



**MA Theology, Ministry and Mission for
Children, Young People
and Families Specialists**

www.stpadarns.ac.uk/MACYF

In Partnership with Durham University Common Awards



HOW THE COURSE IS DELIVERED

Monday to Wednesday Intensives

The delivery method for this specialism concentrates all teaching into three intensive blocks (Monday to Wednesday) a year for two years. It has been designed specifically to meet the needs of those working with families, young people and children. In the standard programme, students will study three modules a year for two years, followed by a year of dissertation writing. Residential take place at our site in Cardiff, where there is purpose built modern ensuite accommodation, catering, teaching rooms, common room and chapel. It is also possible (and recommended) that students arrive Sunday night to give themselves extra lead in time and access to tutors and library. There is no extra charge for arriving on Sunday.

Sample Timetable for Residential Intensives

	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday
8:15am	Most students arrive on Sunday evening	Breakfast	
9:00am		Personal Study	Lecture (6)
10:30am		Tea & Coffee Break	
11:00am		Lecture (3)	Lecture (7)
12:30pm	Lunch		
1.30pm	Worship	Free	Free
2.00pm	Guest Lecture (1)	Lecture (4)	
	Tea & Coffee Break		
3:30pm	Lecture (2)	Lecture (5)	
5:00pm	Free Time		
6:00pm	Dinner		
7:00pm	Open Guest Lecture	Free	

PRIORITISING EXPERIENCE

Our aim is to give practitioners the theological underpinning to inform and reinforce their practice. We therefore value experience over previous academic learning. If you don't have a previous degree, then as long as you have experience in the field of children, young people and/or families then we would be keen to receive an application from you.

THE APPLICATION PROCESS

The Master's Degree is validated by Durham University as an MA in Theology, Ministry & Mission. This course is a specialism within that and all modules are specifically designed for children, young people and family workers. Durham University has a world class reputation and is part of the Russell Group of universities. The official cut off for applications is the end of July but a last-minute rush isn't good for anyone. Get in touch and we can talk things through and get the process started in good time.

ABOUT ST PADARN'S INSTITUTE

St Padarn's is the Church in Wales' resource institution for theological education. Under its statement *formation in community for mission* it seeks to play its part in equipping and empowering God's people across the world to communicate God's transformative love.



THE TEACHING TEAM



Professor Jeremy Duff, Principal at St Padarn's Institute. He has a particular passion for formation and mission. His specialisms are in New Testament Studies and Leadership Development.

Dr Mark Griffiths, Programme Director of the MA course and Dean of Discipleship at St Padarn's. His specialisms are Newly Licensed Minister Training and Children, Young People and Family Ministry Development. He was previously Head of Children and Family Ministry for New Wine for over a decade.

Dr Jordan Hillebert, Director of Formation at St Padarn's. He has a PhD from St Andrews University and his specialist subjects are Christian doctrine and ethics.

Dr George Lings, Former Director of Research for the Church Army and co-author of the Mission Shaped Church report. He brings decades of experience and theological reflection to his teaching.

Lisa Lyall, Children's Pastor at AOG Central since 2002. She pioneered Kids No Limits, a work that now reaches hundreds of children each week through a variety of programmes.

Lucy Moore, Head of the Growing faith Foundation. In 2004 she began Messy Church which now has more than 3,500 settings in over 30 countries.

Yvonne Morris, Author and Children's Adviser for the Diocese of Oxford where she was previously Youth and Children's Minister for over a decade.

Dr Sally Nash, St Padarn's Senior Research Fellow. With decades of experience in theological education preceded by 15 years in training roles with Youth for Christ, she is widely published in the fields of mission and ministry and several of her books are part of our core reading lists.

Rick Otto, Diocesan Children's Advisor for the Manchester Diocese. Former Head of Children and Family Ministry for the New Wine Trust. He brings decades of experience of working with children, young people and families in a range of contexts.

Matt Summerfield, Senior Pastor of Zeo Church, where he was CEO for over a decade and more recently, President at the Youth and Children's Missionary Movement, Urban Saints.

Gary Smith, Director of Cardiff Street Pastors, which was developed by Gary, deploys trained Christians to work on the streets of the city centre every weekend. Previously a full-time staff member for The Boys' Brigade, he helped launch and develop Boys Brigade initiatives across the UK.



Rachel Turner was the Parenting for Faith Pioneer at Bible Reading Fellowship and has worked in churches for over 12 years as a Family Life Pastor, Children's Pastor, and Youth Pastor. She continues to consult, speak at conferences and run training days for parents and church leaders around the UK and Europe. Rachel is the author of five books, and a Parenting for Faith course.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE

To obtain this MA specialism students must complete six taught modules and a 15,000 word dissertation. It is possible to end the course after one year and receive a Postgraduate Certificate, or after two years and be awarded the Postgraduate Diploma.

Year One	Year Two	Year Three
Research Methods for Theological Reflection	Independent Learning Project	15,000 word dissertation
The Theology & Spirituality of the Child	Contemporary Practice in Mission to Children, Young People & Families	
Development of the Church's work with Children, Young People & Families	Leadership in Biblical and Contemporary Perspectives	

FEES

The MA qualifies for a student loan if no previous loan exists for study at this level.

For further details: <https://www.studentfinancewales.co.uk/postgraduate-students/postgraduate-master-s-finance.aspx> or <https://www.gov.uk/funding-for-postgraduate-study>

DATES

Autumn 2025	Winter 2026	Spring 2026	Alumni 2027
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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Contact Tina Franklin, Postgraduate Coordinator:

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or visit

www.stpadarns.ac.uk/MACYF