

HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1. Title: MA Pastoral Theology	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MA Pastoral Theology
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	<p>Postgraduate Diploma in Pastoral Theology <i>To receive a postgraduate diploma students must complete four taught modules.</i></p> <p>Postgraduate Certificate in Pastoral Theology <i>To receive a postgraduate certificate students must complete 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	May 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr James Sweeney
12. Brief description of this programme	
<p>The special quality of the MA Pastoral Theology is in integrating theory and practice, theology and experience, faith and action. For those already in the thick of practical pastoral work, it presents a framework for reading and study to bring those elements together. The MA is suitable for those in, or preparing for, ministry in the Christian churches, whether ordained or not. It is also relevant for teachers, counsellors, therapists, health care professionals or those in the legal profession.</p> <p>The MA aims to promote reflection on the relationships between faith, humanity, experience, practice, professional and working life, church, culture, social context and theology, taking account of different traditions. Through honing skills of analysis and reflection, it aims to develop your capacity for ongoing systematic theological reflection on experience, pastoral ministry and the specific situations of your life and work.</p> <p>Several of the academic staff contribute their expertise to an introductory foundation module, which includes a guidance session on essay writing. You then have an opportunity to choose from a varied range of options. A second foundational module – Religion: Context and Crisis – addresses the crucial topic of the social context and its relationship to theology. You then have the opportunity to choose from a varied range of options, including modules on Mission and Ministry, the Bible in the Life of the Church, Liturgy and Religious Life.</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

The programmes aim to:

1. Foster critical examination of Christian life and ministry, both individual and corporate, recognising differences between Christian traditions;
2. Promote reflection on the relationships between faith, humanity, experience, practice, professional and working life, church, culture, social context and theology;
3. Enable students to develop a capacity for systematic theological reflection on live experience, pastoral ministry and the specific situations of their life and work.

15. Learning outcomes

The **MA Pastoral Theology (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	Skills in theology, and in the interpretation of biblical and ecclesial texts, as well as other disciplines relevant to the critical study of Christian practice
LO2	An informed awareness of different accounts of pastoral theology drawing on insights from ecclesial sources and both theological and non-theological disciplines.
LO3	Ability to discuss critically issues in selected areas of Christian practice
LO4	A more developed ability to reflect critically on their own experience of Christian life and ministry and to evolve theological insights on that basis.
LO5	A broadening and deepening of their pastoral and theological understanding of life and ministry in the Christian church.
LO6	An enhancement of their capacity to integrate pastoral experience with theological understanding
LO7	A development of reflective skills appropriate to particular areas of contemporary Christian life and ministry

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student will be able to:

LO8	Have the capacity for independent, critical thinking
LO9	Analyse and interpret complex key ideas and situations
LO10	Develop theoretical understanding on the basis of lived experience
LO11	Extrapolation and synthesis

Practical and transferable skills

The *practical and transferable skills* which are fostered are:

LO12	The ability to present one's own ideas persuasively, both orally and in writing
LO13	The ability to use bibliographical resources and conduct research
LO14	The ability to use secondary, critical material responsibly
LO15	The ability to work in small learning groups
LO16	The ability to use bibliographical resources and conduct research

16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

This MA programme comprises four modules and a dissertation. Students complete two compulsory core modules and two optional modules.

Module Title	Code	Level	Credit tariff
Compulsory General Core Module:			
Foundations in Pastoral Studies	PAS414	7	30
Compulsory Module:			
Religion – Context and Crisis	PAS415	7	30
Optional Modules:			
The Bible in the Life of the Church	BIB511	7	30
Symbol and Ritual	PAL503	7	30
Theology of Religious Life	PAS520	7	30
Mission and Ministry	PAS521	7	30
One optional module may be taken from another MA programme (Contemporary Ethics / Christian Spirituality / Psychology of Religion / Canon Law / Christian Theology), subject to approval by the programme convenor.		7	30
DISSERTATION			
Dissertation in Pastoral Theology	PAS599	7	60
<i>The topic of the Dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.</i>			
A fourth module for each pathway can be any module from the modules listed above not already taken or, by agreement, a module from another MA programme.			

17. Admissions requirements

An honours degree or equivalent, in an appropriate subject. It is not essential for the first degree to be in philosophy or theology.

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. For those already in the thick of practical pastoral work, it presents a framework for reading and study to bring those elements together. The MA is suitable for those in, or preparing for, ministry in the Christian churches, whether ordained or not. It is also relevant for teachers, counsellors, therapists, health care professionals or those in the legal profession.