

HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1. Title: MA Christian Spirituality	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MA Christian Spirituality
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	<p>Postgraduate Diploma in Christian Spirituality <i>To receive a Postgraduate Diploma students must pass four taught modules.</i></p> <p>Postgraduate Certificate in Christian Spirituality <i>To receive a Postgraduate Certificate students must pass two taught modules.</i></p>
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	Updated May 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Edward Howells
12. Brief description of this programme	
<p>The programme aims both to offer a conceptual/intellectual framework for the study of Christian spirituality and to develop the knowledge and skills appropriate to an informed, intelligent and critical examination of the Christian spiritual tradition and of contemporary manifestations of Christian spiritual belief and practice.</p> <p>It is envisaged that this MA programme will be of interest to a wide group of people: primarily those in ministry, and teachers of religious education, but also others whose professional life or vocational work involves religious questions. It is suited to people from a broad range of Christian traditions, both lay and ordained, who are or hope to be engaged in ministry, as well as to those who wish to study Christian spirituality at postgraduate level for personal enrichment.</p> <p>Part-time evening study and the range of options enable the programme to be widely accessible and the meet a range of individual interests.</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. To progress in critical understanding and knowledge of selected aspects of the Christian spiritual traditions. 2. To explore and evaluate selected contemporary manifestations of Christian spiritual belief and practice. 3. To develop a critical understanding of what is called religious experience, and of the different 	

- approaches to Christian spirituality.
4. To understand, gain and develop the analytical, interpretative and communicative skills appropriate to this area of study.
 5. To undertake research in Christian spirituality appropriate to Master's level.

15. Learning outcomes

The **MA Christian Spirituality (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	A critical appreciation of the variety of approaches to the study of spirituality and of key assumptions in different spiritual beliefs and practices.
LO2	A demonstrably competent knowledge, with due attention to historical and cultural context, of selected historical and contemporary texts and other sources in Christian spirituality.
LO3	A clear understanding of some of the key theological, psychological and other issues which, whether implicitly or explicitly, are relevant to the theory and practice of Christian spirituality.
LO4	The ability to undertake research in Christian spirituality, and to develop an argument and produce formal written work in the discipline, at Master's level.

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student will be able to:

LO5	Analyse and synthesise key concepts and ideas.
LO6	Apply, with insight, key concepts in particular situations.
LO7	Identify, gather and analyse material from a wide range of sources to inform research.
LO8	Make sound judgments 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 writing
LO10	The ability to discuss in groups, 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 Module:			
Foundations for the Study of Christian Spirituality	SPR401	7	30
Optional Modules (choose 3)			
Patterns of Spiritual Growth and Personal Transformation	SPR501	7	30
The History of Christian Mysticism to the Reformation	SPR504	7	30
The Franciscan Spiritual Tradition: Faith, Reason and Spirituality	SPR508	7	30
Spirituality and Society	SPR509	7	30
Spiritual Direction in the Tradition of Ignatius of Loyola	SPR510	7	30
Moral Imagination, Art and Spirituality	CET506	7	30
Spirituality, Religion and Ethics in Contemporary Healthcare	CET505	7	30
Theology of Religious Life	PAS520	7	30
Dissertation	SPR599	7	60
<i>The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.</i>			

17. Admissions requirements

A first or second class honours degree, or equivalent, either in Theology or in another subject appropriate to the study of Christian Spirituality

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 or 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.