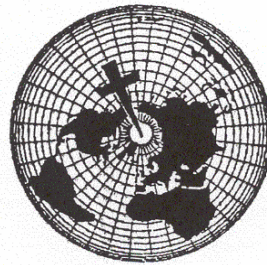




*Collaborative Relationship for offering
the Ph.D. program between*

**Vanguard University of Southern California
and the Oxford Centre for Mission Studies**

*The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies is an
affiliated institution of the University of Wales,
and a sponsoring establishment of The Open University.
These are the main awarding institutions for the research degrees.*



**OXFORD CENTRE
FOR MISSION STUDIES**

A GENERAL INTRODUCTION

THE OXFORD CENTRE FOR MISSION STUDIES
WWW.OCMS.AC.UK/

The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies (OCMS) was founded in 1983 by the International Fellowship of Evangelical Mission Theologians (INFEMIT) to train a new generation of evangelical mission scholars and practitioners to become a key resource to the church in mission in contemporary contexts of complexity and diversity.

The aims of OCMS are to facilitate research in mission and to encourage the recognition of educational excellence of Two-Thirds World theological institutions and development agencies. The objectives of OCMS are as follows: to establish and strengthen the relationship of theologians, professionals and the church within and between different cultures; to foster the development of leadership for mission organizations and training institutions; to encourage the study of and research into the theology and practice of mission; and, to facilitate international and intercultural partnership among Christians in mission.

The Oxford Centre for Mission Studies is an affiliated institution with the University of Wales and the Open University. These are the main awarding institutions for the research degrees.

VANGUARD UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
www.vanguard.edu/

Vanguard University of Southern California (VUSC), founded in 1920, is a community of thoughtful Christians dedicated to honoring Christ and serving his church. As an evangelical comprehensive university of liberal arts and graduate studies within the pentecostal tradition, VUSC is committed to providing an educational experience that integrates faith, learning, and living, and to preparing students for a lifetime of learning and service in a variety of vocations and ministries. The university believes that a liberal arts education illuminated by Christian truth fosters the intellectual and spiritual development that prepares and challenges students to take an active role in shaping their culture and their world.

The *vision* that guides VUSC is rooted in its heritage as an institution, which was birthed out of the Azusa Street Revival in Los Angeles, California, at the turn of the twentieth century. A strong commitment to cultural diversity, racial reconciliation, and gender equality is a consequence of VUSC being deeply grounded in the faith tradition that brought the educational institution into existence. Within this context of inclusiveness, the university aims to provide a quality educational experience marked by the pursuit of truth, the cultivation of character and the desire for service.

Educational outcomes that guide the educational curriculum of the university include: intellectual engagement, spiritual formation, professional excellence, aesthetic expression, responsible stewardship, and sociocultural responsiveness.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE FOR THE PhD PROGRAM

The purpose of this cooperative relationship between Vanguard University of Southern California and Oxford Centre for Mission Studies for offering the PhD is to provide the opportunity for outstanding students to conduct doctoral level research that contributes to the conceptual understanding and practice of holistic mission in Christian organizations.

THIS PURPOSE IS GUIDED BY THE FOLLOWING ETHOS:

The study of mission cannot be removed from the study of the world, which God has made. Communication, culture, and history are all dimensions for understanding mission in any particular environment. Each dimension, or any aspect of it, can be researched in its own right using one or more of a wide range of university disciplines. OCMS thesis abstracts give a good idea of this range.

Mission Studies for OCMS is a broad category. The *missio Dei*, or mission of God, transcends the church. Mission involves the mediation of the divine between different cultures. The activity of God in mission can normally be discerned by studying the particular cultures and the history of their interaction. Mission studies necessarily includes research into communication and language, culture, history and development. Communication and language clearly give a place to the study of Bible in mission, with a special emphasis on the context both in which the Biblical revelation was given and received and also the context in which it now speaks, so that translation and hermeneutics are relevant.

The study of culture has geographical, legal, philosophical, political, social, economic, military, ritual, aesthetic, educational, psychological, medical, technological etc. aspects. A theology with the incarnation of God as a premise must arise out of such earthly realities and not in ignorance of them. Thus holistic approaches combining consideration of belief and practice, to research are both welcome and possible in OCMS.

The international community which founded OCMS has been particularly associated with the development of "Mission as Transformation" as a helpful way of thinking about holistic mission. The volume of the same name is published by [Regnum Publishing](#).

Mission and church may also be understood in history but this is not a merely antiquarian issue, seeking to interpret and influence present and future directions. While the study of culture in theology works primarily with the pattern and structure of human life under God in culture, development studies in missiology analyses how culture can be changed to liberate life holistically, and so be redeemed.

Development Studies is inter-disciplinary, dealing with the same aspects of culture. Its core lies in the social sciences of economics, sociology, social anthropology, and politics. It also draws from the relevant aspects of the environmental and natural sciences and constructs its own theory on appropriate technology, development management, and public administration. In addition to the academic tasks of accounting for and theorising about what is observed, a more activist and narrative dimension is concerned with designing, appraising, and evaluating alternative development strategies, policies, projects, programmes, procedures, and institutional arrangements, according to key development criteria, typically economic efficiency or growth, equity and welfare, gender differentials, good governance, or environmental and institutional sustainability.

Full empowerment and fulfillment of human potential must centrally involve the spiritual and moral dimensions. Therefore important theological and ethical contributions are made in areas such as holistic or transformational development, development ethics, and the assessment of the roles and performance of churches (as civil society organisations) and church-related non-governmental organisations in pro-poor development interventions. OCMS actively took part in the process of discussion between the World Bank and the Churches of Africa, documented in Faith in Development (Regnum/World Bank Publications).

OVERVIEW OF PROGRAM PHASES

Research at OCMS involves two chapters: the OCMS/Pre-University chapter (12 months full time of pre-university registration) followed by the OCMS/University Chapter (MPhil and PhD).

FIRST YEAR AT VANGUARD UNIVERSITY

OCMS/and Vanguard University's collaboration addresses the OCMS/Pre-University chapter, which means that, instead of undertaking the first chapter at OCMS, it is undertaken at Vanguard University (12 months full time).

Vanguard University assists the academic development of the student in the application process, and in preparing the research proposal. An electronic and hard copy of the final research proposal -- along with academic recommendations from the Vanguard Faculty Mentor and Coordinator, and proof of funding for at least the first year of the University Chapter -- will be submitted to OCMS for its approval.

Once approved, the student is registered at the MPhil level. The student will complete the first 2-3 chapters of the thesis which will be submitted to OCMS for official registration as a doctoral candidate.

THE RESEARCH PROPOSAL

1. Areas of research should be broadly related in some way to Christian faith and/or faith traditions. Current studies include following areas: biblical studies, theology, ethics, history, relief and development, culture, anthropology, sociology, counseling, economics, management and leadership, and communication.
2. A faculty mentor from Vanguard University will work with the student to design an educational plan to prepare sufficiently a thesis proposal. Students may be encouraged to audit existing courses, seminars and participate in a "read-around" in selected academic fields for at least six months before a research proposal is prepared.
3. The proposal should normally contain the following elements: title, personal motivation, research problem, aims and objectives, terminology, scope, methodology, sources, rationale/justification, research plan, and bibliography.
4. At least one research seminar is presented to the faculty and students approximately midway through the Vanguard enrollment. Based on this seminar and the faculty mentor's evaluation, a progress report will be submitted to OCMS.
5. The research proposal once completed will be presented to OCMS for submission to the university. Upon approval by the university, the student will begin research and writing the chapters of the thesis.

TRANSITION TO OCMS

Transition to the OCMS (University Chapter) should normally take place at the end of the 12 month full time Vanguard enrollment. It involves the following process:

1. Providing OCMS with the necessary documentation to make considered recommendations to the Awarding Institution for candidates' registration. This registration is at the MPhil level in the first instance. The documentation for this registration includes:
 - An electronic and hard copy of the final research proposal
 - Academic recommendations from the Vanguard Mentor and the Coordinator of the OCMS/Vanguard collaboration at VU.
 - Proof of funding for at least the first year of the university chapter (bank statement if individually supported or a scholarship letter guaranteeing financial support).
2. The MPhil registration with the Awarding Institution will be for two years (part-time) or one year (full-time) and can either be a terminal qualification or a probationary period pending upgrade to the PhD level.
3. The first annual six week OCMS residence and a seminar at OCMS may precede or follow the MPhil registration with the Awarding Institution.
4. For all students seeking upgrade to the PhD level, the probationary period is two years (part-time) or one year (full-time) following their MPhil registration with the Awarding Institution. The bases for this upgrade to the PhD level are:
 - A script or a chapter based on primary sources
 - Supervisory recommendation

- Student's self-assessment of progress made since the MPhil registration
- After the upgrade to the PhD, the minimum time allowed for the submission of the thesis at PhD is three years (part-time) or two years (full-time).

THE THESIS PROCESS

1. Generally the scholar will have two supervisors approved by OCMS. After the student has given notice in submitting the thesis to OCMS, the formal process is set in motion for the appointment of examiners. The usual pattern is for the internal examiner to be in the student's academic department other than the student's supervisor. The external examiner must be from another university.
2. The oral examination or viva is normally held privately with at least two examiners, one internal examiner appointed by OCMS, and an external examiner. Results of the examination are one of the following:
 - The degree will be awarded immediately, subject to certain corrections and minor amendments, which usually have to be finished within one month.
 - The degree will be recommended provided weaknesses are addressed in the thesis, usually within 6 months; therefore, the candidate must resubmit it.
 - There are serious weakness that must be addressed in the thesis; therefore, the candidate must resubmit the thesis and have a new viva within one year.
 - The examiners consider the candidate's thesis work has not reached the standard required of a doctorate and they do not see any clear way of how it can be brought up to the required standards. However, the work has achieved the lower standard required of an MPhil, which may be awarded.
 - The examiners may decide that the candidate has not satisfied the requirements; therefore, the student will not be permitted to resubmit.

The PhD/MPhil depends on the successful defense of the thesis.

RESIDENCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Residence requirements for the PhD at OCMS include a front-end residency of eight weeks.
2. A full time PhD takes between 3-5 years with a minimum commitment of forty hours per week, and a full time residency at OCMS.
3. A part-time PhD takes 5-8 years and at least six weeks residency at OCMS, with a minimum commitment of twenty hours per week, and at least six weeks residency at OCMS.

FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS

VANGUARD UNIVERSITY FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

1. \$100 non-refundable application fee.
2. Registration of 2 units per semester for supervision in preparation for the thesis proposal, and access to library and use of internet. Current fees are \$879 per unit.

OCMS RESIDENCY FINANCIAL REQUIREMENTS:

OCMS fees (£ per annum)*	Standard fees		Reduced fees (for Two-Thirds World/EU Nationals)	
	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time
2006	3400	5000	2400	4000
2007	4000	7000	2600	5000

* Be sure to check the current exchange rate. Also, external Supervisors are entitled to an honorarium per hour or session for which you should allow approximately \$500 a year. Fees are being planned two years ahead, yet OCMS reserves the right to increase fees at any time.

Awarding institution, payable through OCMS	First Year, £ a year	Following Years, £ a year
University of Wales	1000	200

OCMS ACCOMMODATION COSTS

- Residential costs are based on single study bedrooms with students sharing bathroom and kitchen facilities and doing their own catering. Room costs are about \$650-\$675 a month for single rooms and \$750-\$800 per month for double rooms.
- Short stays usually cost more. Booking can be done through OCMS or directly by the student, well in advance of coming for residence. Students who bring their families prefer, and are advised, to arrange their own accommodation. OCMS can offer points of contact.
- Living costs will vary from student to student but an average is \$425 per month. Additional costs include travel, freight, computer, stationery, books, photocopying, fax, and telephone, the extent of which can be privately controlled.

OCMS ACADEMIC STAFF

Vinay Samuel
Bernard Farr
Ben Knighton
Damon So
Deryke Elshaw
David Adams
Haddon Willmer
Rollin Grams
Chris Sugden
Emmanuel Singh
Terry Ranger
David Battrick
Malcolm Malone
David Lumsdaine
Brenda Hoddinott

OCMS FELLOWS

Carl Armerding
Robert Frykenberg
Ward Gasque
James Grayson
Terry Ranger
Lamin Sanneh
Miroslav Volf
Andrew Walls
Ng Kam Weng
David Wenham
Christopher Wright

APPLICATION PROCESS

CRITERIA FOR APPLICANTS

1. Applicants should be of high intellectual caliber, capable of producing a research degree to doctoral standards.
2. Applicants should be committed to the contribution of holistic mission of Christ and his church through rigorous research and dedicated vocation.
3. Applicants should obtain necessary funding to sustain research, fees, travels, Oxford residences and personal expenses. Applicants must also be sponsored by an institution that will give them time for their studies and facilitate their own contribution to the life of the church. Sufficient time for research is approximately 20 hours per week.
4. Applicants must have a masters degree with a minimum GPA of 3.7 and/or demonstrated capacity to conduct quality research. Examples of research may include the following:
 - Thesis for the masters degree
 - Published academic material
 - Three comprehensive research projects
5. Applicants who believe they meet these criteria are invited to begin the application process. After reviewing the document, [PhD Partnership Description OCMS](#), please include the following in your application packet submitted to Vanguard University of Southern California:
 - Curriculum vitae
 - Academic, Pastoral and Professional References
See [PhD Academic-Ministerial Reference form](#)
 - Academic transcripts
 - Application and sponsorship forms. See [PhD Application OCMS form](#)
 - Letter of guarantee from sponsoring organization and list of potential sources of funding for the University Chapter
 - Published academic material, masters thesis, or three comprehensive research projects

- A draft research prospectus (3-5 pages) and bibliography (4-5 pages) that display scholarly capacity and suitability of ideas for research. See [research topic guidelines](#) and [mission studies](#)
- \$100 non-refundable application fee

STEPS AFTER APPLICATION MATERIALS HAVE BEEN RECEIVED BY VANGUARD UNIVERSITY:

1. Vanguard University's School of Religion Admissions Committee assesses the applicant's materials in light of above criteria.
2. Selected Vanguard University faculty and/or scholars outside Vanguard University – according to the applicant's academic interest -- review his or her scholarly work and research prospectus.
3. The Admissions Committee examines feedback from selected faculty concerning the applicant's research prospectus and scholarly work, and determines if the applicant is ready for the research proposal stage.
4. Upon approval, the Admissions Committee recommends the application to OCMS for final acceptance to proceed. See above for research proposal, thesis process and residence requirements.

Completed applications should be sent to:

Dr. Roger Heuser
Director of the Vanguard University/OCMS Collaboration
Vanguard University of Southern California
55 Fair Drive Costa Mesa, CA 92626

Office Telephone: (714) 556-3610, ext 400
Office Facsimile (714) 619-6556
Email: rheuser@vanguard.edu

RELATED WEB SITES:

Drafting research topic:
www.ocms.ac.uk/research/resources/researchtopic.pdf
Thesis abstracts: www.ocms.ac.uk/abstracts/index.php
Mission Leadership and Christian Theological Research:
www.ocms.ac.uk/research/resources/Mission%20Leadership.pdf
Chapter writing guidelines:
www.ocms.ac.uk/resources/chapguides.shtml
Ethical guidelines: www.theasa.org/ethics.htm
Mission scholarship: www.missionscholarship.org

Revised by Roger Heuser, rheuser@vanguard.edu September 8, 2006