HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1. Title: MTh (Master of Theology)

2, Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MTh
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	PG Certificate, PG Diploma
6. Mode(s) of study	Full time and part-time
7. Normal duration of Programme	2 years full time, 3-4 years part time
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9. External reference points used to develop this programme	QAA Quality Code, Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, Bologna HE requirements, Congregation of Catholic Education requirements for the STL
10. Date of production or revision of this specification	December 2012
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Michael Kirwan

12. Brief description of this programme

The programme is designed to enable students to undertake detailed and advanced study of the central teachings of Christianity through compulsory and optional modules and a dissertation. By undertaking a greater proportion of research skills than a one year Masters' programme students are supported in preparing for research degrees.

13. Relationship to staff research
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.

14. Programme Aims
The programmes aim to:
* To provide an advanced knowledge in the central teachings of Christianity.
* To provide the conceptual tools necessary to understand the Christian teachings about God, Jesus Christ, salvation, grace, Church and Israel.
* To ensure that students acquire detailed knowledge on how to relate Biblical and doctrinal traditions and their modern interpretations
* To enable a detailed exploration of some issues of particular significance within the contemporary Christian context, especially the significance of Jesus Christ for human life and destiny.

15. Learning outcomes

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 the overall shape of systematic theology.
LO2	a demonstrably competent knowledge of critical areas in Christian theology: Trinity, Christology and soteriology.
LO3	an ability to apply, with insight, hermeneutical principles in relation to ancient texts.
LO4	an understanding of the theological, ecclesiological and social factors in the relation of Christianity to Judaism.
LO5	the ability to carry out personal research and produce formal written work within the subject area.

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

A student will be able to demonstrate:

LO6	The ability to analyse and synthesise key concepts and ideas
LO7	An ability to apply, with insight, key concepts in particular situations
LO8	The ability to identify, gather and analyse material from a range of sources to inform research
LO9	The ability to 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:

LO10	The ability for independent thought, expressed in writing (the end-of-year essays and the dissertation are the main instruments for training in this area)
LO11	The ability to discuss in groups, in an open-minded way, issues where there are deeply held differences of opinion
LO12	The ability to analyse, evaluate and present clearly both one's own and others' ideas, including the work of original philosophical thinkers who deal with religion
LO13	The ability to use bibliographical resources, including electronic resources, and to conduct research (the dissertation is the main instrument for training in this area)
LO14	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			
Central Themes in Christian Theology	CTH412	7	30
Research Skills in Theology	RES401	7	30
Oral Examination	CTH598	7	30
Dissertation	CTH599	7	60
The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.			
Optional Modules			
These are normally chosen from the following list:			
Christianity in Dialogue	CIR402	7	30
Foundations of Ethics	CET401	7	30
Moral Imagination, Art and Spirituality	CET506	7	30
Augustine and the Christian Tradition	CTH411	7	30
The Bible in the Life of the Church	BIB511	7	30
Critical Aspects of Biblical Interpretation I (Old Testament)	BIB411	7	30
Critical Aspects of Biblical Interpretation II (New Testament)	BIB412	7	30
Foundations of Pastoral Theology	PAS414	7	30
Religion: Context and Crisis	PAS415	7	30
Foundations for the Study of Spirituality	SPR401	7	30
History of Christian Mysticism to the Reformation	SPR504	7	30
Any other MA module available at Heythrop College can be chosen as an optional module, but this is possible **ONLY** on condition that the module is in line with the overall aims of this degree and the choice is approved by the Programme Convenor.			

1. During their **first year**, full-time students normally take CT412 Central Themes in Christian Theology and the three optional modules. All end-of-year essays for these modules are due by mid-June, as stipulated by the College for all MA modules.
2. During their **second year**, full-time students normally take RES401 Research Methods in Theology during Michaelmas Term so as to concentrate fully on their dissertation during Lent and Summer Terms.
3. For part-time students, it is highly recommended that they include in their final year of study the module on Research Skills. Their overall study plan should be worked out in consultation with the Programme Convenor.

17. Admissions requirements

An applicant is normally required to have a UK bachelors degree in a relevant subject with a pass at 2.1 (Upper second) or above, or an equivalent award from an oversees institution.

Any student whose first language is not English is required to have passed an English Language proficiency test at 6.5 IELTS or the equivalent.

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.

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.

This programme employs three key learning and teaching methods:
- Lectures and other input from lecturers provide an overall perspective on the subject and enable students to engage with the material with a variety of different understandings;
- Directed reading and investigation contribute to the completion of seminars and assessment tasks.
- Tutorials contribute to deepening and widening understanding.

19. Assessment strategy and indicative activities

Assessment methods for this programme include book reviews, portfolio of studies, essays, dissertation, final oral examination.

The pass mark for all assessments is 50%. Students are assessed by means of a range of tasks, including an oral examination, which 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 the programme, and assessment criteria indicate the level at which these skills have been achieved. Students submit coursework through the Virtual Learning Environment (Helios) and receive on-line feedback. Tutorials are an opportunity for face-to-face feedback and with a specialist in the subject. In some cases students may receive feedback in advance of submitting the final version of their work. This applies mainly to longer essays submitted at the end of an academic year. All coursework is moderated in accordance with College published procedures. 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. Academic staff can offer guidance and refer the students to more specific support. The Student Support 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 module leader, module leader, programme convenor or staff in the Student Services Centre. Issues can be raised with the Heythrop Students' Union who can raise matters with the College on behalf of individuals or groups or students. Formal module evaluations are carried out, and student

representatives are elected for all programmers. 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

Full time students will spend approximately 2 hours scheduled contact time per module per week in scheduled classes. In addition students will undertake 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
This programme will enable students to undertake a range of careers, and also prepare students for academic research.