

In 2015/16, Presence & Engagement and the Queen's Foundation for Theological Education received funding from Common Awards for a joint research project.

Together we looked at how Theological Education Institutions (TEIs), which train people for ordained ministry, help students learn about engaging with people of other faiths. [You can read our findings here.](#)

Building on that project, this page contains resources for theological educators. You'll find a list of interfaith organisations who are happy to assist TEIs, and documents showing how different TEIs have taught the relevant Common Awards modules.

# Interfaith Centres and Organisations

## **The Woolf Institute, Cambridge**

*The Woolf Institute is a global leader in the academic study of relations between Jews, Christians and Muslims. Established in Cambridge in 1998, with close links to the city's famous University, the Institute is recognized around the world for the excellence of its research, teaching, policy and public education programmes. The aim of our work is to connect the multidisciplinary study of relations with broader practical and theoretical questions. We strive, in our research and outreach, to demonstrate how greater understanding of commonality and difference can inform and enhance the wider public good.*

Woolf specialise in teaching on the relationships between the Abrahamic faiths, and provide a range of online courses. Find out more at <http://www.woolf.cam.ac.uk/study/e-learning/>.

## **Touchstone, Bradford**

*Touchstone is a 'listening community' with the vision of making safe places of hospitality where people who are radically different can listen to and with each other. Based in the heart of Bradford, Britain's most Muslim city, Touchstone has worked alongside diverse communities for 25 years. The Touchstone Centre is sponsored by the Methodist Church in Britain and is open to all.*

To learn more about Touchstone's work in Bradford, go to <http://www.touchstone-bradford.org.uk/Home>. Touchstone are particularly keen to offer placements to ordinands wishing to explore ministry in multifaith contexts.

## **The Council of Christians and Jews**

*The Council of Christians and Jews (CCJ) is the leading nationwide forum for Christian-Jewish engagement: celebrating the history and diversity of both communities, facilitating constructive dialogue, enabling meaningful learning experiences; and providing opportunities for transformative change. There are three tranches to CCJ's programmatic work: Education, Dialogue and Social Action. When facilitating Christian-Jewish engagement, CCJ ensures that the following core values remain central: promoting understanding, valuing difference, demonstrating empathy and respect, and challenging prejudice.*

To read more about the educational aspect of CCJ's wide-ranging work, go to <http://www.ccj.org.uk/our-work/education/>. CCJ can help TEIs design a programme on Christian-Jewish relations to fit with one of the Common Awards modules. They also organise trips to the Holy Land for Jewish and Christian leaders together, which may be of interest to ordinands.

## **St Philip's Centre, Leicester**

*As well as providing an engagement with civic and community life, St Philip's Centre provides training for Christians to equip them to live confidently in multi faith society, being both present and fully engaged in faithful witness and service.*

For information on the range of courses that St Philip's offers, go to <http://www.stphilipscentre.co.uk/church-courses/>. They are happy to work with TEIs to design a bespoke programme to meet module requirements.

## **Centre for Muslim-Christian Studies, Oxford**

*Our vision is the dream that we hold before us and what helps to spur us on in our work. The vision of CMCS is to see Muslim-Christian relationships transformed through shared academic study and by following the example of Jesus Christ. We equip leaders, resource scholars, disseminate and develop Biblically-based thinking at the Muslim-Christian interface through teaching, research and public education.*

CMCS offer support with research, guided reading programmes, fellowships and a summer school for ordinands. They are also happy to provide bespoke input for TEIs. Read more at <http://cmcsoxford.org.uk/studying/courses-training/>.

## **Manchester Centre for the Study of Christianity and Islam**

*MCSCI was formed as a specialist centre at Nazarene Theological College in September 2013, and hosts evening and weekend courses for practitioners as well as offering teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level on Christian engagement with Islam.*

To find out more go to [www.mcsci.org.uk](http://www.mcsci.org.uk).

## **Grassroots, Luton**

*Grassroots is an ecumenical Christian programme of community engagement. In dialogue with the churches and other faith communities, Grassroots strives to uncover a sharp edge of engagement with contemporary issues of community cohesion, peace and reconciliation, and justice and inequality in Luton's diverse context.*

Grassroots are happy to explore what they can offer to theological colleges - find them at <https://grassrootsluton.org.uk/>

## Example module outlines

### Lincoln School of Theology Interfaith Weekend Programme

Lincoln School of Theology offered the Common Awards module 'Christianity and Interfaith Engagement' as a residential weekend for ordinands and trainee lay ministers. The programme for the weekend was developed and delivered in collaboration with CCJ.

### Queen's Foundation - Christianity and Interfaith Engagement

These documents outline the programme used at the Queen's Foundation in 2016 to deliver 'Christianity and Interfaith Engagement' at a residential Easter School.

### Queen's Foundation - Theology in Dialogue

This is the module handbook for Queen's MA level module 'Theology in Dialogue', taught in four day-long sessions. It contains session outlines, guidance on assignments and a reading list.

### Queen's Foundation - Christian Practice in Multifaith Contexts

This module outline is for a course which is part of Queen's independent postgraduate programme. It offers a useful example of how to incorporate visiting speakers and visits into a module.

### Queen's Foundation - Seeing Judaism & Christianity Anew

This module handbook offers a useful insight into working with an external organisation to develop teaching on Christian-Jewish relations which considers both the historical context and contemporary reality.

### Wycliffe Hall, Scriptural Reasoning - module outline and report

These documents outline the programme used to deliver teaching on Islam and Muslim-Christian dialogue, especially through the format of Scriptural Reasoning. There is also a report detailing how the course was received by the students.