

Mission on the Margins Track

Overview

Our Mission on the Margins Track is an accompanied learning process to resource practitioners for sustainable, life-giving mission in contexts at the margins of society. For example, participants may be involved in (or hoping to be involved in) leading or resourcing mission in one of the following:

- Rural communities
- Post-industrial contexts (e.g., former pit villages)
- Urban estates and low-income neighbourhoods
- Social justice initiatives
- Work on social action projects including with the homeless, prisoners, refugees and sex workers

The student experience

Each student on the Mission on the Margins Track benefits from an individually tailored experience to ensure that the learning is appropriate for them and their context. This creates a challenging and relevant process of accompaniment, peer learning, and academic work at the appropriate level. In addition to their tailored academic pathway at St Hild, students on the track have access to:

- A peer learning network through termly track seminars and an annual Practitioner Morning (online). Participants on the track can share learning with current and former students, develop their skills in reflective practice, and are encouraged to present work in progress.
- Individual tutoring with track leads, either Anna Ruddick or Carmel Murphy Elliott. These termly one-to-ones build a relationship that can support students in developing their own thinking and practice across the whole course of their study.

How does the track fit in with my programme of study?

Participation in one of the practitioner tracks is available to all St Hild students and can be combined with graduate and post-graduate level study, or as part of an informal learning pathway arranged with one of our tutors. There is no additional charge to be on the track.

Whatever your entry point, it's our aim to inspire you, equip you and stretch you, and enable you to engage with other practitioner-academics.

Relevant Module options

Alongside your participation in the track you may also find one of our modules helpful in deepening your learning. We deliver:

Mission & Ministry in Marginalised Contexts at Level 6 (TMM3961) and Level 7 (TMM45920). In academic year 2026-27 this will be in the autumn term in person at the Sheffield centre. In 2027-28 it will be delivered online on Saturdays during the Winter/Spring term.

Reflective Practice Placement (TMM43020). This is delivered online during the Summer term every other year and will next be on offer in 2027-28.

Our teaching prioritises questions of justice and takes a Practical Theological approach, focusing on contexts and lived experience as sites of our doing theology.

All course assignments are designed with your ministry focus in mind and use creative and relevant forms of assessment, for example:

- Personal learning journals
- Context-based reports
- Oral presentations
- Practical skills assessments
- Groundwork for work intended for a public context, including training materials, rationales for funding bids, and articles.

We can also supervise your **dissertation** or **Independent Learning Project**. These elements mean that the academic conversation is enriched by your ministry practice and that the work you produce during your study is of direct benefit to your current or future ministry contexts.

You will have the opportunity to talk through the modules during the interview process and these will be confirmed with an individual study pathway.

Key Dates for 2026-27

Track Seminars:

29th September 2026 (7.45 – 9pm Online)

26th January 2027 (7.45 – 9pm Online)

18th May 2027 (7.45 – 9pm Online)

Practitioner Morning Saturday date tbc March/April 2027 (10am – 1pm Online)

The Mission on the Margins track and associated modules are delivered by **Urban Life** in partnership with St Hild Theological College. Urban Life is part of Urban Expression and works to resource those living and ministering in contexts that experience marginalisation. Find out more about us here: www.urbanlife.org For an informal chat about the track please contact Anna Ruddick at anna@urbanlife.org