

Southern Asia Bible College

(A Unit of Centre for Global Leadership Development)

Doctor of Ministry

IN CHRISTIAN LEADERSHIP

Programme Handbook

2024 – 2025

Hennur-Bagalur Road, Kothanur P.O.

Bangalore – 560 077, INDIA

Phone: +91 8095082222

Email: sabadmin@cglid.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings from Southern Asia Bible College!

The 21st century welcomes us to a journey of incredible challenges! We have begun to experience the full impact of globalization with all its positive as well as negative implications, posing us with daunting challenges in church and missions. But for the Church empowered and led by the Spirit, the Lord gives us both encouragement as well as creativity.

At SABC, we believe that God has called us to develop leaders equipped for the unique task of reaching the nations at such a time as this. SABC is not merely engaged in training students for a ministry career. We are in the business of forming Pentecostal leaders who are able to speak to a generation with credibility and confidence, model a culture that gives a glimpse of Kingdom life, and make disciples of all nations.

The men and women we train embody a hunger for God, integrity of character, confidence in proclamation, and creativity in ministry. The Doctor of Ministry programme at SABC is a journey that is being planned with great care and I am certain that this will immensely bless you.

May the Lord of the harvest guide you as you prayerfully consider this next phase of life and ministry!

Rev. Pravinkumar Israel

PRESIDENT

president@cglld.org

GREETINGS

Dear prospective D.Min. participant,

You are part of the growing number of Christian leaders who desire to develop their ministry gifts and understanding by pursuing doctoral studies while remaining active in their present ministry contexts. For women and men like you, Southern Asia Bible College (SABC) has developed an in-service Doctor of Ministry degree programme. The programme aims to equip servant leaders with knowledge, skill, and passion to revitalize the church and evangelize the world in the power of the Spirit.

This Prospectus will provide information about the college policies, procedures, and services related to the Doctor of Ministry programme. We trust that this will answer many of your questions as you prepare to apply for the programme.

If you have any further questions or clarifications regarding your application for admission, please feel free to contact our office at +91 8095082222 or e-mail us at sabcdmin@cglid.org.

We look forward to hearing from you soon. It is our desire that the Doctor of Ministry programme will develop “leaders worth following.”

Basant Prakash Shrestha
D.Min. Programme Administrator
basant.sabc@gmail.com

SOUTHERN ASIA BIBLE COLLEGE PROFILE

Vision and Mission Statement

The vision of SABC is to be a global community of servant leaders, committed to lifelong learning and excellence, empowered to fulfill God's transforming mission in the Spirit of Christ.

Our mission is to develop leaders for the transforming ministry of the church through quality education with a Pentecostal emphasis.

Location

The college is in Kothanur, which is in the northeastern suburb of Bangalore, popularly known as the "Silicon Valley of India," the principal administrative, commercial, educational and industrial centre of the southern state of Karnataka.

Association and Accreditation

- SABC is part of the Centre for Global Leadership Development, a premier institution of the Assemblies of God in South Asia for leadership development.
- It has been a member of the Evangelical Fellowship of India (EFI).
- The programmes are accredited by the Asia Theological Association (ATA) for the following: Doctor of Ministry, Master of Divinity and Master of Arts (Christian Studies).

Faculty

The faculty for the Doctor of Ministry programme comes from SABC and other institutions around the world. These men and women have a rich background in ministry and education and are also committed to the Pentecostal dimension of Christianity in belief and practice.

DOCTRINAL STATEMENT

Southern Asia Bible College is an integral part of the world-wide fellowship of the Assemblies of God and the Assemblies of God in India. We adhere to its statement of faith.

We believe

- the Bible is the inspired and only infallible, authoritative, written word of God.
- there is only one God, eternally existent in three persons: God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit.
- in the deity of our Lord Jesus Christ, in his virgin birth, in his sinless life, in his miracles, in his vicarious and atoning death, in his bodily resurrection, in his ascension to the right hand of the Father, in his personal future return to this earth in power and glory.
- in the blessed hope the rapture of the church at Christ's coming.
- the only means of being cleansed from sin is through repentance and faith in the precious blood of Christ.
- regeneration by the Holy Spirit is absolutely essential for personal salvation.
- in water baptism by immersion.
- the redemptive work of Christ on the cross provides healing of the human body in answer to believing prayer.
- the baptism in the Holy Spirit, according to Acts 2:4, is given to believers who ask for it.
- in the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit by whose indwelling the Christian is enabled to live a holy life.
- in the resurrection of both the saved and the lost.

DOCTOR OF MINISTRY PROGRAMME

Programme Description:

The Doctor of Ministry programme is a professional programme intended for men and women actively engaged in full-time Christian Ministry. It seeks to develop strong Pentecostal leaders who are sensitive to the Spirit and prepared to meet the ever-increasing demands of contemporary ministry needs for Spirit-anointed, effective leadership.

The purpose of the programme is to enhance the participants' professional competence in their gifts and calling. The programme aims to encourage theological reflection on the practice of ministry. It seeks to integrate learning into the context of each participant's ministry and may be shaped to meet individual needs.

The programme follows a cohort model. Each cohort consists of select individuals from a variety of ministry backgrounds. The group also provides an incredible peer-learning environment—one that will challenge and motivate participants to take their spirituality and ministry engagement to the next level.

The SABC D.Min. experience focuses on giving participants the opportunity to expand their influence by growing into ministers who are:

- **Self-Aware:** a consistent commitment to cultivating the disciplines of self-leadership, personal spirituality, and integrity
- **Holistically Pentecostal:** a deep historical and theological appreciation of the Pentecostal-Charismatic tradition leading to a distinctively Spirit-empowered ministry
- **Professionally Mature:** an increasing competency for effective leadership, preaching and other ministry needs
- **Academically Integrative:** a growing ability to integrate insights from biblical and practical theology, with cutting-edge knowledge from the social and behavioral sciences
- **Globally Aware:** an awareness of the implications of globalization for Christian ministry
- **Peer Networking:** a mutually beneficial networking of long-term personal commitment with other ministry professionals
- **Missionally Engaged:** a renewed emphasis on the priorities of evangelism and world missions in the context of the mission of the church
- **Contributing to Research:** an enduring service to the church at large through the publication of a Professional Project.

D. Min. Curriculum

The Doctor of Ministry curriculum has three primary components:

- **Core courses** that establish and enrich the participant's foundation for effective ministry.
 - Renewing the Spiritual Leader
 - Contemporary Pentecostal-Charismatic Movement
- **Elective courses** that offer in-depth training in specific areas relevant to the practice of ministry.
- **A Professional Project** that integrates and applies significant programme learnings in a ministry context. The project seeks to enrich the larger Church through publication. A project design module will be offered to orient the participants to the project. Participants must complete all the core (2) and elective (6) modules before the Project Design module. Any exceptions to this may be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Programme Schedule

The Doctor of Ministry is an in-service degree, meaning that it is completed while participants remain active in ministry. Participants are required to complete eight modules over a period of three years. Each year three modules are offered normally during June - August, October - December, and February - April.

For each module, participants normally meet twice every week on ZOOM for lectures, dialogue, discussion and seminars. Assigned readings are completed followed by reflections, discussions and group interactions. Every module requires written papers that apply course materials to participants' ministries.

The programme consists of nine modules, as well as additional time to complete the D.Min. project. Thus, in its entirety, the degree will take approximately four years to complete.

ACADEMIC POLICIES:

Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Doctor of Ministry programme must meet the following requirements:

- The applicant must have earned a Master of Divinity degree or its academic equivalent from an ATA accredited or a recognized institution with a minimum B+ average.
- The applicant must demonstrate ability to do doctoral level work in English.
- The applicant must have had *at least* five years of full-time ministry experience following the completion of the first graduate theological degree.
- The applicant must currently be involved in a full-time ministry context (pastor, teacher, missionary, denominational or para-church organizational leader, chaplain, evangelist, counsellor, etc.).

Master of Divinity Equivalency

Master of Divinity equivalency is defined as the completion of 90 credit hours of graduate studies in categories closely parallel to SABC's Master of Divinity curriculum.

Applicants who hold a theological master's degree may request for an equivalency evaluation by the Doctor of Ministry admission office by submitting their transcripts. Such applicants may be admitted to a pre-doctoral programme. After successfully completing the prescribed courses, they will be accepted for the D.Min. programme. All such admissions will also need to be ratified by the ATA.

Academic Status

Participants will remain in good academic standing in the D.Min. programme as long as they maintain at least a 3.0 grade point average, meet all financial obligations to the college, and conduct their personal lives with spiritual, moral, and professional integrity. The administration reserves the right to request any participant to withdraw from the programme whose integrity in any of these areas is deemed unacceptable.

Course Attendance

In the Doctor of Ministry programme, regular and punctual attendance is expected of each participant for all course activities. Because attendance is a crucial element of the cohort peer-learning process, a participant cannot be absent for more than four hours of class and still receive credit for that course.

Course Grading Scale

The final course grades are determined according to the following 4.0 scale.

	Numeric Grade	Letter Grade	Grade Point
Excellent	90 – 100	A+	4.0
	85 – 89	A	3.8
	80 – 84	A-	3.6
Good	77 – 79	B+	3.3
	74 – 76	B	3.0
	70 – 73	B-	2.7
Average	67 – 69	C+	2.3
	64 – 66	C	2.0
	60 – 63	C-	1.7

Course Evaluation

All Doctor of Ministry courses and faculty are evaluated by participants on the last day of each session. Responses are collected anonymously and delivered to the Doctor of Ministry office by a designated participant. The professor will receive a summary of these evaluations with participant comments following the session.

Course Workload

The DMin programme requires the participant to complete **a total of 36 credit hours**. This normally comprises of 24 credits from 8 modules/courses and 12 credits from the Project.

Credit Hours: As stipulated by the ATA, each credit hour must entail at least 40 learning hours (LHs) of work – from pre-session work, face-to-face sessions, post-session work, assigned reading, writing of assignments and paper, etc. Thus, a module of 3 credits would mean that the participant puts in a total of 120 LHs from all learning activities.

Doctoral Title

After successfully completing all D.Min. courses (36 credits as stipulated by the ATA), and with an approved prospectus in hand, participants may use the designation “D.Min. (cand.)” on their resume and other documents. One may start using “D.Min.” and the title, “Doctor” once the degree has been recorded on their official transcript.

GRADUATION REQUIREMENTS

Academic Requirements

To satisfy graduation requirements for the D.Min. degree, the participant must

- 1) Satisfactorily complete all D.Min. programme requirements. This includes the completion of a total of 36 credits.
- 2) Maintain a minimum cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (Grade B or above), including no more than one 2.0 (Grade C). (A participant cannot graduate with a C- on his or her transcript. Participants must retake the course, at their expense, in order to earn a higher grade.)
- 3) Be in good standing with the college.
- 4) Complete an acceptable and approved D.Min. Project.
- 5) Make an acceptable oral presentation of the D.Min. project at the D.Min. Project Symposium.
- 6) Receive the approval from the D.Min. Committee to graduate.

Ministry Requirement

Each participant must remain involved in full-time ministry throughout the duration of the programme. Any participant who leaves the ministry for any reason while pursuing the D.Min. degree must petition the D.Min. Committee for continuation in the programme.

Professional Project and Project Design Class

The professional project is the culmination of the D.Min. experience in which the ideas and applications of the programme are measured and evaluated. A Project Design course prepares the participant to complete the project. Participants must normally complete all courses before taking the Project Design class. Exceptions to this will be considered on a case-by-case basis.

Professional Project Team

Participants will be a part of a project team. The team will include a general project adviser, a biblical-theological adviser, a project editor, and the SABC Project Coordinator. All project team members (except the editor) must have earned a doctorate, unless an exception is made by the Doctor of Ministry Committee. Project teams are recommended by the participant and adviser in consultation with the Doctor of Ministry Office and approved by the Doctor of Ministry Project Committee.

Programme Duration

The degree will normally require four years to complete, including the project. This schedule is set to avoid unnecessary pressure on the participant's responsibilities to family and ministry. Students are required to complete the degree within four years beginning from the date of the participant's first attendance in a doctoral course. In some cases, an extension may be granted by the Doctor of Ministry Committee.

Transfer of Credits

An individual may transfer in a total of six advanced standing doctoral credits (no more than two courses). Individual appeals for transfer credits will be evaluated based upon the following considerations:

1. Transfer credits must be from ATA and other recognized institutions.
2. Participant must have earned a passing grade of “B” or higher.
3. Relevance of transfer credits to the D. Min. programme.
4. Recent time frame of courses taken.

To request advanced standing, official transcripts must be received by the SABC D.Min. Office along with the application for admission. Any exceptions to the standard policy must be recommended and approved by the D. Min. Committee.

Withdrawal From Courses

A participant who desires to withdraw from any course after the session must make a written request to the Doctor of Ministry Office. However, no part of the fees will be refunded.

Programme Extensions

The programme is designed to normally be completed in four years. There is a maximum time limit of eight years. Participants who extend their programme of study beyond the fourth year will be required to write a letter requesting extension and pay the extension fee as follows:

- 5th year: a continuation fee of Rs.5000/- will apply.
- 6th year: a continuation fee of Rs.7500/- will apply.
- 7th year: a continuation fee of Rs.10000/- will apply.
- 8th year: a continuation fee of Rs.10000/- and 2 additional modules must be completed (at an additional fee of Rs. 20,000 per module.)

Extensions beyond the eighth year will normally not be granted. The Fees are subject to change.

FINANCIAL POLICIES

At SABC, we do our best to make quality education affordable. However, grants and scholarships for Doctor of Ministry programme are normally not available. The following fees apply to the D.Min. programme for 2024-2025.

- The current fees of Rs.2,00,000/- covers tuition, project fees and graduation fees and room and board when sessions are held on campus.
- The programme fee does not cover the application processing fee, textbooks, travel, editing, extension fees, expenses leading towards preparation for each module and the study periods other than the module session that the participants may want to spend on campus.
- All fees payable to SABC should be paid by means of either cash or demand draft drawn in favour of “Southern Asia Bible College” or online transfer.
- The programme fee is charged annually. Participants are expected to pay Rs. 50,000/- at the beginning of each year. This may be paid in three installments (of Rs. 17,000 each time) upon request from the participants at the beginning of each module.
- The fees are non-refundable.

Project Deadline Fee

Participants who exceed the deadline for submitting their project to the D.Min. Project Coordinator will be assessed a fee of Rs.500/- per week for every single week beyond the deadline given in the Project Phase Timetable.

Readmission Financial Policy

If a student withdraws from the programme and later desires to return will have to pay his/her current programme fee at the time of readmission.

COURSE DESCRIPTION

Core Courses: (12 Credits)

Renewing the Spiritual Leader (3 Credits)

Developing into a leader worth following is considered in the context of self-leadership, other-leadership, and Pentecostal spirituality. A critical appraisal of leadership models is presented as the class develops a synthetic model of Christian leadership considered from a Pentecostal perspective and based on foundations of personal development and integrity.

Leading Missional Ministry (3 Credits)

This course enables the Church to more ably fulfill Jesus' Great Commission to evangelize and make disciples. Identifying the hindrances to these central goals, this course comprehensively explores foundations, paradigms, strategies, and means for impacting believers and contemporary cultures. It recognizes the relevance of the gospel for many individual and societal needs. It explores motivation for discipleship, the means of disciple-making, the nature of holistic discipleship, and the connection between personal and spiritual growth.

The Contemporary Pentecostal and Charismatic Movement (3 Credits)

Pentecostalism has crossed the centenary mark, an event that would have been unimaginable to its first generation. In many respects the movement has changed. Not surprisingly, Pentecostals face major challenges related to cherished theological, spiritual, and liturgical distinctives that once uniquely identified them. This course examines and evaluates dynamics of the early movement, the nature of the crucial changes that have occurred, and what Pentecostalism may look like in its second century of existence.

Organizational Leadership (3 Credits)

Leadership of the contemporary church or ministry with special consideration given to the integration of biblical values, contemporary leadership theory, contemporary organizational theory, and the participant's context of ministry.

Elective Courses: (12 Credits)

The Character of Pentecostal Leadership: Intercultural Considerations (3 Credits)

Pentecostal leadership for the 21st century faces significant challenges that exist on a continuum between "keeping alive the memory of Pentecost" to the efforts necessary for "continued effectiveness" in a cultural context significantly different than those in which our forebears first ministered. Our contemporary ministries, all too often, are uncritically shaped with popular and/or local culture as the primary source of influence. We will explore crucial issues that are facing church leaders in non-western settings as we enter the 21st century. The dominance of western leadership models and literature has clouded the understanding of leadership in non-western settings. Effective church leadership in non-western contexts requires thorough understanding of leadership emergence, development, and functioning with acknowledgement of contextual cultural realities. Models and criteria for understanding leadership as a global phenomenon will be investigated.

Human Development within a Theological Understanding (3 Credits)

This seminar will outline conceptual and critical understanding of human development from the perspectives of the human and social sciences and theology to enable interpretation of the human lifespan. Attention will be paid to the fundamental methodological question of the interdisciplinary relationship between human development and Christian theology. Opportunities will be provided to look at one's own growth and that of others with the aim of understanding one's own life history, its direction, and at the same time be able to help others in their growth and development.

Inter-cultural Education (3 Credits)

This course will introduce students to alternative approaches to teaching and learning that are effective for cross-cultural education. Focus will be given to educational approaches that can be adapted to ministerial training, theological education and leadership development in global mission contexts.

Kingdom Leadership (3 Credits)

This course is intended to enhance the participants' knowledge of biblical and historical theology: to see the paradigm for God's kingdom and leadership in the OT, its fulfillment in Christ as reflected in the NT, and Historical Christianity as a stage to study how these ideals of leadership fared through two millennia.

By exploring key theological concepts in the Scriptures and reflecting on the varied and rich history of the church, this course will assist the participants to visualize, from their own contexts, the main contours of what could be called Kingdom Leadership.

Conflict Resolution (3 Credits)

This course develops a biblical and practical understanding of conflict. It examines the conflict cycle, styles of conflict management, and intervention strategies for resolving conflict. Special focus will be given to the leader's pivotal role in conflict, using conflict for positive change, and the cultural climate for conflict. Mediation, arbitration, and negotiation will also be examined. Emphasis will be given to the Indian context.

Jesus and the Religious Experience of People of Other Faiths (3 Credits)

How should Christians present Jesus as "the Way, the Truth and the Life" in an increasingly globalized world marked by growing ethnic, cultural, and religious diversity? This course seeks to introduce a sound and sensitive approach based upon biblical, theological, and missiological resources and tested in the religious experience of select converts from Hinduism.

Professional Project (12 Credits)

Project Design (3 Credits)

A course designed to prepare the participant for presentation of an acceptable Project Proposal to the D. Min. Project Committee. Components of a Project Proposal, research methodologies, and writing strategies are explored and applied.

Project Development and Presentation (9 Credits)

Composition and oral presentation of an acceptable written project which integrates theory and praxis and makes a meaningful contribution to the practice of ministry. All participants working on the project phase will maintain a continued registration in the programme.

Project Team

The team will include a project adviser, a biblical/theological adviser, a project editor, and the SABC D.Min. Project Coordinator. Project teams are recommended by the participant and adviser with the approval of the Doctor of Ministry Project Committee.