

Programme Specification

1. Title: MRes Biblical Studies	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MRes
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	PGCert, PGDip
6. Mode(s) of study	Full time and Part time
7. Normal duration of Programme	One year full time; 2-3 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	March 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Jonathan Norton
12. Brief description of this programme	
<p>The programme is designed to enable students to develop enhanced research skills in biblical studies and associated areas of textual analysis, providing a clear progression of advancement in academic skills useful for research in these areas. Teaching will be research led. That is, specialisms of the Biblical Studies staff that are too advanced to teach in UG classes and the MA Biblical Studies — especially skills associated with textual criticism and ancient manuscripts; intertextuality and translation—will be offered to advanced Research MA students, equipping them with rare textual skills that will enhance both their own doctoral research and Heythrop’s research ethos.</p>	
13. Relationship to staff research	
<p>It builds on strong staff research in biblical studies and the study of texts and will develop advanced research skills in textual reading and analysis. Staff in biblical studies have a strong research profile. All four biblical studies staff have recently published books and articles in the field. In particular Dr Gilfillan-Upton, Sean Ryan and Jonathan Norton have published research on textual criticism, early Christian and Jewish manuscripts and papyrology— subjects rarely taught on university UG and MA courses.</p>	
14. Programme Aims	
<p>The programme aims to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To provide a programme of biblical studies suitable for research master’s level, which will establish critical and research skills essential for doctoral research 	
15. Learning outcomes	
<p>The MRes in Biblical Studies (Level 7) provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:</p>	
Knowledge and Understanding	
<p>By the end of the programme, competent and diligent students can expect to attain the following:</p>	
LO1	To engage the student in reading methodologies with regard to Old and/or New Testaments essential for his/her proposed doctoral project;
LO2	To offer students opportunities for contextualising biblical material in the contemporary

	world;		
Intellectual and Cognitive Skills			
A student will be able to:			
LO3	Develop research skills required for research into texts		
LO4	Develop skills in the disciplines of detailed textual work and advanced awareness of the historical and cultural contexts of the primary ancient material		
Practical and transferable skills			
The practical and <i>transferable skills</i> which are fostered are:			
LO5	Work in biblical languages at a standard supportive of advanced research		
LO6	Develop skills of oral presentation at a standard suited to doctoral research seminars & professional conferences		
LO7	Develop the skills in the production of formal written presentations of work at an professional academic standard		
16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE			
Module Title	Code	Level	Credit tariff
Research methods in Biblical Studies	tba	7	30
Choose two or three from the following: **			
Critical Aspects of Biblical Interpretation I (OT)	BIB411	7	30
Critical Aspects of Biblical Interpretation II (NT)	BIB412	7	30
Reading 1 Corinthians	BIB504	7	30
Women in the Old Testament & the Intertestamental Era	BIB505	7	30
Second Temple Judaism: Texts & Traditions	BIB506	7	30
A Critical Reading of Mark's Gospel	BIB507	7	30
The Bible in the Life of the Church	BIB511	7	30
Choose one from the following **			
New Testament Greek	BIB508	7	30
Classical Hebrew	BIB502	7	30

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 6.5 or equivalent.

18. Indicative Learning and Teaching activities

These may include lectures, interactive lectures, seminars enabling group work and group discussions, textual analysis activities, 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 relevant to the subject matter. These might include textual exercises and essays. Work is marked and moderated in line with College procedures and feedback will be given on assessed work in line with College policies.

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 provision, 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, and student representatives can attend a student staff liaison committee for undergraduate students. Occasional consultations or evaluation exercises gain views on aspects of the student experience, and the College participates in external surveys.

22. Indicative time commitments

For each 30 credit module, students receive two hours of teaching per week for 21 weeks and 90 minutes of tutorial time. Each 30 credit module represents 300 student effort hours. For each 15 credit module students receive two hours of teaching per week for 10 weeks (Michaelmas Term) or 11 weeks (Lent Term) and 60 minutes of tutorial time. Each 15 credit module represents 150 student effort hours. Each academic year represents 1,200 student effort hours. The whole programme represents 3,600 student effort 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

Advanced textual analysis and critical reading valued by employers in a number of careers, for example, the legal profession, departments of the civil service or think tanks. Detailed understanding of the bible will support those in ministry or who go on to research and or teach theology.