



INTERNATIONAL THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

540 East Vine Avenue, West Covina, CA 91790 USA | Tel 626.653.9547 |

Doctoral Research Interest Statement

(For Applicants to the DMin and DICS Programs)

Instructions

As part of your application to the Doctor of Ministry (DMin) or Doctor of Intercultural Studies (DICS) program, please provide a thoughtful and concise statement of your proposed area of research or dissertation topic. This helps the admissions committee assess your readiness for advanced research and determine whether your interests align with the expertise and scope of our faculty and program. We understand that your final dissertation topic may evolve during your studies, but this statement should reflect your current sense of calling, research direction, and contribution to the field. Make sure your statement includes the following elements:

1. Applicant Information

- **Full Name:** _____
- **Program Applied For:** DMin DICS
- **Email Address:** _____
- **Date:** _____

2. Proposed Research Topic Title

Provide a working title for your proposed research/dissertation.

Example: "Contextual Evangelism in Urban Southeast Asia: A Missiological Approach to Church Planting"

3. Description of Proposed Research (300–500 words)

Describe the topic or area you wish to explore in your doctoral research. Please include:

- The **ministry or cultural issue** you hope to address
- Why is this issue **significant** in your context or field
- The **theological, biblical, or missiological framework** you intend to use
- The **goals or outcomes** you hope your research will achieve

(This section should demonstrate both clarity of thought and vocational passion.)



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4. Research Context

Describe the specific **geographical, cultural, ecclesial, or ministry context** in which this research will be situated.

5. Personal Motivation and Ministry Relevance

Explain why this topic is important to you personally and how it connects to your current or future ministry or mission work.

6. Key Research Questions (2–4 questions)

List a few specific research questions you hope to explore. These should guide your study and show critical engagement with your topic.

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.

7. Preliminary Bibliography (Optional but Recommended)

List 5–10 academic sources (books, articles, etc.) that are relevant to your proposed topic.

8. Faculty Fit (Optional)

If known, please indicate any faculty members at our institution whose expertise aligns with your proposed research area.

If you have questions about how to complete this statement or about the suitability of your topic, please contact the Admissions Office