



NEW LIFE LEADERSHIP ACADEMY

A Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) by Thesis Program

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

New Life Leadership Academy has opened a track to enable students to pursue a **“Research Only” (Thesis) Doctoral degree program** (which omits traditional classroom coursework but still requires structural check-ins) beginning in the **2026-2027 academic year**. The student creates new knowledge through an independent project, culminating in a large written document and an oral defense.

Admitted students are required to attend three research seminars at a stipulated time and location to equip them with the necessary knowledge and skills pertinent to a research-only educational track:

Seminar Modules	Credits
Seminar 1: Foundations of Research	15 Credits
Seminar 2: Research Methods & Statistics	30 Credits
Seminar 3: Writing the Proposal and Thesis	15 Credits

KEY CHARACTERISTICS OF A PHD BY THESIS

- **Structure:** Focused strictly on research, starting with concept and proposal development, followed by data collection and thesis writing under faculty supervision.
- **Independent Research:** Students work under the guidance of academic supervisors or a supervisory panel rather than attending structured classroom lectures.
- **Original Contribution:** The primary output is a comprehensive dissertation (typically 200 to 300 pages) presenting new findings, discoveries, or theoretical frameworks.
- **Publication Requirements:** Candidates must publish a minimum of at least one (1) peer-reviewed journal article or conference paper derived from their research before final submission.
- **Duration:** Typically spans 2 to 5 years of full-time study concluding with an oral defense (viva voce examination) before internal and external examiners.
- **Core Competencies:** Cultivates advanced academic writing, critical evaluation, research ethics, and autonomous problem-solving capabilities.

ELIGIBILITY & APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

Eligible Students: Holders of a Master's degree in Theology, Christian Leadership, or any related field with an average of "B+" or a minimum GPA of 3.5.

Applicants should attach a **5 to 10 page research concept note** indicating the following items:

- **Title:** A clear, concise working title outlining what is studied, who/what is analyzed, and the context.
- **Background & Context:** Brief introduction explaining the topic, why it matters now, and what is already known.
- **Statement of the Problem:** A focused description of the specific knowledge gap or practical issue to solve.
- **Objectives:** One overarching general objective broken down into 3 or 4 specific, measurable objectives.
- **Research Questions / Hypotheses:** Specific, open-ended questions aligned with objectives.
- **Preliminary Literature Review:** Short look at 3 to 5 key, peer-reviewed sources or foundational texts.
- **Proposed Methodology:** Research design, target population or study site, data collection tools, and analysis approach.
- **Expected Outcomes & Significance:** Statement on how results add new knowledge, influence policy, or solve practical problems.
- **References:** Cited sources using an appropriate academic writing style (APA or Chicago).

GRADING SCHEME & EVALUATION

Course grades are derived from numerical scores obtained on assignments, mid-semester, and end-of-semester examinations as follows:

Evaluation Component	Weight / Marks
Research Thesis Produced	60 Marks
Viva Voce Examination	40 Marks

Numerical Score (%)	Description
60 – 100	Pass
Below 59	Fail