Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam
St. Thomas Orthodox Theological Seminary, Nagpur

Ph: 0481-2566526, email: admin@ots.edu.in

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APPLICATION FORM FOR ADMISSION

(To be completed in the candidate's own handwriting)

Photo

1. Name of the Candidate :
2. Place and Date of Birth :
3. Candidate's address with Phone number & Email ID :
4. Candidate's present address to which correspondence is to be made :

Personal Details

	Name	Age	Occupation
Father			
Mother			
Brothers			
Sisters			

5. Candidate's present occupation, if any :
6. Candidate's Original Diocese and Parish :
7. Name and Address of the Vicar :
8. Diocese/Institution/Ashram for which the candidate is recommended :
9. Seminary you opt for theological studies : OTS, Kottayam ☐ STOTS, Nagpur ☐
10. Name, Signature and Seal of the Recommending Bishop :

11. Marital Status : Married / Single

If married, give the following details of the family

	Name	Age	Occupation
Wife			
Children			

12. Secular Education

A. School, College, etc

Course	Name of Institution	Board/University	Years Attended	Year Passed	Grade (% of Marks)
10th Class					
Plus Two/ HSC/VHSC					Eng. IInd Lang. Sub.
Graduation (BA/BSc/B.Com…)					Eng. IInd Lang. Main Sub
Post Graduation (MA/MSc/M.Com…)					Main Sub.
Other courses. if any 1.					
2					

B. Church Education

Courses	Course Period	Year Passed	Grade (% of Marks)
1. Sunday School			
a. Class 10			
b. Class 12			
2.Divyabodhanam Course			
a. POCE			
b. DOCE			
c. GOCE			
3. MTC Course (3 Yrs. Diploma			
4. Other course, if any			
a.			
b.			

13. **Involvement in Church Activities**

Spiritual Activity	Name of the Organization/Parish/Institution	Position	Years/Period
Altar Assistant			
Youth League			
M.G.O.C.S.M			
Sunday School			
O.V.B.S			
Any other			
a.			
b.			

14. Proficiency in Co-Curricular Activities

Sports	
Games	
Elocution	
Music	
Painting	
Essay Writing	
Poetry	
Short Story	
Any other	

15. **Training Programmes**

	Years	Level
N.C.C		
Scout		
N.S.S		
Any other		

16. Rendering service to the Church, residing in a Church related institution/centre

Name of the Institution :

Duration :

17. Member/Trainee of an Ashram

Name of the Ashram :

Year of Joining :

Present Status :

18. **If Ordained**

Diocese/Institution/Ashram for which Ordained :

Bishop who Ordained :

Date of Ordination :

Rank of Ordination :

19. Have you applied previously for admission to the Seminary? If so which years? (OTS/STOTS) :

20. Name and Address of 3 persons for reference regarding the candidate (No relatives) 1) :

2) :

3) :

21. If admitted, are you able to find resources for payment of fees? :

22. Annual Income of the Family :

23. If admitted who will execute a bond of Rs. 300000/- agreeing to reimburse all costsof your training in case you fail to serve the Church for a minimum of 5 yrs after graduation from the Seminary?(Name and address of the parent/legal guardian) :

24. Have you been suffering from any Chronic Diseases: (If so specify; otherwise it will be considered seriously)

25. I, hereby, affirm and testify that I am sincerely willing to serve the Malankara Orthodox Syrian Church in total obedience to its faith, order and discipline as well as its Constitution. I do, hereby agree to obey all canonical and constitutional authorities in the Church, and to abide by the Rules of the Seminary and the Church.

Place : Signature of the Candidate

Date :

Duly filled application form has to be sent to

The Principal,
Orthodox Theological Seminary,
Post Box No. 98, Kottayam – 686001, Kerala.

***Note:** Applications that are incomplete, incorrect or not sufficiently documented will not be accepted.*

List of documents to be appended

a. Main documents (Tick √)

1. A letter from the recommending Metropolitan. ☐

2. If the candidate is recommended for another diocese/institution/Ashram, a permission letter from the Metropolitan of the original diocese. ☐

3. If the candidate is member of a monastery, the Superior's letter of commendation. ☐

4. A letter of recommendation from the Parish Vicar. ☐

5. A Conduct Certificate from the Principal of the College where the candidate studied last. ☐

6. Attested copies of academic certificates with mark lists
(Original Certificates have to be produced during the Interview, if the Candidateis invited for the Interview). ☐

7. Certificates to substantiate items 12 (A & B), 13, 14 and 15. ☐

8. A medical checkup will be conducted before the interview in a recognized hospital under the supervision of Seminary. That medical certificate will be attached tothis application later. ☐

9. Two recent passport size photographs (in addition to the one with application). ☐

10. A one-page statement (in English or in Malayalam) **in candidate's own hand** showing why he feels called to Priesthood. ☐

Application Fee Rs. 500/-

Guidelines for those who prepare for

Common Entrance Test for Seminary Admission

The process of the selection of Candidates for Seminary admission will have two parts

1. Written Test

The written test will be held in two sessions from 9am to 1pm. The first session will consist of two parts: **A. Bible & B. Church History.** The second session will also have two parts: **A. English Language & B. General Knowledge.** Maximum Marks for each paper is 100. For Paper I 70% of Marks is set apart for Bible (35% for Old Testament and 35 % for New Testament) and 30 % for Church History. For paper II 60% of marks will be for English Language and 40% for General Knowledge.

General Features of Different Papers

Paper I

A. Bible.

The candidates are expected to have an overall understanding of the Bible: Questions can be asked in the following patterns:

I. i. General Introduction to each book of the Bible including the Main Outline of the book and its Central Message.

ii. Annotations on important passages from the Old Testament and the New Testament

iii. Brief notes on important personalities (like Moses, Paul, etc.), main events (like Exodus, Pentacost. *etc),* important places (like Mount Sinai, Bethlehem. etc)

iv. Meaning of the names of important persons and places (like Samuel, Bethany etc

v. Read Biblical Passages in English and Malayalam

OR

II. Objective multiple choice pattern

B. Church History

Candidates are expected to be acquainted with main events and personalities in the history of St. Thomas Christians with special focus on the Malankara Orthodox Church. Questions can be asked from the following:

i. Year and happenings of important events.

ii. Descriptions about famous Church leaders

iii. Essays about landmarks, eg: Coonen Cross Oath

Paper II

A. English Language

i. The students' knowledge about Basic English Grammar & Usages will be tested. Minimum standard expected is that of the English Language of the Higher Secondary Course.
ii. Questions will be asked to check the capacity of the student in vocabulary, comprehension and in writing skills.

B. General Knowledge

i. The Candidates are expected to have relevant information on current events, issues and personalities at the World, Indian and State levels.
ii. A general idea about the renowned books of English and Malayalam literature.
iii. Important Movements of the World History.
iv. The candidate is expected to answer fifty questions, which will have multiple choices.

Books Suggested for Reading

A. Bible

1. All Sunday School Books up to Std. XII
2. Divyabodhanam Series: a. *Prakasathilekku* (In the Fullness of Time), b. *Prathyasakiranangal* (The Rays of Hope),
3. The New Revised Standard Version of the Bible.

B. Church History

i. All relevant Sunday School Books
ii. Divyabodhanam Series: a. *Sabha Valarunnu (*Growing Church), b. *Adhunika Bharatha Sabha*
iii. Any book on the recent history of the Malankara Orthodox Church

C. Faith of the Church

i. Divyabodhanam Series: a. *Janathakalude Prakasham* (Light to the Nations), b. *Abba Pithave*.
ii. Any good book on the Faith of the Church

D. English Language

i. A book on Functional Grammar with Usage and Composition: eg: A Practical Course by M.L.Tickoo & A.E. Subramanian published by: University of Kerala or any other equivalent Text Book.
ii. Any book on Letter writing and Composition of Essays.

E. General Knowledge

i. News Paper records since the last three months in English and Malayalam
ii. Current Periodicals in English and Malayalam (eg: Mathrubhoomi, The Week)
iii. Discussions and Debates on Political, Economic and Social Issues appeared in popular TV channels (eg: Asianet, NDTV)

2. Medical Test

All applicants will be asked to produce an extensive report on their health condition. The date of medical examination and the name of the hospital will be suggested by the Seminary.

3. Personality Assessment Test

All applicants have to undergo a Personality Assessment Test. The date and place of this test will be suggested by the Seminary.

4. Interview

The following factors will be assessed during the interview

1. Candidate's response to the questions regarding the Bible, Church History, Faith of the Church, Worship and Sacraments
2. Candidates capability in reciting Prayers/Prayer Songs from the orders of the Family Worship and the Holy Qurbana.
3. It will be checked whether the candidate has speech impediments and whether he is able to read English and Malayalam audibly and with right accents.
4. The Personality of the Candidate will be checked.
5. Credits will be given to the successful participation of the candidate in the following:
   a. Sunday School Education (Class X/XII),
   b. Divyabodhanam Courses like POCE, DOCE & GOCE
   c. Three year Diploma Course in MTC, Mavelikkara
   d. Being a member of an Ashram for more than three years
   e. The service to the Church by continuously residing in an institution/centre of the church for more than three years.
6. The talents of the candidates in Elocution, Music, Essay Writing, Painting, Sports and games or any other extra-curricular activities will be given due weightage.
7. The candidate is expected to explain his involvements in the spiritual activities of the Church such as Altar Assistant, Youth League Secretary, MGOCSM Secretary, Sunday School Teacher, OVBS Teacher etc.
8. The Academic Excellence of the candidate will get special consideration.
9. The student has to produce originals of all documents referred in the Application Form during the Interview.