

2027

Admissions Handbook

Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies



TCU | 東京基督教大学大学院
TOKYO CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL

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Maps and Directions

Note: This Admissions Handbook is intended for applicants who will write their doctoral dissertation in English. If you plan to write your doctoral dissertation in Japanese, please refer to the Japanese version of the Admissions Handbook.

I. Our Faith

1 Statement of Faith

Tokyo Christian Institute is founded on the Biblical, historical and orthodox rule of faith, which was consistently revealed in both the Old and the New Testaments, expressed in the Ecumenical Creeds of the Ancient Church, and proclaimed in the Reformation. In response to various challenges, including those stemming from certain aspects of the Enlightenment and liberal theology, contemporary Evangelical faith has endeavored to defend this historical faith and to practice the piety of belief.

The articles which are the basis of this Evangelical faith are the following:

1. The Bible, which consists of 66 books of the New and Old Testaments, was written by each writer under the perfect inspiration of the Holy Spirit. Thus in the original writings there is no error, and it contains all that God desires to reveal to human beings concerning salvation. The Bible is the single and absolute standard for faith and practice.
2. The living and true God is one, who is eternally existent in three persons — Father, Son and Holy Spirit.
3. God created all things, visible and invisible from nothing, the same being subject to His absolute sovereignty.
4. Adam was created in the image of God in right relation with God, but was tempted by Satan and sinned against the will of God, thereby incurring both the pollution and punishment of sin with the result of both spiritual and physical death. All human beings are therefore born with a sinful nature being sinners in thought, word and deed.
5. The Lord Jesus Christ is true God and true man. He was begotten by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary, died on the cross for the sins of the world, was buried, and was raised again on the third day according to the Scripture. He ascended to heaven and sits at the right hand of God where he executes his ministry as high priest for us.
6. Because of the substitutionary death of our Lord Jesus Christ, all who believe in Him are forgiven of their sins and justified by faith and redeemed from the penalty and dominion of sin. There is no other way to salvation.
7. The Holy Spirit is a person whose ministry is to convict and regenerate sinful human beings, making them children of God, empowering them for a life of holiness and service, and conforming them to the image of Christ.
8. The church universal is the body of Christ, and all who are born again by the Holy Spirit become members thereof, Christ being the head. The church on earth, in a manner befitting Christ its head, should maintain purity of faith and life; and according to His command, should preach the Gospel to every creature.
9. Our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ, is coming again personally, bodily and visibly. He will raise bodily the just and the unjust, one to everlasting blessedness and the other to everlasting punishment, after which He will renew all things and deliver the kingdom to God the Father.

2 Foundational Principles

Providing practical theology education to foster workers of world mission standing on protestant evangelical faith, serving the church and society of the 21st century across denominations.

1. Evangelical

Tokyo Christian University (TCU) is a theological educational institution with the purpose of educating ministers and lay workers (clergy and laity) to be well equipped with historical, orthodox theology, which stresses the evangelical view of the Bible as the infallible Word of God and as the only rule for faith and life. Upon this stance, TCU embraces its statement of faith, prepares a wide-ranging curriculum with theological depth, and aims at sending talented human resources well-grounded in orthodox theology out to evangelical churches.

2. Interdenominational

TCU was founded through the cooperation of three previous schools, each of which has made distinctive accomplishments in interdenominational education. TCU will create a greater potential by combining the talents previously dispersed among the three schools, and it expects to contribute to the service for and the development of both domestic and foreign churches trans-denominationally.

3. Practical Theological Education

While providing interdenominational theological education to serve diverse churches, TCU aims to respond individually and practically to the needs and expectations of evangelical churches and organizations since the areas of service have become more diverse today. Therefore, TCU aims to provide practical theological education based on biblical faith in order to foster an attitude of service to the church combined with a capacity for effective leadership, thus producing students who with brave and warm hearts exemplify the gospel in their personal lives.

4. Commitment to Global Missions

In response to the Great Commission of the Lord of Mission, Jesus Christ, TCU places world missions within its educational vision. It builds relationships with evangelical churches and theological institutions worldwide, in Asian countries in particular, contributing towards the eventual sending of missionaries and dedicated workers with an international spirit to the various fields home and abroad. By so doing, it will, in a positive manner, be involved in the precious task of building up of the Church as the Body of Christ that supersedes national and ethnic boundaries.

II. Graduate School of Theology, Division of Theological Studies

1 Graduate School of Theology Objectives

Based upon its founding principles, and in accordance with the Fundamental Law of Education and the School Education Act, Tokyo Christian University (TCU) Graduate School of Theology aims to contribute to the peace and development of church and society through educating Christian women and men in scholarly theory and praxis in the theological disciplines. TCU aims to accomplish this through cultivating deep learning and outstanding levels of competency and character in women and men to serve as church ministry professionals (pastors, missionaries, evangelists, ministers of education, etc.), theological researchers, and theological educators who have acquired highly advanced and professional levels of expertise in their fields.

2 Graduate Programs

Tokyo Christian University Graduate School of Theology, Division of Theological Studies

Degrees Offered	Standard Period	Language of Instruction	Time of Entrance *
Master of Arts in Theology • Church Ministries Program • Theological Studies Program	2 years	Japanese	April
Doctor of Philosophy in Theological Studies	3 years **	Japanese / English	April / August

* TCU operates on a trimester system. Spring Trimester: April to July
Fall Trimester: August to November
Winter Trimester: December to March

** Extended Period of Research

Upon receiving approval from TCU, Ph.D. students may extend their period of research beyond 3 years. Please contact the graduate school admissions office for details.

III. Doctoral Program (Ph.D.)

1 Educational Objectives

The doctoral candidates will be engaged in advanced creative theological research with integrated methods in theology. This program aims to train theological researchers and educators who are able to contribute to an increasingly complex church and society concerning theological issues at TCU and other universities and theological institutions inside and outside of Japan, and to train leaders who possess high levels of theological expertise and research abilities who can serve in churches, mission organizations, and Christian NPO/NGOs.

2 Curriculum Policy

The doctoral program, based on education and research in a master's program, educates students through advanced mentoring. The program will cultivate abilities in problem solving and logical argumentation through critical and constructive engagement with other researchers.

3 Diploma Policy

The requirements for receiving the Ph.D. degree are as follows:

1. Study and research for three years or longer.
2. Acquire 14 credits or more.
3. Successfully defend the Ph.D. dissertation.

Through the Ph.D. dissertation, degree candidates must acquire and demonstrate advanced and creative research skills based on integrated and specialized knowledge of theology. Furthermore, they must demonstrate the ability to perform these research skills through collaboration with other researchers.

IV. Admissions

1 Application Process

- 1) Prescreening consultation
 - ▶ Confirmation of application eligibility and research area
- 2) Notification of prescreening consultation result
- 3) Application submission
 - ▶ Initial screening based on submitted documents
- 4) Notification of initial screening
- 5) Second Screening
 - ▶ English exam and interview
- 6) Final result notification
- 7) Enrollment

2 Admissions Policy

Applicants who are the most capable among those who have expressed dedication to Christ and have completed a master's degree in theological studies or the equivalent (as determined by the graduate committee) are eligible for consideration.

3 Admissions Quota

Time of Entrance	Quota
April 2027	2
August 2027	

4 Qualifications for Admission

Individuals recognized as possessing superior academic skills among those who have expressed faith in Christ, and possesses the Japanese or English language proficiency necessary to undertake study and research at the doctoral level. Applicants seeking April 2027 enrollment should interpret "July 2027" as "March 2027" in items 1 to 8.

1. Those who have received a Master's degree or equivalent in Japan (as defined by the School Education Law in Japan) by July 2027.
2. Those who have received a Master's degree or equivalent outside of Japan by July 2027.
3. Those who have completed a Master's degree or equivalent in Japan through a correspondence course offered by a foreign institution by July 2027.
4. Those who have received a Master's degree or equivalent from a foreign institution that is recognized by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology in Japan by July 2027.
5. Those who have completed a Master's degree or equivalent at the United Nations University by July 2027.
6. Those who have completed a program in a foreign country, at a designated institution, or at United Nations University, and have passed the exam stated in Japan's Standards for Establishment of Graduate Schools or equivalent.
7. Those designated by the Minister of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology in Japan.
8. Those who are considered to be as academically capable as those who have completed a Master's degree or equivalent through individual reviews by TCU graduate school and are older than 24 years of age by July 2027.

5 Prescreening Consultation

The applicant is required to send the following documents **before submitting an application**. The graduate school admissions committee will determine whether the desired field of research matches what is offered at TCU. These documents should be submitted at least one month before the start date of the application period.

[Required documents]

1. Prescreening Consultation Application (Form 5)

Attach a summary of your research topic (approximately 500~1,500 words) (paper size: A4)

2. Academic Transcript (Theological education only)

3. Certificate of Graduation (Theological education only) or Certificate of Expected Graduation

*Not required if the date of graduation and the degree earned are stated on the academic transcript.

4. Master's Thesis and Summary (paper size: A4)

A. Written in Japanese or English

a-1) One copy of Master's thesis

a-2) One copy of the summary of Master's thesis

- Summary in Japanese (approximately 2,000 characters)

- Summary in English (approximately 1,500 words)

B. Written in a language other than Japanese and English

b-1) One copy of Master's thesis in original language

b-2) One copy of the Japanese or English summary of Master's thesis.

(Summary should be long enough to convey the content of the thesis.)

C. Those who are in the process of writing a Master's thesis

c-1) Master's Thesis Progress Report (Form 6)

c-2) One copy of the Bachelor's thesis in Japanese or English if applicable.

If not, one copy of a paper in Japanese or English written and submitted during the Master's program.

D. Those who were not required to write a Master's thesis

d-1) One copy of a published or presented paper in Japanese or English

d-2) One copy of the above paper in Japanese or English

- Summary in Japanese (approximately 2,000 characters)

- Summary in English (approximately 1,500 words)

6 Deadlines and Screening Schedule

	November Screening	January Screening
Time of Entrance	April / August 2027	April / August 2027
Prescreening Consultation	Must be completed at least one month prior to the start date of the application period.	
Application Periods	September 29 - October 7, 2026	November 16 - 24, 2026
Initial Screening Result Notification	October 23, 2026	January 8, 2027
Second Screening	November 19, 2026	January 29 or 30, 2027
Final Result Notification	November 26, 2026	February 12, 2027
Enrollment Deadline	December 14, 2026	March 1, 2027

1. Applicants select the time of entrance at the time of application.
2. The second screening schedule will be notified by email at the time of the initial screening result notification.
3. (For January screening) The second screening will be scheduled for one of the two designated dates.
4. Applicants seeking admission in April who are foreign nationals residing overseas and who will apply for the "Student" status of residence after being admitted to TCU is required to apply for a Certificate of Eligibility. Since the procedure takes time, such applicants must apply for the November Screening.

(Rescheduled/Supplementary Examination)

Applicants who are unable to take the second screening due to an infectious disease, etc. and who wish to take a rescheduled or supplementary examination and are permitted to do so, will not be charged a separate application fee for the rescheduled or supplementary examination.

In such cases, those who apply for the November screening may take a rescheduled examination on the January screening dates. Those who apply for the January screening will take a supplementary examination on February 22, 2027.

7 Screening Details

1. Initial Screening

The admissions committee will review previous research achievements (a master's thesis or equivalent) and other application documents, including a dissertation proposal based on previous research.

2. Second Screening

Applicants who pass the initial screening will be given an English exam and an interview.

Applicants will choose the exam method at the time of application.

In-person (TCU campus)		Online (via Zoom)	
Exam	Time	Exam	Time
English (Written Exam)	70 minutes	English (Oral Exam)	70 minutes
Interview	60 minutes	Interview	60 minutes

The English exam will be waived if the applicant meets either of the following conditions:

- a) Those who have finished (or expected to finish) a master's program in English.
- b) Those who hold a valid TOEFL or IELTS score (taken within two years, score reports must be sent directly to the Admissions Office from the testing centers)
 - TOEFL iBT100 or higher (exams taken before 2026/1/20), 5 or higher (tests taken on or after 2026/1/21)
 - IELTS Academic 7.0 or higher

Applicants may choose to have the online screening if the following conditions are met:

- The applicant must submit "Agreement regarding Online Examination" (Form 7) at the time of application.
- The applicant must be available during the time specified by TCU. The interview will take place between 9:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m. Japan time (GMT +9:00).
- The applicant must have a good and reliable Internet connection with clear sound and video. It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that he/she has a good and reliable Internet connection. Please note that the exam may be cancelled if the sound and video are of low quality due to the applicant's Internet connection and/or computer problems.

8 Required Documents for Application

Documents		Forms	Note
1	Application Card: Part C and Part D	1a	FOR THOSE WHO APPLY WITHIN JAPAN Part B is a receipt for the applicant. Submit only part C and D. Part C (with bank receipt stamp) Part D (with bank receipt stamp and an applicant's photo)
	Application Card: Part A and Part B	1b	FOR THOSE WHO APPLY FROM OVERSEAS A photo must be attached to Part A.
2	Application Fee		¥35,000 See "IV-9 Application Fee" on page 8.
3	Application Form	2	A photo must be attached.
4	Testimony and Reasons for Applying		Include your thoughts about TCU's Statement of Faith and your involvement in church activities. In Japanese: approximately 2,000 characters In English: approximately 1,500 words Paper size: A4
5	Pastoral Reference	3	Written in Japanese or English and sealed by a pastor (contact the Admissions Office if you need the Japanese version of the pastoral reference). Email submission is acceptable if the pastor sends it directly to the Admissions Office.
6	Academic Reference		Written in Japanese or English and sealed by your master's thesis advisor (or equivalent if the applicant was not required to write a master's thesis). Email submission is acceptable if the thesis advisor sends it directly to the Admissions Office.
7	Official Academic Transcript		Official transcripts from all universities (undergraduate and master's programs) that were not submitted at the time of the prescreening consultation. Digital copy is acceptable if the issuing school sends it directly to the Admissions Office.
8	Degree Certificates (or Expected Graduation Certificate)		Degree certificates from all universities (undergraduate and master's programs) that were not submitted at the time of the prescreening consultation. A degree certificate is not required if a transcript clearly states the graduation date and degree earned. Email submission is acceptable if the issuing school sends it directly to the Admissions Office.
9	Dissertation Proposal	4	See "VI-2 Faculty" on page 15.
10	Agreement regarding Online Examination	7	Those who choose to take the online exam only. In addition to submitting Form 7, send an email to the admissions office. See the form 7 for more information.
11	English Proficiency Test Score Report		Applicants who meet either of the following conditions must submit an English proficiency test score report: 1) Applicants who wish to be exempt from the English examination and who did not complete a master's program conducted in English. 2) Applicants who will apply for the "Student" status of residence after being admitted to TCU. • Score reports must be sent directly to the Admissions Office from the testing centers. • For TOEFL: TCU's Institution (DI) code is "8472" • For IELTS: Submit either through postal mail or via IELTS Results Service e-delivery. See "10 Application Submission" page 8 for address, email address, etc.
12	Reasonable Accommodation Request	8	Those with a disability and who wish to request reasonable accommodation for the entrance exam only. See "IV-12 Reasonable Accommodation Request" on page 9. The information is irrelevant to the admissions decision and will not be used for any purpose other than considerations for the exam.
13	Copy of Passport and Residence Card		Non-Japanese nationals only. Passport: Personal information page (name, etc.) only. Resident card: Those who live in Japan only. Copy both front and back.

- Forms not provided by TCU should be prepared by the applicants.
- Submitted documents will not be returned.
- Submitted information will not be used for any purpose other than admission-related matters, scholarship-related matters, statistics/analysis, educational guidance after enrollment, and to carry out matters associated with the above-mentioned matters.

9 Application Fee

Those who live in Japan

Please pay the application fee of ¥35,000 at a bank using Form 1a, and submit the application cards C and D.

Those who live overseas

Please pay the application fee of ¥35,000 with a credit card using the link or QR code below.

<https://checkout.square.site/merchant/ML4CG7SFSEHHD/checkout/HZ6T4FR6BSA5B2WMQMXKRNZE>



VISA

mastercard

AMERICAN EXPRESS

JCB

Diners Club INTERNATIONAL

DISCOVER

If you cannot use a credit card, please contact the Admissions Office.

- The application fee is non-refundable.
- Applications will not be accepted if the application fee is not received by TCU by the application deadline.
- Please keep the receipt until the admissions process is complete.

10 Application Submission

The application can be sent either by post or email and must be received by the application deadline.

By email: Send the application documents as attachments to graduate-school@tci.ac.jp.

- Subject: Application for TCU Graduate School Ph.D. Program (Name)
- File format: PDF files
- References and transcripts/degree certificates may be submitted by email only when they are sent directly to the Admissions Office by the referees or the issuing institutions.

By post: send the application to the following address. It should be mailed by registered mail or another method that allows delivery status to be tracked.

Graduate School Admissions Office Tokyo Christian University
3-301-5-1 Uchino, Inzai City, Chiba 270-1347 JAPAN

In person: Applications will be accepted in person during the designated office hours within the application period.

Monday to Friday, 9:00 a.m.–11:50 a.m. and 12:50 p.m.–4:45 p.m.

11 Applicant Misconduct

The following examples of misconduct (including online method exam) are intended to be representative, but not all-inclusive:

- making false statements, forgery, or plagiarism in the application documents;
- cheating during the time of examination (including the use of cheat sheets, looking at another examinee's answers, receiving answers from a third party, etc.);
- ringing or beeping of cellular phones or other devices during the time of the examination;
- using (including items placed on the table or items on one's person) materials (such as a smartphone or electronic device) not approved by TCU during the time of the examination;
- conducting any act that disturbs other examinees in the examination room;
- not following the instructions of the examiner;
- substituting for another person or permitting another person to substitute for oneself to take the examination;
- any other behavior that undermines the fairness of the examinations.

During the examination, the university will immediately order any individual deemed to be engaging in misconduct to stop the examination. The examination already taken will be invalidated, and the application for subsequent entrance examinations for the current year will not be allowed. A police report may be filed. In the event that clear evidence of misconduct is found after the examination, admission may be retroactively revoked, both after acceptance and after enrollment.

12 Reasonable Accommodation Request

Applicants requesting reasonable accommodations for entrance examinations due to disabilities should follow the procedures outlined below.

[Required Documents]

- (1) Application for Reasonable Accommodation (Form 8)
- (2) A copy of a medical certificate or *Shougaisha Techou* (障害者手帳)
 - For developmental or psychological disabilities, submission of a medical certificate is mandatory (a copy of the *Shougaisha Techou* (障害者手帳) alone is not sufficient).
 - Even in the case of a physical disability, an additional medical certificate may be requested if the information provided in the *Shougaisha Techou* (障害者手帳) alone is insufficient to fully assess the applicant's circumstances.
 - A medical certificate
 - No specific format is required, but must meet the following conditions:
 - Issued within three months prior to the date of application
 - Clearly states the diagnosis and specific symptoms
 - Clearly indicates the requested accommodations and the necessity for all of them

[Notification of Accommodations]

- Based on the submitted documents, the university will review the request and notify each applicant individually of the accommodations to be provided. Please note that not all requested accommodations may be granted.
- Applicants who decide not to take the examination or no longer wish to request accommodations should notify the Admissions Office as soon as possible.

V. Enrollment

1 Final Result Notification

Applicants who reside in Japan will receive notification of the final result by mail. Applicants who reside overseas will receive notification of the final result by email. Please contact the Graduate School Admissions Office if you do not receive notification within a few days after the final result notification date. For the applicants' convenience, the ID numbers of successful applicants will be posted on the following TCU website on the final result notification day. The Admissions Office will NOT answer individual inquiries by phone, e-mail, or in-person.

https://www.tci.ac.jp/future_student/exam/happyo.html



2 Enrollment Procedures

Those who are accepted must enroll before the enrollment deadline by paying the specified amount for enrollment and submitting the required documents to TCU. Details will be sent to the applicant along with the final result notification. Those who do not complete the enrollment procedure by the enrollment procedure deadline cannot be enrolled. If the tuition and fees cannot be paid by the deadline due to unavoidable circumstances, a deferred payment may be permitted. Please contact the Admissions Office in advance.

In the event of withdrawal from the program after completion of the enrollment procedure, fees other than the enrollment fee will be refunded if the request is made before March 31, 2027, for April entry and before July 31, 2027 for August entry. The enrollment fee is not refundable.

3 Tuition & Fees (2027) Currency: Yen

Successful applicants must pay either the “Total Amount for the First Year” or “Amount Due by the Enrollment Deadline” (Total (a)) by the enrollment deadline.

[Tuition & Fees]

	Total Amount for the First Year	Amount Due by the Enrollment
Enrollment Fee	130,000	130,000
Tuition	645,000	215,000
Facility	300,000	100,000
Insurance and other fees	10,000	10,000
Total (a)	1,085,000	455,000

[Dormitory Fees]

	Total Amount for the First Year				Amount Due by the Enrollment Deadline
	Single Dormitory	Family Dormitory (A) 1S,2DK,B,T (44㎡)	Family Dormitory (B) 2DK,B,T (39㎡)	Family Dormitory (C) 1S,1DK,B,T (37㎡)	Common to All Dormitories
Dormitory	300,000	300,000	300,000	300,000	212,000
Additional for Family Dormitory	-	315,000	255,000	210,000	
Electricity	12,000	-	-	-	
Board	300,000	-	-	-	
Total (b)	612,000	615,000	555,000	510,000	

[Tuition & Fees and Dormitory Fees Combined]

Total (a+b)	1,697,000	1,700,000	1,640,000	1,595,000	667,000
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- 1) Tuition and fees are subject to change each year. The board may be revised in the middle of the year depending on price changes.
- 2) Payment can be made by installment payment (at the time of enrollment, second period, and third period). Details of payment deadlines and payment amount for each period will be notified later.
- 3) Ph.D. students may reside in the dormitories if there are vacancies.

[Single Dormitory]

- Pay either the “Total Amount for the First Year” or “Amount Due by the Enrollment Deadline” (Total (a+b)) by the enrollment deadline.
- The room is for ten and a half months per year. Additional payment will be required if the student stays in the dormitory during long breaks.
- Includes three meals a day on weekdays (except holidays) during trimester periods.
- Includes utilities (water and gas). Adjustments based on actual costs will be made for electricity.

[Family Dormitory]

- Pay the “Amount Due by the Enrollment Deadline” (Total (a+b)) by the enrollment deadline.
- Room type will not be determined at the time of final result notification. Therefore, the “Amount Due by the Enrollment Deadline” instead of the full annual family dormitory fee will be collected. The additional fee based on the room type will be charged in the second and third payment periods.
- Includes fees during long breaks. Utilities (electricity, water, and gas) and board are not included.
- A cleaning fee of 30,000 yen will be collected after enrollment to cover the cleaning cost upon moving out of the dormitory. Additional fees will be charged for any repairs not related to normal wear and tears.
- Family dormitory layout S: Study room, DK: Dining room with kitchen, B: Bathroom, T: Toilet

VI. Syllabi and Faculty

1 Syllabi (2026)

[Course Name] Advanced Research Seminar in Theological Studies

Instructors: Naoki Okamura (Coordinator), Akio Ito, and David Sytsma

Course Objectives:

In order to conduct doctoral-level studies in theology, students not only must possess extensive knowledge of research methodologies in their own specific subjects, but they also must have a broad awareness of theological studies in general. This course will introduce to students important academic recourses in biblical studies, theology, and ministry in order to give them a better understanding of these fields in preparation for their own original research.

[Course Name] Ph.D. Research Guidance (Directed Ph.D. Research)

Instructors: Akio Ito, Naoki Okamura, David Sytsma, Isomi Saito, Mieko Iwata, Yujin Seo, and Yoichi Yamaguchi

Course Objectives:

Akio Ito [Medium of instruction: Japanese and English]

Students will receive guidance for doctoral-level research in the field of New Testament Studies, and Biblical Hermeneutics (Biblical Theology). The research will focus on the backgrounds of a certain book or themes from the New Testament in its original language, the Hellenistic Greek, with special reference to both the early Jewish literature such as the Dead Sea Scrolls, Philo, Josephus and the Old Testament Pseudepigrapha, and to the Greco-Roman philosophies and rhetoric. The research will be by nature inter-disciplinary and seek to explore the linguistic, literary, cultural, religious, social, and theological significance for today.

Naoki Okamura [Medium of instruction: Japanese and English]

Students will receive guidance for doctoral-level research in the field of Practical Theology, especially in Religious Education and Religious Psychology. In a modern society where diverse values are accompanied by changes in the way Christianity is perceived, it is essential to deeply understand the recipients of ministry and apply this understanding in practical settings. We will guide research which utilizes qualitative research methods focusing on the topics such as educational practices, psychological developments as well as psychological adaptation.

David Sytsma [Medium of instruction: English]

Students will receive guidance for doctoral-level research in the fields of Church History and Historical Theology. The research will focus on studies relating to the history of Christianity from the second century to the present. Students will explore primary source documents in their original languages, including Latin, and with reference to their original social and intellectual contexts. Students are encouraged to pursue research questions that they find personally relevant, while formulating answers to such questions based on primary sources and good method. Students will also learn methodological practices that increase objectivity and minimize personal bias in their research.

Isomi Saito [Medium of instruction: Japanese and English]

This course provides research guidance on systematic theology, the history of confessions or creeds, and the history of doctrines. The course will focus on one of the specific areas in systematic theology, confessional documents mainly from the Reformation period, and the interdisciplinary content of dogmatics and church history in the history of doctrines. Students are expected to have the language skills to read primary sources in the areas on which they focus. To ensure objectivity in research, guidance on research methods is provided from the initial stages of the research project.

Mieko Iwata [Medium of instruction: Japanese]

This course is provided within the field of "Theology and Church," focusing on Christian ethics and women's studies. In the area of women's studies, the curriculum centers on women's movements from the Taisho to the Showa era. Through the meticulous reading of primary sources, students will conduct multifaceted analyses of the social structures and the Church's positioning during these periods. Beyond a mere historical examination of events, we will work together to explore the critical significance these findings hold for contemporary society and the Church.

Yujin Seo [Medium of instruction: Japanese]

This course is provided in the field of Practical Theology within the area of "Theology and Church." Research focuses on religious education practices using narrative pedagogy, youth ministry, faith formation in adolescence, the formation of values among religious practitioners, and contemporary issues related to religion, gender, and LGBTQ+ matters. Qualitative research methods are employed with attention to the narratives, experiences, and social contexts of learners and religious practitioners.

Yoichi Yamaguchi [Medium of instruction: Japanese]

This course is provided with regard to research guidance for the field of "Theology and Church" related to Japanese Church History. With a primary focus on the history of Protestant evangelism in Japan, students deepen their research into various issues concerning "church and state," including "Japanese Christianity" and the system and status of the Emperor in Japan. In addition, the relationship between Japan's modernization and Christianity is considered from various perspectives, including concept, literature, and culture. Furthermore, research guidance is also provided in such areas as the history of evangelism in Japan, local communities and Christianity, the history of churches in Japan and Korea, and practical theology, including homiletics.

Course Themes and Content (Model for standard three-year study period)

【First Trimester, First Year】

Session 1 *Orientation and Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #1*

Students will receive guidance concerning the different phases in Ph.D. research. Students will receive guidance for writing the research application. Students will receive guidance for writing the guidance team application.

Session 2 *Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #2*

Students will receive guidance concerning research methodologies and research proposals for the purpose of deciding upon a research topic. Students will receive guidance for writing a provisional research proposal.

Session 3 *Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #3, Exploring Related Academic Resources #1*

Students will receive guidance for locating academic resources related to the subject matter, adopting an appropriate research methodology, and writing a provisional research proposal.
Students will receive guidance for preparation of the first mid-term research report presentation.

【Second Trimester, First Year】

Session 4 *Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #4, Exploring Related Academic Resources #2*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the first mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources.

Session 5 *Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #5, Exploring Related Academic Resources #3*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the first mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources.

Session 6 *Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #6, Exploring Related Academic Resources #4*

Students will receive guidance for completing the research proposal. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources.

Session 7 *Finding an Appropriate Research Topic #7, Exploring Related Academic Resources #5*

Students will receive guidance for completing the research proposal. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources.

【Third Trimester, First Year】

Session 8 *Research Methods Guidance #1, Exploring Related Academic Resources #6*

Students will receive guidance for beginning research according to the research proposal that was accepted by the graduate school committee. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources.

Session 9 *Research Methods Guidance #2, Exploring Related Academic Resources #7*

Students will receive guidance for beginning research according to the research proposal. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the second mid-term research report presentation.

Session 10 *Research Methods Guidance #3, Exploring Related Academic Resources #8*

Students will receive guidance for beginning research according to the research proposal. Students will receive guidance for investigating important academic resources. Students will receive guidance for writing the first mid-term research report.

【First Trimester, Second Year】

Session 11 *Research Methods Guidance #4, Investigative Reading of Academic Resources #1*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the second mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for investigative reading and examination of academic resources.

Session 12 *Research Methods Guidance #5, Investigative Reading of Academic Resources #2*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for investigative reading and examination of academic resources.

Session 13 *Research Methods Guidance #6, Investigative Reading of Academic Resources #3*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for investigative reading and examination of academic resources. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the third mid-term research report presentation.

【Second Trimester, Second Year】

Session 14 *Research Methods Guidance #7, Investigative Reading of Academic Resources #4*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the third mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for investigative reading and examination of academic resources. Students will receive guidance for writing the second mid-term research report.

Session 15 *Research Methods Guidance #8, Investigative Reading of Academic Resources #5*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the third mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for investigative reading and examination of academic resources.

Session 16 *Research Methods Guidance #9, Dissertation Writing #1*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation.

Session 17 *Research Methods Guidance #10, Dissertation Writing #2*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation.

【Third Trimester, Second Year】

Session 18 *Research Methods Guidance #11, Dissertation Writing #3*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the fourth mid-term research report presentation.

Session 19 *Research Methods Guidance #12, Dissertation Writing #4*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the fourth mid-term research report presentation.

Session 20 *Research Methods Guidance #13, Dissertation Writing #5*

Students will receive guidance for organizing academic resources and conducting research. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for writing the third mid-term research report. Students will receive guidance for submitting the dissertation application.

First Trimester, Third Year】

Session 21 *Dissertation Writing #6*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the fourth mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation.

Session 22 *Dissertation Writing #7*

Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the fourth mid-term research report presentation. Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation.

Session 23 *Dissertation Writing #8*

Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the fifth mid-term research report presentation.

【Second Trimester, Third Year】

Session 24 *Dissertation Writing #9*

Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for overcoming difficulties that were pointed out in response to the fifth mid-term research report presentation.

Session 25 *Dissertation Writing #10*

Students will receive guidance for writing the dissertation.

Session 26 *Dissertation Writing #11*

Students will receive guidance for completing the dissertation.

Session 27 *Dissertation Writing #12*

Students will receive guidance for completing the dissertation.

【Third Trimester, Third Year】

Session 28 *Dissertation Writing #13, Oral Defense Guidance #1*

Students will receive guidance for completing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the oral defense.

Session 29 *Dissertation Writing #14, Oral Defense Guidance #2*

Students will receive guidance for completing the dissertation. Students will receive guidance for preparation of the oral defense.

Session 30 *Oral Defense Guidance #3*

Students will receive guidance for preparation of the oral defense.

2 Faculty (2026)

* Omnibus class

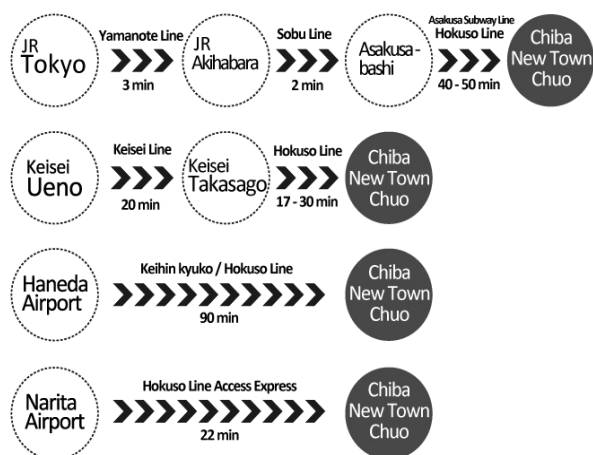
Research Areas	Name	Classes in Ph.D. Program
Bible	Akio Ito (Professor)	* Advanced Research Seminar in Theological Studies
		Ph.D. Research Guidance (Research Keywords) Biblical Hermeneutics, New Testament and the Old Testament Law, Quotations from the Old Testament in the New, Gospel and the Torah, New Testament Manuscripts and New Testament Textual Criticism
Theology and Church	Naoki Okamura (Professor)	* Advanced Research Seminar in Theological Studies
		Ph.D. Research Guidance (Research Keywords) Practical Theology, Religious Education, Religious Psychology, Qualitative Research in Religion, Mixed Methods Research in Religion, Development of Religious Sentiment, Religious and Educational Methodology, Religion and Psychological Care, Youth Ministry
	Isomi Saito (Professor)	Ph.D. Research Guidance (Research Keywords) Holy Trinity, Redemptive historical perspective, Soteriology, Union with Christ, Justification, Adoption, Sanctification, Family of God, Ecclesiology, Heidelberg Catechism
	David Sytsma (Associate Professor)	* Advanced Research Seminar in Theological Studies
		Ph.D. Research Guidance (Research Keywords) Reformation, Post-Reformation, Puritanism, Enlightenment, History of Biblical Interpretation, History of Ethics
	Mieko Iwata (Professor)	Ph.D. Research Guidance (Assistant Research Supervisor) (Research Keywords) Christian Ethics, Christianity and Women, Women's Movements in the Taisho and Showa Eras, Toyohiko Kagawa and Haru Kagawa
	Yujin Seo (Professor)	Ph.D. Research Guidance (Assistant Research Supervisor) (Research Keywords) Religious Education, Christian Education, Narrative Pedagogy, Religious Formation, Adolescence and Young Adulthood, Youth Ministry, Religion and Gender, Qualitative Research
	Yoichi Yamaguchi (Professor)	Ph.D. Research Guidance (Assistant Research Supervisor) (Research Keywords) Japanese church history, "Japanese Christianity," the Emperor system in Japan, "church and state," Japan's modernization and Christianity, Mr. Kashiwagi Gien, History of Evangelism in Japan, Local communities and Christianity, Japanese and Korean Church history, and practical theology related to Japanese Evangelism and Pastoring in Japan

Maps and Directions

By Train The closest train station to TCU is Chiba Newtown Chuo Station (Hokuso Line).

From Chiba Newtown Chuo Station:

- Go out of the south exit and get on a bus bound for 'Takabana'. Get off at "Denwa - kyoku Mae" and walk straight in the direction where the bus is going. Then turn right at the T-junction. Walk straight for 7 minutes and TCU is on your left hand side.



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