain your present level of English, especially what year you studied to, what were the results of any USP English diagnostic text or Talua diagnostic test, or what USP English course you have taken. Include any official transcripts you may have.

Please attach the following:

- one paragraph on why you want to apply to this program;
- curriculum vitae: list date of birth, date of marriage, year of educational attainments, work, and years involved in ministry experience or community service;
- copies of academic certificates from high school, Bible college, training centre, or university;
- a letter from a doctor certifying your health for study at Talua.
- an explanation of how you will be able to pay your fees, or how you hope to find the funds;

Ask an appropriate Christian authority in your life to send a letter to Talua recommending you for the Foundation Year. He or she should describe your faith, character, and ministry or community service experience . If you are a lay person, this might be your pastor or session or bishop; or if you are ordained, a letter from your presbytery or bishop. Note, at this point in time you are only applying for the Foundation Year.

Ask an appropriate person from your most recent educational experience to send Talua a letter regarding your academic readiness for the BMin program.

Send application and attachments—or direct any questions—to:

Dr Andrew Williamson, Dean of the Bachelor program, Talua Ministry Training Centre (P. O. Box 242, Luganville, Santo; ph. 36761; email: andyrose2@gmail.com)