

# HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

## Programme Specification

<b>1. Title: MA Biblical Studies</b>	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MA Biblical Studies
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	Postgraduate Diploma in Biblical Studies <i>To receive a postgraduate diploma students must complete four taught modules.</i>  Postgraduate Certificate in Biblical Studies
6. Mode(s) of study	Full time and part-time
7. Normal duration of Programme	One year full-time, two years part-time
8	
9. External reference points used to develop this programme	The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland 2008
10. Date of production or revision of this specification	Reviewed and updated 30 <sup>th</sup> April 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Ann Jeffers
<b>12. Brief description of this programme</b>	
<p>The programme provides an opportunity for advanced study of Biblical texts, with an emphasis on current methodologies. It develops students' critical skills to interpret biblical texts in the context both of the ancient world and of modern society.</p> <p>It is envisaged that this MA programme will be of interest to a wide group of people: primarily to teachers and to those involved in church-related ministries, as well as those who have a particular interest in textual study of biblical literature. It is also envisaged that this programme would be of interest as part of ongoing education for ministers.</p>	
<b>13. Relationship to staff research</b>	
<p>A very substantial proportion of staff are active researchers within the disciplines in which they teach. Many optional modules directly reflect the research interests of the module teacher.</p>	
<b>14. Programme Aims</b>	
<p>The programmes aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. To provide a programme of biblical studies suitable for master's level, which will establish sound critical skills for the reading of biblical texts.</li> <li>2. To engage the student in a number of parallel reading methodologies with regard to Old and New Testaments.</li> <li>3. To offer students opportunities both for detailed textual work and for examining the historical and cultural contexts in which biblical books were written and read.</li> <li>4. To offer students opportunities for contextualising biblical material in the contemporary world.</li> <li>5. To develop the skills of students in collecting and processing relevant material for personal study in this subject area.</li> <li>6. To develop the skills of students in both oral presentation of ideas and in the capacity to produce formal written presentations of work.</li> </ol>	

## 15. Learning outcomes

The **MA Biblical Studies (Level 7)** provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

### Knowledge and Understanding

By the end of the programme, competent and diligent students can expect to attain the following:

LO1	Approach the reading of bible texts in a thoroughly critical manner.
LO2	Demonstrate a sound understanding of a number of different methodologies for reading biblical material and be able to apply these to the reading of given texts
LO3	Engage at master's level in detailed textual exegesis
LO4	Demonstrate a critical understanding of the historical, social and religious contexts of biblical material, both ancient and modern.
LO5	Conduct personal study projects in biblical material at master's level
LO6	Present successfully formal written presentations in the area of biblical studies.

### Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student will be able to:

LO7	analyse and synthesise complex key concepts and theories
LO8	identify, gather and analyse material from a wide range of sources to inform research
LO9	the ability to make sound judgements in the absence of complete data.

### Practical and transferable skills

The practical and transferable skills which are fostered are:

LO10	Effective use of Communication and Information Technology (CIT)
LO11	The capacity for independent thought and study.
LO12	The ability to analyse and evaluate complex ideas
LO13	The ability to present their own ideas both verbally and in writing.
LO14	The ability to use bibliographical resources and to conduct personal investigation
LO15	The skill to use secondary, critical material responsibly

<b>16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE</b>			
<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Code</b>	<b>Level</b>	<b>Credit tariff</b>
<b>Compulsory Core Modules</b> ( <i>must normally be taken in the first year of study</i> )			
Critical Aspects of Biblical Interpretation I (OT)	BIB411	7	30
Critical Aspects of Biblical Interpretation II (NT)	BIB412	7	30
<b>Optional Modules</b>			
<i>One of the following:</i>			
Women in the OT and the Intertestamental Era	BIB505	7	30
Second Temple Judaism: Texts and Traditions	BIB506	7	30
The Bible in the Life of the Church	BIB511	7	30
<b>AND</b> <i>One of the following:</i>			
Reading 1 Corinthians	BIB504	7	30
Critical Reading of Mark's Gospel	BIB507	7	30
<i>Students may replace ONE option with one of the following language modules, or with a module from another Masters Programme at the College, subject to prior agreement of both Programme Convenors. Biblical Hebrew is taught in the daytime, New Testament Greek is taught in the evening.</i>			
Introduction to Biblical Hebrew (2 terms)	BIB502	M	30
Introduction to New Testament Greek (2 terms)	BIB508	M	30
<b>Dissertation</b>	BIB599	M	60
<i>The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.</i>			

## **17. Admissions requirements**

An honours degree (normally 2.1 or above) in Religious Studies or any related subject. Students with degrees in non-related subject have to demonstrate reasonable knowledge of one Abrahamic religion or more.

For mature students, academic ability to undertake the programme may be considered on the basis of other evidence, including learning from experience, evidence of prior study or work at an appropriate level, references and interview.

Applicants whose first language is not English should have an IELTS score of 7.0 or equivalent.

## **18. Indicative Learning and Teaching activities**

May include:

Lectures, interactive lectures, seminars enabling group work and group discussions, individual or small group academic tutorials, individual learning, research and study, use of film or other audio visual aids, group activities, external visits, guest speakers.

## **19. Assessment strategy and indicative activities**

Students are assessed by means of a range of tasks which may include book reviews, essays of various lengths, essays written under examination conditions, unseen examinations and presentations. Essays and examination questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students pursue original thoughts and ideas and question opinions, and the organisational skills used to structure answers allows the transferable skills to be assessed. There are learning outcomes for each level of the programme, and assessment criteria at each level indicate the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Students submit coursework through the Virtual Learning Environment (Helios) and receive detailed on-line feedback or oral feedback in a tutorial

All coursework is moderated in accordance with College published procedures. All end-of-year essays and examinations are blind doubled marked and a selection of essays/script is sent to the external examiner.

## **20. Support for students and their learning**

Students can also access a range of support mechanisms through the college. All students are allocated a personal tutor who can offer guidance and refer the students to more specific support. The Student Development Manager can offer personal and academic support, including study skills and access to a range of student welfare proven, either in College or through the University of London. Support and guidance on academic matters is available from module convenors and programme convenors and also from the Heythrop Students' Union.

## **21. Student evaluation opportunities**

Students have a range of opportunities, both formal and informal, to evaluate their learning experiences. Informal means includes consulting individual members of staff, including their personal tutor, module leader, programme convener or staff in the Student Services Centre. Issues can be raised with the Heythrop Students' Union who can raise issues with the College on behalf of individuals or groups of students. Formal module evaluations are carried out. Taught postgraduate and research students have termly meetings to provide feedback to staff. Occasional consultations or evaluation exercises gain views on aspects of the student experience, and the College participates in external surveys such as the NSS, PRES and PTES.

## **22. Indicative time commitments**

Each module usually involves a weekly 2-hour seminar for one term, with the exception of a reading week in the middle of the term. There are therefore normally 11 x 2 class hours.

Student effort hours which are not spent in classes or tutorials are used for directed personal study – e.g. preparing for seminars, and some coursework tasks – and self-directed work – e.g. wider reading, some coursework tasks, the dissertation, and preparing for examinations.

## **23. Opportunities for graduates of this programme**

Some graduates progress to teacher training programmes or postgraduate study. Others use their knowledge of religion in the public or voluntary sectors. The transferable skills gained are invaluable in many professions.