

*Chapter IV*

**Post Graduate Degree Programmes**

**in the**

**Faculty of Theology**

**at the**

*Pontifical University*



Stoyte House, where Saint Patrick's College was founded in 1795

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# Licentiate in Divinity (STL)

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*Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Andrew Meszaros*

To obtain the Licentiate in Divinity (STL), two years' full time specialised study is required in the Second Cycle. It is an ecclesiastical award aligned to the Qualifications Framework of the Holy See. The course and degree are designed for candidates who have attained honours standard, *magna cum laude*, in their previous theological studies. A part-time option is also possible. Part-time candidates may, with the approval of the Dean of Postgraduate Studies, take the course over three or four years.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

- demonstrate an in-depth knowledge and understanding of the specialist subject they have chosen and that they are equipped with the capability to produce a methodologically sound contribution, aimed at strengthening theological knowledge [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 74, b]
- acquire the ability to integrate the various aspects of theological knowledge in order to address scientific, cultural, and ecumenical issues and engage in dialogue with other more complex religions [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 71-72];
- discern the specific domains in which the Church's evangelizing mission can play a role, in the complex and fragmentary nature of human-social development, by being able to devise specific initiatives independently [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 73];
- clearly communicate and unambiguously promote the unity of theological knowledge, so that Christianity can be proclaimed to all peoples [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 70, § 2], both in specialist and non-specialist contexts;
- convey this theoretical and practical knowledge in the fulfilment of ecclesiastical posts, with particular reference to teaching in major Seminaries or equivalent schools [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 50, § 1];
- have fully developed the theoretical, methodological, and language skills in the domain of theological studies to continue their studies at Doctoral level.

## Admission Requirements

In order to register for courses leading to the degree of Licentiate in Divinity, a candidate must

- hold at least a Baccalaureate in Divinity, second honours, Grade I (*magna cum laude*) or, what in the judgement of the Faculty is regarded as an equivalent standard of theological study.

- meet the criteria for Greek, Hebrew and/or Latin as outlined under Language Requirements in the following pages..
- satisfy the English language requirements, if the candidate's first language is not English.

## Programme of Study

The programme comprises the following:

### **Year 1**

#### **Seminar Courses**

Full-time candidates usually take three seminar courses in year one including (2/3 within field and 1/2 from remaining available modules) and an obligatory course *PG442: The Soul of Theology* in semester 2.

#### **Reading Courses**

Candidates select two reading courses from the list of courses on offer (at least one from within their theological discipline)

### **Year 2**

#### **Seminar Courses**

Full-time candidates usually take one seminar course in year two within chosen theological discipline, plus the obligatory course *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* .

#### **Research Colloquium**

Formal colloquium presentation. All candidates must present a piece of research at the Research Seminar in Semester Two or Three.

**Reading courses** are to convene at least once per month during the academic year (i.e., *at least* 6 meetings). Reading Courses are to be assessed by a variety of means including in-semester papers, end-of-semester papers and possibly a formal colloquium presentation. Assessed papers are to total 7,000 words. The STL Programme Co-ordinator, in consultation with those offering the suite of reading courses, is to ensure variety and balance in the means of assessment.

**Seminar courses** are normally assessed by assignment(s) of c.7,000 words. Variations may be approved by the Programme Co-ordinator in consultation with the Postgraduate Board.



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# Doctorate in Divinity (DD/STD)

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## Admission Requirements

The Doctorate in Divinity is a Third Cycle programme accredited to the Educational Standards Framework of the Holy See.

In order to register for courses leading to the Doctorate in Divinity (DD/STD), a candidate must hold at least a Licentiate in Divinity (STL) second class honours, Grade I (*magna cum laude*) or what, in the judgement of the Faculty, is regarded as an equivalent standard of theological study. A basic knowledge of Greek and Hebrew is required, as well as an appropriate knowledge of two modern languages, see 'Language Requirements'. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology.

Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 16, 2024.

## Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

- demonstrate that they are endowed with a systematic understanding in the domain of theological studies they have chosen [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 74.];
- develop the full capability to use the specialist knowledge they have acquired to devise, design, and implement original research projects, in order to contribute to the progress of theological knowledge [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 49, § 1];
- developed both analysis and synthesis capabilities to evaluate complex theological research questions, that are determined by a variety of interrelated factors;
- systematically convey the knowledge they have acquired through teaching at academic level [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 50, § 1];
- acquire the intellectual skills and the specific human and relational abilities to fulfil special ecclesiastical posts [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 50, § 2];
- communicate with academic and professional experts, in the various domains, in order to contribute to human civilization through the evangelizing mission of the Church [*Veritatis Gaudium*, art. 3, § 1. Cf Giovanni Paolo II, «Proemio», Cost. Apostol. Sapientia Christiana, I, II.

## Programme of Study

- The doctoral dissertation, which forms the basis for granting the degree, must be a substantial and original piece of research in a theological area, offering a notable contribution to the advancement of the theological sciences.
- The dissertation must be prepared under the direction of a member of the Faculty on a topic approved by the Faculty.
- Candidates who have completed the STL programme in the Faculty are required only to take two further seminar courses in Year One.
- Candidates who have not taken any special courses at the Faculty but have a Licentiate of the required standard must take four courses, including *PG442: The Soul of Theology* and *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* in Year One.
- At the end of Year One, doctoral candidates will provide sufficient evidence of progress in the preparation of the dissertation to warrant continuance. Accordingly candidates will give a presentation to two members of Faculty by June 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Dissertations submitted by November 30<sup>th</sup> are accepted for examination by early spring. Those submitted by June 15<sup>th</sup> are accepted for examination in late summer. Examination at any other time may be considered only in exceptional circumstances, and by express leave of the Faculty.
- The dissertation shall be presented to the Dean of Postgraduate Studies at least two months before the candidate may be admitted to defend it. In exceptional cases the Council of the Faculty may shorten the period required.
- Three copies of the dissertation are to be submitted in the first instance; these may be ring-bound. A hard-bound copy, incorporating any corrections which the examiners may require, must be submitted to the Pontifical University Office, following successful defence of the work.
- An electronic copy of the final corrected dissertation must be submitted to the Pontifical University Office for the Library.
- All dissertations shall remain the property of the Pontifical University.

## **Public Examination (Doctoral Defence)**

The public examination—termed the *Doctoral Defence*—shall be held in accordance with the code of practice for *viva voce* examinations in the Pontifical University (see following pages), and comprise the following elements:

- A lecture, of 30 minutes duration, by the candidate on the topic, arguments and conclusions of the dissertation
- A defence of the dissertation for an hour against objections.
- An examination, of 30 minutes duration, on nine propositions chosen by the candidate and approved by the Council of the Faculty. Three propositions will be chosen from each subject area, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology and Sacred Scripture.
- At the end of the Defence, the Faculty shall vote firstly on whether the degree of doctor is to be awarded and secondly on what mark shall be given. Separate marks are given for the dissertation and the propositions; the minimum mark is 65%. The marks are counted, and an aggregate mark is awarded. This is not communicated to the candidate. The number of examiners from the Faculty at the examination shall be at least five.

## **Publication of Doctoral Dissertation**

Before the Doctorate in Divinity can be conferred, the dissertation, or at least a substantial part thereof, must be published. Publication may take any of the following forms:

- Appearance as a book, or as an article in a recognised theological journal.
- Circulation of copies of the dissertation, or of a major excerpt, in printed form, or electronically, to the main ecclesiastical Faculties of Theology.
- Deposition of a copy of the dissertation in the John Paul II Library at St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth, together with notification of the fact through appropriate means of inter-library exchange.

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# Doctorate in Theology (PhD)

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The Doctoral Degree of PhD in Theology is awarded to those who satisfactorily complete the course and research requirements for the Degree.

## Admission Requirements

- A Master's Degree in Theology (120 credits) of at least Second-Class Honours Grade I or its equivalent.
- The Faculty of Theology may also accept candidates whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard.
- A competence in at least two theological languages: Hebrew, Greek or Latin. A candidate who has not already attained an acceptable level of competence in theological languages is required to pass qualifying courses in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin (see 'Language Requirements').
- Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology.

Postgraduate Degree candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty. Upon registration, PhD candidates will be assigned a staff mentor to assist them in the Doctoral Foundation Year.

Progress at doctoral level demands a significant investment of time by the candidate in personal study and research. As such, study and research require access both to resources that are frequently only available in research libraries, as well as easy access to the candidate's director or mentor, it is strongly recommended that doctoral candidates, *especially at the beginning of their studies*, spend at least *three days per week* on the Maynooth campus, during the semester.

## Programme of Study

- Candidates must normally complete four years of fulltime study. The first two years is termed the "Research Phase". The second two years is termed the "Completion Phase".
- Candidates requiring an extension of the study period must inform the Postgraduate Board by May of the fourth year of study.
- The first year includes four postgraduate seminar courses. Two of these courses will normally be *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* and *PG442: The Soul of Theology*. Candidates



who have recently completed these two courses as part of an STL or Masters in St Patrick's Pontifical University are exempt.

- In order to be considered for progression to the second year of the doctoral programme, candidates are to achieve an aggregate 2:1 across these four seminar courses. In the Second Semester of Year One, the candidate shall, with the guidance of a mentor or director, identify a topic of research interest, and present a brief outline to two members of the Faculty by June 15<sup>th</sup>. This research topic, is not a doctoral proposal, but rather a research area that creates direction and focus for the doctoral proposal.
- Normally, the doctoral proposal, which forms the basis of the doctoral dissertation, will be presented for approval to the Faculty of Theology during the second year of the doctoral programme.
- The doctoral dissertation, which forms the basis for the award of the degree, must be a substantial and original piece of research, which offers a notable contribution to the advancement of the theological sciences.
- The dissertation must be prepared under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, on a topic approved by the Faculty.
- Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of one modern continental European language (see 'Language Requirements').
- Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 16, 2024.

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# Master's in Theology (MTh)

## Two Years Full-time / Research Masters

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The programme for degree of Master in Theology (MTh) offers candidates the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Theology through specialised study, personal work and research.

There are two methods of obtaining this degree.

- Structured Research: candidates complete six seminar courses and write a minor dissertation (25,000-30,000 words).
- Pure Research: candidates submit a major dissertation (40,000 words) and fulfil the requirements of *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* seminar course.

### Theological Languages

A competence in theological language(s) is a qualifying requirement – see ‘Language Requirements’ page after this section.

## Admission Requirements: Structured Research

The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second-Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the selection procedure.

The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Where an applicant’s qualifications are insufficient for admission to the MTh, a Qualifying Programme and Examination may be provided.

Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement of Faculty of Theology. Candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty.

## Programme of Study: Structured Research

The duration of the programme is two years. The first year is considered a year of full-time study in one of the options below. In the second year the candidate, takes one seminar course in the first semester and completes a thesis. Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 16, 2024.

### ***Course Option I: Systematic Theology***

In Year One the candidate takes five seminar courses: two seminar courses in Systematic Theology, two seminar courses from the remaining suite, as well as the obligatory course *PG442: The Soul of Theology* in the second semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes obligatory course *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* in semester one and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

### ***Course Option II: Moral Theology***

In Year One the candidate takes five seminar courses: two seminar courses in Moral Theology, two seminar courses from the remaining suite, as well as the obligatory course *PG442: The Soul of Theology* in the second semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes obligatory course *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* in semester one and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

### ***Course Option III: Biblical Theology***

In Year One the candidate takes five seminar courses: three seminar courses in Biblical Theology, one two seminar courses from the remaining suite, as well as the obligatory course *PG442: The Soul of Theology* in the second semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes obligatory course *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* in semester one and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

### ***Course Option IV: Liturgical Theology***

In Year One the candidate takes five courses: one reading course in Liturgical Theology, two seminar courses in Liturgical Theology, the obligatory course *PG442: The Soul of Theology* and one seminar course from the remaining suite of modules.

In Year Two the candidate takes one further seminar course in Liturgical Theology, and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

The dissertation is 25,000—30,000 words. The dissertation is pursued under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology. While completing the dissertation, the candidate is not required to be in full-time attendance. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

## Assessment

The Final Assessment of the MTh (Structured Research) is a weighted culmination of the following:

- Reading/Seminar Courses                      60 credits
- Dissertation    60 credits

Any theological language courses are qualifying requirements and do not form part of the final assessment.

### Admission Requirements: Pure Research

To qualify for admission to a Master's in Theology by dissertation only, candidates shall have Second Class Honours, Grade I in the theological component of their honours degree. The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Masters (Pure Research) is recommended only for candidates who have a clear research focus and a proven ability to work on their own.

Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology. Candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty.

### Programme of Study: Pure Research

- Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 16, 2024.
- Candidates must fulfil the requirements of *PG464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches*, and work for at least three semesters under the direction of a permanent member of the Faculty of Theology.
- The subject of the dissertation requires the approval of the relevant Head of Department.
- The length of the dissertation shall be approximately 40,000 words, exclusive of footnotes and bibliography.
- Candidates shall be required to submit their dissertations within three years. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.

- The dissertation shall be examined by the dissertation supervisor and an external examiner chosen by the Faculty.
- Candidates may be examined on the subject matter of the dissertation if the above examiners so decide.

## **Assessment**

The Final Assessment of the MTh (Pure Research) is a weighted culmination of the following:

- Seminar Course                      10 credits
- Dissertation                            110 credits

Any theological language courses are qualifying requirements and do not form part of the final assessment.

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# Language Requirements

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## Theological Languages Requirement

DD, PhD, STL, MTh Research (Structured Research and Pure Research) only

- Candidates admitted into the **DD, PhD, STL** programmes in the Faculty of Theology shall be required to sit a qualifying examination in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. Syllabi for these examinations are provided on the Faculty website.
- Candidates admitted into the **MTh Research (Biblical)** programme in the Faculty of Theology shall be required to sit a qualifying examination in Greek and Hebrew. Syllabi for these examinations are provided on the Faculty website.
- Candidates admitted into the **MTh Research (Moral/Systematic/Liturgy)** programmes in the Faculty of Theology shall be required to sit a qualifying examination in Latin. A syllabus for this examination is provided on the Faculty website.
- Candidates who do not pass the above qualifying examination(s) are required to attend and pass qualifying course(s) in the relevant theological language(s).
- Candidates can opt **not to take** the qualifying examination(s) and register to take the qualifying course(s) in the relevant theological language(s).
- Candidates who have previously successfully completed the theological language courses in the Pontifical University are exempt.

## Modern Language Requirements

DD (STD)

Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of **two** continental European languages.

PhD and STL

Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of **one** modern continental European language.

*Note:* Qualifying examinations are offered during orientation and at one other point during the academic year. Details are posted on the postgraduate information pages on the University website.

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# Master's in Theology (MTh)

## One Year Full-time / Taught Masters

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*Programme Co-ordinator:* The Dean of Postgraduate Studies

### Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the admission process.

The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

### Programme Rationale

This one-year Taught Masters programme is offered for candidates who wish to spend one year in deepening their theological expertise and skill in a number of areas in which the Faculty of Theology has particular expertise. With the guidance of a mentor, candidates choose from the palette of modules on offer across various theological disciplines in any particular year.

### Programme of Study

The course runs over one academic year and consists of six taught modules delivered over two semesters, three modules per semester; and a minor dissertation of 15,000 words. Lectures are delivered from Monday to Thursday. A programme of study, from the seminar courses indicated in the Overview of Postgraduate Modules in the following pages, is agreed with the programme co-ordinator. All modules are available except for Yearlong Reading Courses (RCs); *PG09464: Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches*; *PG09442: Soul of Theology*. A choice of modules may be restricted due to timetabling constraints.

Candidates must further complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 16, 2024.

#### **Minor Dissertation** (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by candidates by 3.00pm on August 15<sup>th</sup>. A grace period of two weeks applies.

**Note:** progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

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# Master's in Theology (MTh) *Contemporary Ethics*

## Two Years Part-time / Taught Masters

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*Programme Co-ordinator:* Dr Pdraig Corkery

The course will consist of six taught modules (10 credits each) delivered over two years, and the submission of a thesis of 15,000 words. Assessment of modules is by essay (c. 7,000 words).

### **Admission Requirements:**

The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the selection process. The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement.

### **Programme of Study**

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 23, 2024.

#### **Cycle A (2023-2024)**

##### **Semester 1**

- **PG09709** Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century
- **PG09714** *Sensus Fidei* and Synodality: Implications for Moral Method and Content

##### **Semester 2**

- **PG09720** Just Love: Social Sin, Resistance and Violence Against Women

#### **Cycle B (2024-2025):**

- **PG09302** History of Christian Thought

##### **Semester 1**

- **PG09715** War: Ethical and Theological Perspectives

##### **Semester 2**

- **PG09652** Vulnerability, Religion and Contemporary Healthcare Ethics

*Minor Dissertation* (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by candidates in their second year by 3.00pm on August 15<sup>th</sup>, in Year 2. A grace period of two weeks applies.

**Note:** progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.



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# **Master's in Theology (MTh)**

## ***Bible and Spirituality***

### **Two Years Part-time / Taught Masters**

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*Programme Co-ordinator:* Jessie Rogers DPhil

#### **Admission Requirements**

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the admission process.

The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

#### **Programme Rationale**

As Scripture, the Bible is a collection of writings that reflects the dynamic experiences of ancient Israel and of the early Christian Church, and which continues to nourish and make sense of people's lives. This Masters has a two-fold focus: it explores both spiritualities *within* the Bible and spirituality shaped by engagement *with* the Bible. The programme approaches biblical spirituality from the perspectives of liturgy, history and biblical studies, understands spirituality incarnationally as communal and personal expressions of lived faith, and includes a strong practical dimension.

#### **Programme Learning Outcomes**

Upon successful completion of the MTh in Biblical Spirituality, students should be able to:

- Analyse the spiritualities inherent in Old and New Testament texts.
- Interpret biblical texts with a sensitivity to their literary conventions.
- Explore biblical aspects of various Christian spiritual traditions (e.g., Benedictine, Franciscan, Ignatian), and the way woman mystics in particular (e.g., Birgitta, Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Jesus, Thérèse of Lisieux) have read Scripture.
- Trace the ecclesial and sacramental manifestations of biblical spirituality at various times in the history of the Church.
- Engage with Scripture in potentially transformative ways.
- Describe current trends in the academic study of spirituality.
- Discuss the contribution of Scripture to issues such as justice and creation spirituality.

## Programme of Study

The course consists of six taught modules (10 credits each) delivered over two years, and the submission of a thesis of 15,000 words. Modules will be delivered on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, with some blended learning. Assessment of modules is by essay (c. 7,000 words).

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 23, 2024.

### Semester 1:

- **PG09302** History of Christian Thought
- **PG09495** Exploring Biblical Narratives

### Semester 2:

- **PG09481** Liberation and Law: Approaches to the Book of Exodus
- **PG09658** Pathways in Biblical Spirituality

### Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology and submitted by candidates in their second year by 3.00pm on August 15<sup>th</sup>. A grace period of two weeks applies.

**Note:** progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

# Overview of Postgraduate Modules in the Academic Year 2024-2025

<i>Research Modules</i>				
Code	Lecturer(s)	Title	Semester	Comment
PG09464	Conway	Research in Theology <sup>a,b,e</sup>	1	
PG09442	Macnamara/ O'Connell	The Soul of Theology <sup>e</sup>	2	
<i>Cross-Discipline Modules</i>				
PG09302	Ryan	History of Christian Thought	1	
<i>Fundamental Theology • Systematic Theology • Faith &amp; Culture</i>				
PG09719	Conway	Karl Rahner: The Theological Foundations of Synodality <sup>b</sup>	1	
PG09722	Marmion	The Life of the World to Come: Contemporary Perspectives in Eschatology	2	
RC09525	Furnal	Readings in Contemporary Systematic Theology: Essential Questions in Modernity	Yearlong	
<i>Moral Theology</i>				
PG09715	Winright	War: Ethical and Theological Perspectives	1	
PG09652	Shortall	Spirituality, Religion, and Healthcare Ethics	2	

RC09524	Corkery	Readings in Moral Theology: Scripture and the Moral Life.	Yearlong	
<b><i>Pastoral Theology • Religious Education</i></b>				
PG09523	McGrath	Emancipating Practical Theology <sup>d</sup>	1	
RC09522	Sheridan	Readings in Religious Education and Catechesis in the Life and Ministry of the Church	Yearlong	
<b><i>Liturgy</i></b>				
PG09718	O'Donoghue	The Ancient Norm of the Holy Fathers: A History of the Liturgy in the Patristic Era	1	
PG09484	Tracey	Liturgy: Ritual, Theological and Historical Approaches	2	
RC09523	Tracey	Readings in Liturgical Theology: The Eucharist: The Sacrament of the Sacrifice of Christ	Yearlong	
<b><i>Scripture</i></b>				
PG09495	O'Connell / Macnamara	Exploring Biblical Narratives	1	Online + intensive week in January
PG09481	Corley	Liberation and Law: Approaches to the Book of Exodus	2	
PG09658	Rogers	Pathways in Biblical Spirituality	2	
<b><i>Academic Life</i></b>				
PG09903	Corley	Research Seminar	Yearlong	Qualifier (not for credit)
PG09901	Various	Research Support	Yearlong	Qualifier (not for credit)

## GENERAL NORMS for Postgraduate Modules

Each postgraduate module above, unless otherwise stated, is rated as 10 ECTS.

A minimum of FOUR participants is required for a seminar module to be offered. Exceptions are to be referred to the Postgraduate Board.

If a particular taught programme cannot be offered, the related programme-specific modules are withdrawn.

Descriptors for each of the above modules can be found on the Pontifical University website.

## NOTES and OBSERVATIONS

- a. For PhD, STL, Masters (Research) only;
- b. 12-hour module
- c. Blended Learning.
- d. Required by MTh Year 2 (Programmes in Pastoral Theology) with sufficient numbers.
- e. Students on the Foundational Phase of the Doctoral Programme may not take PG464:Research in Theology, PG442:Soul of Theology and/or Reading Courses.

## General Note: Postgraduate Courses Offered on a CYCLICAL BASIS

In order to permit postgraduates plan their studies in a balanced way, it is to be noted that the following modules are offered on a cyclical basis:

PG09708: Pastoral Practice of Liturgy *and* PG09484: Liturgy: Ritual, Theological and Historical Approaches

PG09495: Exploring Biblical Narratives *and* PG09477: Come & See: John and Method

PG09496: The David Story, PG09467: Exploring Ways of Reading Genesis, *and* PG09481: Liberation and Law: Approaches to the Book of Exodus

PG09710: Reimagining the Human *and* PG09709: Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century *and* PG09302: History of Christian Thought

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# Doctorate in Theology - Foundation Phase

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The Doctoral Foundation Phase is undertaken by candidates who require further foundational work before entering into the Research Phase of the Doctoral programme.

**Workload:** 60 credits (full-time).

## Programme of Study

The programme of study is comprised of six seminar courses from the palette of postgraduate seminar courses offered in any academic year. Three courses shall be taken in each semester, and the standard course requirements and assignment submission deadlines will apply. The courses are chosen in consultation with the Dean of Postgraduate Studies at the beginning of the academic year.

## Progression to PhD

Candidates who gain an aggregate 2:1 (60% or higher) may progress to the Doctoral Research Phase. Candidates who do not achieve the required 2:1 may graduate with a Postgraduate Diploma in Theology.

*Note:* Candidates who have not fulfilled the theological languages requirement for the PhD may do so during the Foundation Phase.

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# Masters Qualifying Year

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The Masters Qualifying Year is a bridging programme, offering a blend of taught, reading and research modules. It is designed to be adaptable to the needs of the student while providing opportunities to attain the practices and standards needed for Postgraduate Study.

**Workload:** 60 credits (full-time). Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be granted.

## Programme of Study

Students follow the Higher Diploma in Theological Studies programme with two dedicated Seminar Courses

### OR

The Qualifying Year is organised according to individualised ‘learning plans,’ drawn up by the Dean of Postgraduate Studies, the Registrar and the student. The purpose of the ‘learning plan’ is to empower the student to address their academic needs, while reaching the criteria for acceptance into a Masters programme. The *Learning Plan* is drawn from the module categories below, from which up to 6 modules are chosen:

- **Taught Courses – one in each semester**

Taken from the Undergraduate programme or the Higher Diploma in Theological Studies. *Assessment:* Paper 3000 words

- **Reading Course – one in each semester**

Guided reading directed by a mentor **or** Students may also opt for one of the major essays in BATH programme in any particular year. *Assessment:* Paper 3000 words

- **Masters Qualifier Seminar – Core course - semester 1**

Research, evaluation and discussion of given readings

*Assessment:* In-class Presentations and Paper 2000 words

- **Integrative Seminar – Core course - semester 2**

To be completed with a mentor during the Second Semester

*Assessment:* Paper 5000 words

## Progression to Masters

Candidates who gain an aggregate 2:1 (60% or higher) are eligible to apply for a Masters programme.

### Fees

As the Masters Qualifying Year (MQY) is in the service of academic progress, a proportion of the MQY fees are considered as a contribution towards one's Masters fees. Details may be obtained from the Accounts Office.

For further information on any of the programmes listed above contact:  
Postgraduate Admissions Office  
St Patrick's Pontifical University  
Maynooth, County Kildare  
IRELAND

[www.sppu.ie](http://www.sppu.ie)

Email: [pgadmissions@spcm.ie](mailto:pgadmissions@spcm.ie) / [postgraduate@spcm.ie](mailto:postgraduate@spcm.ie)

Telephone: Ireland: 01-708-3391 / 01-708-3600

International: +353-1-708-3391/ +353-1-708-3600



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# Higher Diploma in Theological Studies

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*Programme Co-ordinator:* Prof. Séamus O'Connell

This one-year Level 8, 60 ECTS credits, programme provides a foundation in Theological Studies for students who hold a primary degree in another discipline. The Higher Diploma in Theological Studies meets all the requirements of the *Teaching Council of Ireland* for the teaching of Religious Studies at post-primary level. It entitles teachers holding degrees recognised by the Department of Education in the Republic of Ireland, as well as those holding teacher training qualifications, to teach *Religious Education* for up to 15 hours per week in a secondary school.

The programme may also be of interest and value to those who seek a structured approach to reflecting in a theological key upon the significant questions of life, to those who looking to delve more deeply into the theological thrust and existential demands of Catholic tradition, or to adults who wish to embrace greater responsibility, or take a more active role in their local church community. It is offered in two modes: a *hybrid mode*—consisting of online lectures on one evening each week and six on-campus residentials over the course of the academic year, and a *daytime mode*—consisting of on-campus lectures over three weekdays.

The Higher Diploma in Theological Studies from St. Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth attests to the completion of a substantial and coherent programme of learning. The Higher Diploma allows students to finish an accredited introductory programme in theology and to obtain a credential for it. The programme may, in due course, qualify other students to apply for Masters programmes in Theology or Pastoral Ministry, either at the Pontifical University or elsewhere.\*

As St. Patrick's Pontifical University has the largest faculty of Catholic theology in Great Britain and Ireland, it can offer a complete curriculum of core theological and religious studies courses, as well as a broad offering of electives, which address the specific academic interests and professional needs of the various students. They include:

- *A general introduction to theology*, providing the necessary foundations for an academic engagement with theology in accordance with St. Anselm's maxim of "faith seeking understanding."
- *An introduction to the study of the Bible*, which through the study of particular Old Testament and New Testament books, explores the nature and significance of Jewish and Christian Scripture, the origins of the Bible, its literary forms, as well as its interpretation and significance today.
- *Systematic Theology*, which studies the meaning and implications of the core faith-affirmations of Christianity concerning God, Jesus, Church, and

relationship of the human and the divine, and *Foundations of Worship* which presents a critical exploration of the character and history of Christian Liturgy

- *Moral Theology*, which explores the experience of morality and, in particular, the bearing of Christian faith on the moral and ethical living. Specific themes include: conscience, making moral decisions, the Bible and morality, bioethics, justice, morality and law, ethics in public life, peace and war, and ecology.
- The *History of Early Christianity* from the perspectives of both its origins and contemporary experience, as well as *World Religions*, which examines major world religions both in their own terms and their relationship to Christianity, and *Secular Belief Systems* and *Philosophy of Religion* which look at Christian and secular thought engages with the challenges and legitimate questions other belief systems.
- *Foundations in Religious Education*, which provides students with an introduction to the meaning, tradition and contemporary practice of religious education with a particular focus both on the teaching of Religious Education at post-primary level, with particular—but not exclusive—reference to Catholic Education.
- *Prayer and Praxis in East and West* is an academic and practical introduction to the richness of and variety of Christian prayer—the authentic existential engagement with the mystery of God’s embrace of all humanity.

### **Admission Requirements**

- A primary degree or its equivalent is required. Consideration will be given to all applications;
- Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements. See here for more information: <https://sppu.ie/english-language-requirements>;
- As this course is delivered in a hybrid manner with much of the content being given on-line, students are required to have basic academic computer skills and have access to a computer and the internet;
- St Patrick’s Pontifical University also accepts applications to its programmes from all prospective students who possess the ability, knowledge and experience through its widening participation schemes. The University operates a *Recognised Prior Learning* (RPL) and *Prior Experiential Learning* (RPEL) scheme which recognises relevant prior learning and experience for admission and/or credit purposes. Full details are available on the University website.

## Timetable

### *Hybrid Mode*

- Online lectures every Wednesday evening during term from 6.30–9.30 p.m. *and*
- Six on-campus weekend residentials (*Friday 6pm /Saturday 5pm*) in the course of the academic year; three in first semester, and three in second semester.

### *Daytime Mode*

- Fifteen hours on-campus per week, comprising of lecture and tutorials, over three days, according to the lecture timetables of the Pontifical University and Maynooth University.

## Programme of Study

### Hybrid Mode

Course Code	Title	Lecturer(s)	Semester	Credits
<b>Systematic Theology</b>				
ST08404	Understanding Jesus Today	Meszaros, A.	1	5
ST08405	Reason, Faith, and Revelation	Furnal	1	5
ST08403	The Church and its Sacraments	Scerri	2	5
ST08406	Grace and Anthropology	Meszaros, J.	2	2.5
<b>Moral Theology</b>				
MR08405	Introduction to Moral Theology	Winright	1	2.5
MR08403	Catholic Social Teaching	Hargaden	2	5
<b>Sacred Scripture</b>				
SC08400	The Bible and Its Worlds	O’Connell	1	5
SC08401	The Old Testament: Moses, David, Isaiah, and Beyond	O’Riordan	1	5
SC08403	The New Testament: Searching for the Fine Pearls	Macnamara	2	5

<b>General Courses</b>				
TS08112	Early Church History	Woods	1	2.5
LI08400	Foundations of Worship	O'Donoghue	2	5
TS08114	Philosophy of Religion and Secular Thought	Kerr	2	2.5
TS08111	Introduction to World Religions	Grishin	2	5
<b>Elective</b>				
TS08115	Engaging the Real • Prayer and Praxis in East and West	Mellett and O'Connell	1	5
OR				
TS08109	Foundations of Religious Education	Sheridan	1	5

### Daytime Mode

Learners register to take a minimum of 60 ECTS.

<b>Course Code</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Lecturer(s)</b>	<b>Semester</b>	<b>Credits</b>
<b>Systematic Theology</b>				
ST08114	Ecclesiology	TBC	1	5
ST08120	Or Theological Anthropology	Furnal	1	5
FC08101	Revelation, Faith and Culture	Conway	1	5
ST08109	Christology and Redemption	Mezaros	2	5
<b>Moral Theology</b>				
MR08121	Introduction to Moral Theology	Corkery	1	5
MR08340	Bioethics	Corkery	2	2.5
<b>Sacred Scripture</b>				
SC08139	<i>Tolle Lege</i> (Introduction to Critical Biblical Study)	Corley	1	2.5
SC08336	The Human God	O'Connell	1	5
SC08135	The Beginnings of God's People	Corley	2	5
SC08337	Ecology and the Old Testament	Mellett	2	2.5

<b>General Courses</b>				
EH08250	Early Church History	Woods	1	5
LI08151	Introduction to Liturgy	Tracey	2	5
<b>Elective</b>				
PY08139	Academic Writing		1	5
PY08151	Philosophy of Aquinas		2	5
PY08149	History of Contemporary Philosophy		2	5
PY08124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking		2	5
AN169	Anthropology Matters (MU)	Cervinkova and Maguire	2	7.5

\*Students considering application to a Masters programme are advised to explore and clarify the pertinent admission requirements with the relevant Admissions Office before undertaking the *Higher Diploma in Theological Studies*.