

HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1. Title: MA Canon Law	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MA Canon Law
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	Postgraduate Diploma in Canon Law <i>To receive a postgraduate diploma students must complete four taught modules.</i> Postgraduate Certificate in Canon Law
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 April 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Helen Costigane
12. Brief description of this programme	
<p>The programme offers postgraduate study of Roman Catholic Canon Law. Its particular focus is prompted by renewed interest in Canon Law even outside ecclesiastical circles, in terms of consideration of the role of Church Law in the Western legal tradition. There is also interest within the churches, particularly the Anglican and Roman Catholic churches, in the wake of the Second Vatican Council and the subsequent revision of Canon Law.</p> <p>Those likely to find the programme useful include civil lawyers, theologians, priests and others engaged in parish work and religious education, and those working on marriage tribunals.</p>	
13. Relationship to staff research	
<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>	
14. Programme Aims	
<p>The programmes aim to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Provide a foundation in the origin and growth of the canon law and the ecclesiology embodied in the 1983 Code of Canon Law; 2. Provide an outline of the different genres in the Code of Canon Law, and an appreciation of the emergence of methods of interpretation; 3. Enable students to engage critically with the question of the role of law in the life and practice of the Church; 4. Enable a detailed exploration of some issues of significance in the Code of Canon Law; 5. Provide training in research in an appropriate field of the student's own choice. 	
15. Learning outcomes	
<p>The MA Canon Law (Level 7) provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:</p>	

Knowledge and Understanding

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

LO1	A critical and evaluative grasp of Canon Law and its relationship with other areas of theology.
LO2	A demonstrably competent knowledge of critical areas of Canon Law
LO3	An ability to apply, with insight, general principles of theory and method in particular situations.
LO4	A clear understanding of the contribution of Canon Law to the life and work of the Christian community.
LO5	The ability to carry out personal research, and to produce formal written work in the discipline at Master's level.

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student will be able to:

LO6	Analyse and synthesise complex key concepts and ideas.
LO7	Identify, gather and analyse material from a wide range of sources to inform research.
LO8	Make sound judgements concerning research findings and the relevance of their application.

Practical and transferable skills

The practical and transferable skills which are fostered are:

LO9	The ability for independent thought, expressed in discussion and in writing.
LO10	The ability to discuss in an open-minded way issues where there are deeply held differences of opinion
LO11	The ability to analyse, evaluate and present both one's own and others' ideas, including the work of scholars
LO12	The ability to use bibliographical resources, including electronic resources, and to conduct research
LO13	The ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks where there are a wide variety of resources and approaches available.

16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Module title	Code	Level	Credit tariff
Compulsory Core Modules			
General Introduction to Canon Law	CAN401	M	30
Marriage in Canon Law	CAN402	M	30
The People of God	CAN504	M	30
Sacramental Law	CAN505	M	30
Dissertation	CAN599	M	60

The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.

17. Admissions requirements

Applicants must normally have a first or second class honours degree in Theology, Religious Studies or Law. Other equivalent qualifications may be considered.

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 postgraduate study. Others use their knowledge of in the church, public or voluntary sectors. Those likely to find the programme useful include civil lawyers, theologians, priests and others engaged in parish work and religious education, and those working on marriage tribunals. The transferable skills gained are invaluable in many professions.