Chapter IV

Post Graduate Degree Programmes

in the

Faculty of Theology

at the

Pontifical University

Stoyte House, where Saint Patrick's College was founded in 1795

Licentiate in Divinity

Director: Rev Dr Michael Shortall

To obtain the Licentiate in Divinity (STL), two years' full time specialised study is required. The course and degree are designed for candidates who have attained honours standard, *magna cum laude*, in their previous theological studies. A part-time option is also possible. Part-time candidates may, with the approval of the Director, take the course over three or four years.

Admission Requirements

In order to register for courses leading to the degree of Licentiate in Divinity, a candidate must

- hold at least a Baccalaureate in Divinity, second honours, Grade I (*magna cum laude*) or, what in the judgement of the Faculty is regarded as an equivalent standard of theological study.
- meet the criteria for Greek, Hebrew and/or Latin as outlined under Language Requirements below.
- satisfy the English language requirements, if the candidate's first language is not English.

Programme of Study

The programme comprises the following:

Year 1
Seminar Courses
Full-time candidates usually take four seminar courses in year one.

Reading Courses
Candidates select two reading courses from the list of courses on offer. Candidates must take courses from two different theological disciplines.

Research Colloquium
Formal colloquium presentation

Year 2
Seminar Courses
Full-time candidates usually take two seminar courses in year two.

Reading Courses

Candidates take one reading course in the theological discipline of their specialization.

Reading Courses are to convene at least once per month during the academic year (i.e., *at least* 6 meetings). Reading Courses are to be assessed by a variety of means: end-of-semester papers and a formal colloquium presentation. Each paper is to be of 3000 words, making a total of 6000 words per reading course. The STL Programme Director, in consultation with those offering the suite of reading courses, is to ensure variety and balance in the means of assessment.

The full list of seminar courses is to be found on the following pages. Please note that the courses *Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* and *The Soul of Theology* are obligatory.
Part-time candidates agree an initial schedule of seminar courses with the Programme Director.

Seminar courses are normally assessed by assignment(s) of c.7,000 words. Variations may be approved by the Director in consultation with the Postgraduate Board.

Scriptum

Each candidate shall prepare a *scriptum* or dissertation under the direction of a member of the Faculty, on a topic approved by the Faculty. The *scriptum* shall be between 25,000 and 30,000 words in length, inclusive of footnotes but exclusive of bibliography and appendices. The *scriptum* is to be submitted by the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

The *scriptum* will be assessed in a 30-minute *viva voce* examination, in accordance with the regulations for *viva voce* examinations in the Pontifical University (see below, p. 127). The examiners shall be the Director of the *scriptum*, an internal reader, and an external reader appointed by the Faculty.
According to the Bologna Protocols, the STL is a 120 ECTS degree where, 30 ECTS are deemed to represent fulltime study for *one* semester. In this schema, the following credit weightings apply:

Taught Seminar Course	= 10 ECTS	[7000-word paper]
Reading Course	= 10 ECTS	[2 x 3000-word papers]
Dissertation	= 30 ECTS	[Dissertation + Viva]
Research Colloquium	= *Qualifier*	[Presentation]

Year 1: 4 SCs + 2 RCs + Research Colloquium   40+20   = 60 ECTS
Year 2: 2 SCs + 1 RC + Dissertation & Viva 20+10+30   = 60 ECTS

Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Assessment

The Final Assessment of the STL is based on:

- Reading Course assignments.
- Seminar Course assignments (as outlined in the respective module descriptors).
- The *Scriptum* and its *Viva Voce* examination.
- Any theological language courses, as well as the Research Colloquium are qualifying requirements and do not form part of the final assessment.

Doctoral Degree in Divinity

Admission Requirements

In order to register for courses leading to the Doctoral Degree in Divinity (DD/STD), a candidate must hold at least a Licentiate in Divinity (STL) second class honours, Grade I (*magna cum laude*) or what, in the judgement of the Faculty, is regarded as an equivalent standard of theological study. A basic knowledge of Greek and Hebrew is required, as well as an appropriate knowledge of two modern languages, see 'Language Requirements'. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology.

Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Programme of Study

- The doctoral dissertation, which forms the basis for granting the degree, must be a substantial and original piece of research in a theological area, offering a notable contribution to the advancement of the theological sciences.

- The dissertation must be prepared under the direction of a member of the Faculty on a topic approved by the Faculty.

- Candidates who have completed the STL programme in the Faculty are required only to take two further seminar courses in the Doctoral Foundation Year (or semester).

- Candidates who have not taken any special courses at the Faculty but have a Licentiate of the required standard must undertake the full Doctoral Foundation Year.

- At the end of the Doctoral Foundation Year, doctoral candidates will provide sufficient evidence of progress in the preparation of the dissertation to warrant continuance.

- Dissertations submitted by November 30th are accepted for examination by early spring. Those submitted by June 15th are accepted for examination in late summer. Examination at any other time may be considered only in exceptional circumstances, and by express leave of the Faculty.

- The dissertation shall be presented to the Director of Postgraduate Studies at least two months before the candidate may be admitted to defend it. In exceptional cases the Council of the Faculty may shorten the period required.

- Three copies of the dissertation are to be submitted in the first instance; these may be ring-bound. A hard-bound copy, incorporating any corrections which the examiners may require, must be submitted to the Library following successful defence of the work.

- All dissertations shall remain the property of the Pontifical University.

Public Examination (Doctoral Defence)

The public examination—termed the *Doctoral Defence*—shall be held in accordance with the code of practice for *viva voce* examinations in the Pontifical University (see below, p. 127), and comprise the following elements:

- A lecture, of 30 minutes duration, by the candidate on the topic, arguments and conclusions of the dissertation
- A defence of the dissertation for an hour against objections.
- An examination, of 30 minutes duration, on nine propositions chosen by the candidate and approved by the Council of the Faculty. Three propositions will be chosen from each subject area, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology and Sacred Scripture.

- At the end of the Defence, the Faculty shall vote firstly on whether the degree of doctor is to be awarded and secondly on what mark shall be given. Separate marks are given for the thesis and the propositions; the minimum mark is 65%. The marks are counted and an aggregate mark is awarded. This is not communicated to the candidate. The number of examiners from the Faculty at the examination shall be at least five.

Publication of Doctoral Dissertation

Before the Doctorate in Divinity can be conferred, the dissertation, or at least a substantial part thereof, must be published. Publication may take any of the following forms:

- Appearance as a book, or as an article in a recognised theological journal.

- Circulation of copies of the dissertation, or of a major excerpt, in printed form, or electronically, to the main ecclesiastical Faculties of Theology.

- Deposition of a copy of the dissertation in the John Paul II Library at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, together with notification of the fact through appropriate means of inter-library exchange.

Doctoral Degree in Theology

The Doctoral Degree of PhD in Theology is awarded to those who satisfactorily complete the course and research requirements for the Degree.

Admission Requirements

- A Master's Degree in Theology of at least Second Class Honours Grade I or its equivalent.
- The Faculty of Theology may also accept candidates whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard.
- A competence in at least two theological languages: Hebrew, Greek or Latin. A candidate who has not already attained an acceptable level of competence in theological languages is required to pass qualifying courses in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin (see 'Language Requirements').
- Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology.

Postgraduate Degree candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty. Upon registration, PhD candidates will be assigned a staff mentor to assist them in the Doctoral Foundation Year.

Progress at doctoral level demands a significant investment of time by the candidate in personal study and research. As such, study and research requires access both to resources that are frequently only available in research libraries, as well as easy access to the candidate's director or mentor, it is strongly recommended that doctoral candidates, *especially at the beginning of their studies*, spend at least *three days per week* on the Maynooth campus, during the semester.

Programme of Study

- Candidates must normally complete four years of fulltime study, the first year of which is termed the Doctoral Foundation Year.
- The Doctoral Foundation Year includes four postgraduate seminar courses. Two of these courses will normally be *Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* (PG 464) and *The Soul of Theology* (PG 442). Candidates who have recently completed these two courses as part of an STL or Masters in the Pontifical University are exempt.
- In order to be considered for progression to the second year of the doctoral programme, candidates are to achieve an aggregate 2:1 across these four

seminar courses. In the Second Semester of the Foundation Year, the candidate shall, with the guidance of a mentor or director, identify a topic of research interest, and present a brief outline to two nominees of the Postgraduate Board by June 15th. This research topic, is not a doctoral proposal, but rather a research area that creates direction and focus for the doctoral proposal.

- Normally, the doctoral proposal, which forms the basis of the doctoral dissertation, will be presented for approval to the Faculty of Theology during the second year of the doctoral programme.
- The doctoral dissertation, which forms the basis for the award of the degree, must be a substantial and original piece of research, which offers a notable contribution to the advancement of the theological sciences.
- The dissertation must be prepared under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, on a topic approved by the Faculty.
- Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of one modern continental European language (see 'Language Requirements').
- Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Code of Practice for the Conducting of *Viva Voce* Examinations

The *viva voce* examination (commonly known as the "*viva*") is the formal oral examination of a dissertation and constitutes a key part of the examination of the PhD, DD (STD), STL, and LPhil.

The purpose of the *viva* is to (i) verify that the dissertation is the candidate's own work, (ii) to confirm that the candidate understands what they have written and can defend it, (iii) to allow the candidate to clarify and develop the written dissertation in response to the examiners' questions, and (iv) to verbally investigate the candidate's awareness of where her (or his) original work sits in relation to the wider research field.

The Viva Voce *Examination in the PhD and Licentiate*

In the case of PhD and Licentiate examinations, two examiners—one internal to the Pontifical University and one external—examine the candidate *viva voce* on the dissertation she or he has submitted.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Postgraduate Studies, who may attend the *viva*, to (i) establish a mutually convenient date, time and venue for the *viva*, and (ii) to communicate information on the date, time and venue of the *viva* to both Examiners, to the Chair, and to the candidate.

The Viva Voce *Examination in the Doctorate in Divinity—the Doctoral Defence*

In the case of the degree of Doctorate in Divinity (STD or DD) the *viva voce* examination is usually termed the *defence*. The doctoral *defence* for the STD is a public examination, in the presence of the Council of the Faculty, at least five of whom shall be examiners. The *defence* is chaired by the Dean of the Faculty,* and has the following elements:

- a lecture by the candidate for half-an-hour on the topic, arguments and conclusions of the dissertation;
- a defence of the dissertation for an hour against objections;
- an examination for 30 minutes on nine propositions chosen by the candidate and approved by the Council of the Faculty. Three propositions will be chosen from each subject area, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology and Sacred Scripture.

At the end of the *defence*, the Faculty shall vote firstly on whether the degree of doctor is to be awarded, and secondly on what mark shall be given. Separate marks are given for the thesis and the propositions; the minimum mark is 65%. The marks

are counted and an aggregate mark is awarded. This is not communicated to the candidate.

It is the responsibility of the Director of Postgraduate Studies, to (i) establish an acceptable date, time and venue for the *defence*, and (ii) to communicate information on the date, time and venue to the candidate, and to the public.

*If the Dean is the supervisor of the dissertation being examined, the Faculty will appoint a member of the Council of the Faculty to act as Chair.

1 The Chair

In the Pontifical University *viva voce* examinations are chaired by an independent permanent member of the Council of the relevant faculty. The presence of an independent Chair is designed to ensure that integrity and fairness is maintained by all parties during the *viva voce* examination.

The relevant faculty, upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Board, appoints the Chair, when the dissertation has been submitted for examination to the Pontifical University Office. The Pontifical University Office forwards to each of the examiners a copy of the doctoral dissertation, together with a copy of the 300-word abstract, a report form, and a copy of the doctoral regulations. The candidate will also receive a copy of the doctoral regulations.

Prior to examination the Chair is responsible for:
- Ensuring receipt of the individual written reports from the Examiners in advance of the preliminary meeting.
- Collecting the necessary documentation from the Pontifical University Office.

During the viva voce examination the Chair is responsible for:
- Chairing the preliminary meeting of the Examiners and agreeing the structure, roles and format of the *viva voce* examination.
- Introducing all those present at the *viva voce* examination, including attempting to put all parties at their ease.
- Outlining the structure and format of the *viva voce* to the Examiners and candidates, and indicating the respective roles of the Chair, Supervisor, and Examiners.
- Intervening in the examining process only if there appears to be bias, misconduct or unfairness, or if the Examiners are diverting from the agreed format of the *viva voce* in such a manner as to disadvantage the candidate, or if the Chair believes the *viva voce* is progressing in a manner which could compromise the academic standards of the Pontifical University. Actions which might be taken include calling a temporary halt to the examination,

holding a private discussion with the Examiners or the candidate, or, most exceptionally, ending the examination.

- Asking the candidate if she or he is satisfied that the examination was conducted fairly. Should the candidate express any concerns in this regard, they shall be noted by the chair, and included in the documentation of the *viva*.
- Inviting the candidate, the supervisor, and the Director of Postgraduate Studies to leave the room for the duration of the examiners' deliberations.
- Chairing the post-*viva voce* discussion of the Examiners, and outlining and clarifying all possible recommendations.
- Ensuring the Examiners complete and sign the relevant forms at the end of the *viva*.

After the Examination the Chair is responsible for:

- Ensuring that a report on the recommendation of the Examiners (where necessary, indicating details of major/minor amendments required) is sent to the Director of Postgraduate Studies, the Pontifical University Office, and the supervisor.
- Presenting the Examiners' report to the relevant Faculty for approval.
- Providing information for any subsequent appeal procedure.

It is to be noted that the Chair is **not** responsible for:

- Having any knowledge of the subject of the dissertation, nor is s/he required to read the dissertation.

2 Criteria for the Appointment of Research Examiners (Internal and External)

External Examiners are appointed by the relevant Faculty, upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Board. Examiners should normally have the following qualities and competencies:

- Experience in supervising postgraduate candidates and in the examination process of such candidates;
- Formal academic qualification, normally at doctoral level, and/or a professional qualification or experience at an appropriate level and relevant to the area being examined;
- A willingness to respond to requests to read dissertations within specified time deadlines and to be available to attend such oral examinations and/or examiners meetings as are appropriate.

Examiners should not have a close personal relationship with other examiners, supervisors or a candidate, if it might be construed as entailing a conflict of interest.

2.1 Criteria for Appointment of External Examiners

For research awards, external examiners are appointed for specific dissertations. For doctoral candidates, external examiners should not normally be appointed more than twice in a four-year period; for Masters and STL dissertations, an external examiner is not to be appointed more than once per [academic] year. Such appointments may be made irrespective of external examiners' duties with regard to taught programmes.

External examiners should have recognised expertise in the subject matter of the dissertation being examined.
The external examiner should be independent of the university, of its internal examiners, supervisors, and of the candidates presenting themselves for examination. Thus, all external examiners:

- should normally be in the employ of a third level institution; recent *emeriti* (within three years or less) who are research active may also be considered;
- should not have been in the employ of the Pontifical University (in any capacity) in the three years prior to appointment;
- should not have been a student of the University in the three years prior to appointment;
- should not, in the past three years, have been a beneficiary of any bursary or remuneration from the University other than from posts such as external examiner, member of accreditation panel, member of quality review panel, member of recruitment/promotions panel or similar;
- should not have assisted/advised the postgraduate candidate on the work underpinning the preparation of his/her dissertation.

2.2 Criteria for the Appointment of Internal Examiners

The internal examiner should normally be a member of the Council of Faculty of the respective faculty in the Pontifical University who has the appropriate expertise in the candidate's subject area. If a faculty wishes to recommend nominees who do not satisfy this criterion, this should be highlighted in the nomination form and a case provided for consideration by faculty.

3 Examination of PhD Dissertation

3.1 Venue

The *viva* should normally be held on campus. In exceptional circumstances (for example, the
examination of students based overseas) the examination may be held elsewhere, provided the student agrees to the arrangement. Electronic conferencing may be used in some circumstances. The Pontifical University Office is to be consulted where use of electronic conferencing is considered.
Care should be taken in choosing the venue for the *viva* to ensure that the examination

can be conducted in an accessible, relaxed and comfortable atmosphere, without risk of interruption and extraneous noise.

3.2 The Dissertation Supervisor and the Viva Voce Examination

With the agreement of the examiners and the candidate, the supervisor may attend the examination, but does not question the candidate, and can only provide clarification on any matters when requested by the Board. The supervisor does not participate in the final decision and leaves the examination room while deliberations take place, unless asked to remain by the Chair.

3.3 Prior to the Examination

Prior to the *viva*, each examiner should separately complete an individual written report on the dissertation. The Chair will arrange a preparatory meeting to review the written reports (often on the same day but prior to the time scheduled for the candidate and their supervisor to attend), and to agree the approach of the examination. This preparatory meeting should allow sufficient time to (1) agree the approach of the *viva* and (2) review the written reports. The supervisor should normally be available for consultation with the examiners during this meeting.

3.4 Possible Outcomes of Viva Voce Examination

The examiners should not recommend awarding the doctoral degree unless they judge the work to be of a sufficient standard to be considered worthy for publication, in full or in part, as a work of serious scholarship.

3.4.1 Recommendation of Examiners Registration and Fee Implications (if any)

The examiners may recommend that the candidate should:

1   Be awarded the Doctorate degree without further examination or amendment.

    No further registration or fee required.

2   Be awarded the Doctorate degree without further examination, subject to making the changes specified which must be subsequently carried out to the satisfaction of the Internal Examiner (within a period of six months).

    No further registration or fee required.

3   Be awarded the Doctorate degree without further examination subject to making specified changes to the satisfaction of both Internal and External Examiners (applied where examiners estimate that more than eight weeks but less than six months additional work is required).

    No further fee or registration required.
    NOTE: if more than six months work is required, the candidate must re-register and a continuation fee will apply.

4   Not be awarded the Doctorate degree, but be permitted to re-submit the dissertation in a revised form for re-examination by the same examiners (applied where examiners estimate that there is more than six months additional work required). In this case areas requiring major amendments will be detailed by the Examiners in the examination.

The candidate will re-register for the duration of the period of revision. A continuation fee will apply.

5   Not be awarded the Doctorate degree and not be permitted to re-submit for re-examination for the Doctorate Degree.

No further registration permitted.

Where the degree is not awarded, but the candidate is permitted to re-submit the dissertation in a revised form for re-examination by the same examiners (category 4 above), the candidate must be registered in order for the revised dissertation to be accepted for re-examination. Normally the revised dissertation should be submitted within 12 months following the *viva*.

In the case where the examiners recommend that the Doctorate not be awarded and that the student not be permitted to re-submit for re-examination (category 5 above), the examiners may subsequently consider whether or not the work is sufficient for the award of a masters level degree. If they agree that a masters level award would be merited then a separate recommendation may be made in writing to that effect. Application of this option should be seen as exceptional, rather than as one of the usual possible outcomes of a doctoral examination.

3.5 After the Viva Voce *Examination*

If the examiners recommend that a Doctorate be awarded, the student must submit one hardbound copy of the dissertation, and one electronic copy (on memory stick or corresponding medium) in PDF format and comprising one file, exactly mirroring the hardbound copy and embodying any changes prescribed by the examiners.

The result of the *viva* report will not be considered by relevant Faculty until the hardbound copy and the electronic copy of the revised dissertation, incorporating the recommended changes and confirmed by the internal examiner (or internal and external examiner, as applicable depending on the outcome of the *viva*), have been lodged with the Pontifical University Office.

In the Faculty of Theology, where the opinions of the examiners differ, each examiner will submit a separate written report for consideration by the Postgraduate Board in the presence of the Registrar. This meeting of the Board will make a recommendation to the Faculty of Theology for approval.

NOTE: these regulations apply to the examination of dissertations submitted on, or after, November 1st 2020.

Master's Degree in Theology
Two Year Programme

The programme for degree of Master in Theology (MTh) offers candidates the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Theology through specialised study, personal work and research.

There are two methods of obtaining this degree.
- Mode A: candidates complete five seminar courses and write a minor dissertation (25,000-30,000 words).
- Mode B: candidates submit a major dissertation (40,000 words) and fulfil the requirements of the *Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* seminar course (PG 464).

Theological Languages – Mode A and Mode B:

A competence in theological language(s) is a qualifying requirement – see 'Language Requirements'.

Admission Requirements: Mode A

The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the selection procedure.

The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Where an applicant's qualifications are insufficient for admission to the MTh, a Qualifying Programme and Examination may be provided.

Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement of Faculty of Theology. Candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty.

Programme of Study: Mode A

The duration of the programme is two years. The first year is considered a year of full-time study in one of the options below. In the second year the candidate, takes one seminar course in the first semester and completes a thesis. Candidates must

complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Course Option I: Systematic Theology

In Year One the candidate takes two seminar courses in Systematic Theology, one seminar course in Moral Theology, in Sacred Scripture, or in Liturgy, as well as the obligatory course:

- *The Soul of Theology,* (PG 442) in the first semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in Systematic Theology in the first semester, and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

Course Option II: Moral Theology

In Year One the candidate takes two seminar courses in Moral Theology, one seminar course in Systematic Theology, in Sacred Scripture, or in Liturgy, as well as the obligatory course:

- *The Soul of Theology,* (PG 442) in the first semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in Moral Theology in the first semester, and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

Course Option III: Biblical Theology

In Year One the candidate takes two seminar courses in Biblical Theology, one seminar course in Systematic Theology, in Moral Theology, or in Liturgy as well as the obligatory course:

- *The Soul of Theology,* (PG 442) in the first semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in Biblical Theology in the first semester and completes the dissertation. The dissertation is to be submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply.

Course Option IV: Pastoral Liturgy

In Year One the candidate takes four seminar courses in Liturgical Theology – two in each semester, as agreed with the Director of Postgraduate Studies, in consultation with the Professor of Sacred Liturgy.

In Year Two the candidate takes one further seminar course in Liturgical Theology during the first semester, and completes the minor dissertation, of 25,000—30,000 words. The minor dissertation will be on an approved topic and submitted by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June. A grace period of two weeks will apply. The dissertation is pursued under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology. While

completing the dissertation, the candidate is not required to be in full-time attendance.

Admission Requirements: Mode B

To qualify for admission to a Masters in Theology by dissertation only, candidates shall have Second Class Honours, Grade I in the theological component of their honours degree. The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Masters Mode B is recommended only for candidates who have a clear research focus and a proven ability to work on their own.

Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology. Candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty.

Programme of Study: Mode B

- Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.
- Candidates must fulfil the requirements of *Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* (PG 464)*,* and work for at least three semesters under the direction of a permanent member of the Faculty of Theology.
- The subject of the dissertation requires the approval of the relevant Head of Department.
- The length of the dissertation shall be approximately 40,000 words, exclusive of footnotes and bibliography.
- Candidates shall be required to submit their dissertations within three years. Extensions will be granted only in exceptional circumstances.
- The dissertation shall be examined by the dissertation supervisor and an external examiner chosen by the Faculty.
- Candidates may be examined on the subject matter of the dissertation if the above examiners so decide.

Language Requirements

Theological Languages Requirement

DD, PhD, STL, MTh (Mode A and Mode B)

- Candidates admitted into the above programmes in the Faculty of Theology shall be required to sit a qualifying examination in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. A syllabus for this examination is provided on the Faculty website.

- Candidates who do not pass the above qualifying examination are required to attend and pass qualifying courses in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. In certain circumstances an advanced course in one theological language may be accepted in lieu of a second.

- Candidates who have successfully completed a University course (20 Credits at Level 8) in Hebrew, Latin or Greek are exempt, as are candidates who have successfully completed theological language courses in the Pontifical University.

- The language(s) requirement is a qualifying requirement, and does not form part of the final assessment.

Modern Language Requirements

DD (STD)
Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of two continental European languages.

PhD and STL
Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of one modern continental European language.

Note: Qualifying examinations are offered at various points during the academic year. Details are posted on the postgraduate information pages on the College website.

Master's Degree in Theology
Specialisation: Contemporary Ethics

Course Director: Suzanne Mulligan PhD

The course will consist of six taught modules (10 credits each) delivered over two years, and the submission of a thesis of 15,000 words. Assessment of modules is by essay (c. 7,000 words).

Admission Requirements:

The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the selection process. The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement.

Programme of Study

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Cycle A (2021-2022):

- **PG 709** Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century
- **PG 714** *Sensus Fidei* and Synodality: Implications for Moral Method and Content
- **PG 713** "Good Politics", Pope Francis, and the Common Good

Cycle B (2022-2023):

- **PG 302** History of Christian Thought
- **PG 652** Spirituality, Religion and Contemporary Healthcare Ethics
- **PG 715** War: Ethical and Theological Perspectives

Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by candidates in their second year by 3.00pm on August 15th, in Year 2. A grace period of two weeks applies.

Note: progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Master's Degree in Theology
Specialisation: The Bible and Spirituality
Two Years Part-time

Course Director: Jessie Rogers DPhil

Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the admission process.
The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

Programme Rationale

As Scripture, the Bible is a collection of writings that reflects the dynamic experiences of ancient Israel and of the early Christian Church, and which continues to nourish and make sense of people's lives. This Masters has a two-fold focus: it explores both spiritualities *within* the Bible and spirituality shaped by engagement *with* the Bible. The programme approaches biblical spirituality from the perspectives of liturgy, history and biblical studies, understands spirituality incarnationally as communal and personal expressions of lived faith, and includes a strong practical dimension.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Upon successful completion of the MTh in Biblical Spirituality, students should be able to:

- Analyse the spiritualities inherent in Old and New Testament texts.
- Interpret biblical texts with a sensitivity to their literary conventions.
- Explore biblical aspects of various Christian spiritual traditions (e.g., Benedictine, Franciscan, Ignatian), and the way woman mystics in particular (e.g., Birgitta, Hildegard of Bingen, Catherine of Siena, Teresa of Jesus, Thérèse of Lisieux) have read Scripture.
- Trace the ecclesial and sacramental manifestations of biblical spirituality at various times in the history of the Church.
- Engage with Scripture in potentially transformative ways.
- Describe current trends in the academic study of spirituality.
- Discuss the contribution of Scripture to issues such as justice and creation spirituality.

Programme of Study

The course consists of six taught modules (10 credits each) delivered over two years, and the submission of a thesis of 15,000 words. Modules will be delivered on Wednesday afternoons and evenings, with some blended learning. Assessment of modules is by essay (c. 7,000 words).

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Semester 1:

- **PG 709** Ressourcing Theology: Renewal in 20th Century Theology
- **PG 481** Liberation and Law: Approaches to the Book of Exodus

Semester 2:

- **PG 486** Word and Lection: Scripture Proclaimed and Heard*
  *It is recommended, but not obligatory, that candidates participate in an introduction to *lectio divina* such as that provided in the first part of PT431 which is scheduled for Thursday mornings.

Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology and submitted by candidates in their second year by 3.00pm on August 15th. A grace period of two weeks applies.

Note: progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Master's Degree in Theology
Specialisation: History of Christianity
Two Years Part-time
(Not running in the Current Academic Year)

Course Director: Prof. Salvador Ryan
(in collaboration with the Department of Early Irish, Maynooth University, and Russell Library).

This course consists of eight modules delivered over four semesters (two academic years) and the submission of a dissertation of 15,000 words on an agreed topic.

In Cycle A, candidates take the following modules: History of Christian Thought (10 credits); Research Methodologies and Reading and Interpreting Primary Source Texts I (5 credits); "Isle of Saints and Scholars"? The Literary Culture of Early Medieval Ireland (10 credits); and History of Christian Practice: Medieval to Modern (5 credits).

In Cycle B candidates take: Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century (10 credits); Research Methodologies and Reading and Interpreting Primary Source Texts II (5 credits); The Writing of Church History from the Reformation to the 20th century (10 credits); and History of Christian Practice: Medieval Ireland (5 credits).

Admission Requirements

Applicants should normally possess a recognised primary degree in Theology or a related discipline (for example, History) and have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade I. In exceptional cases, applicants who can satisfactorily demonstrate a long-standing interest in the subject, coupled with proven relevant experience, will also be considered. An interview will form part of the selection procedure. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the relevant English language requirements.

Programme of Study

Semester 1:
- **PG 306** Research Methodologies & Reading and Interpreting Primary Source Texts II*
- **PG 709** Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century*

Semester 2:

- **PG 304** History of Christian Practice: Medieval Ireland*
- **PG 307** The Writing of Church History: from the Reformation to the 20th Century*

    *All lectures take place on Wednesday evenings.

In addition to the above programme of study, candidates must successfully complete the *Postgraduate Induction Week*, which takes place in mid September.

Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by candidates in their second year by 3.00pm on August 15th, in Year 2. A grace period of two weeks applies.

Note: progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Master's Degree in Theology
General Theology
One Year Full-time

Course Director: The Director of Postgraduate Studies

Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. An interview will be part of the admission process.
The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

Programme Rationale

This one-year Taught Masters programme is offered for candidates who wish to spend one year in deepening their theological expertise and skill in a number of areas in which the Faculty of Theology has particular expertise. With the guidance of a mentor, candidates choose from the palette of modules on offer across various theological disciplines in any particular year.

Programme of Study

The course runs over one academic year and consists of six taught modules delivered over two semesters, three modules per semester; and a minor dissertation of 15,000 words. Lectures are delivered from Monday to Thursday. A programme of study, from the seminar courses indicated below, is agreed with the Course Director. Candidates must further complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Semester 1:

- **PG 709** Re-Sourcing Theology – Renewal in the 20th Century
  and two of the following:**
- **PG 713** "Good Politics" – Pope Francis and the Common Good
- **PG 481** Liberation and Law: Approaches to Exodus
- **PG 487** Sacramental Theology: Liturgical and Systematic Aspects

Semester 2:

Any three of the following:**

- **PG 716** Augustine and Christian Doctrine
- **PG 714** *Sensus Fidei* and Synodality
- **PG 486** Word and Lection
- **PG 477** Come and See: John and Method
- **PG 708** Pastoral Practice of Liturgy

**The choice of modules may be restricted due to timetabling constraints.

Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)
The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by candidates by 3.00pm on August 15th. A grace period of two weeks applies.

Note: progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Master's Degree in Liturgical Music
Two Year Programme

Course Directors: Rev Dr Neil Xavier O'Donoghue, Dr John O'Keeffe

The Master's Degree in Liturgical Music is a joint academic and practice-based programme which will qualify holders to undertake posts as organists, cantors, or directors of music at parish or diocesan level. Each year of the programme will consist of theological and theoretical study of the Church's liturgy, with specific attention to the area of liturgical music. This academic component will be balanced by an intensive course of supervised practical training in a number of core liturgical music disciplines.

Admission Requirements

The course is especially suited to applicants who have studied Theology and Music to honours degree level. Candidates should normally have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade I overall. The Faculty of Theology may also accept candidates whom it deems to have an equivalent standard. An interview will be part of the selection process. As this Masters programme contains a significant practical component, prospective candidates will need, on application, to furnish evidence of proficiency in at least one of the following three areas: (a) Cantor, (b) Organ, (c) Liturgical Composition. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements

Course Aims:

- To provide an academic framework appropriate to the study of Theology at Masters level.
- To provide candidates with an in-depth theological and theoretical formation in the liturgy of the Church.
- To form candidates in the historical, textual, doctrinal and technical aspects of liturgical music.
- To enhance candidates' critical awareness of music composed for and performed in the liturgy.
- To significantly enhance course participants' competency and confidence in selected practical disciplines.

Programme of Study

Year One of the programme consists of six core academic modules, together with at least two practical modules. Year Two, divided equally between academic and practical elements, focuses on the writing of a dissertation on a topic related to the area of liturgical music, and a major practicum in at least one (maximum two) of the musical disciplines listed below.

Candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Year One

Core Academic Modules:

- PG 708:   Pastoral Practice of Liturgy
- PG 487:   Sacramental Theology
- LI 151:   Introduction to Liturgy*
- LI 203:   The Celebration of the Eucharist
- LM 101:   Music in Christian Worship
- LM 403:   Aspects of Liturgical Music

*Recognition of Prior Learning may be considered for certain candidates in respect of these modules.

Practical Modules:*

- LM 404:   Liturgical Composition
- LM 402:   Organ Skills I
  or
- LM 405:   Cantor Skills I

* In Year One, candidates will take *Liturgical Composition*, together with at least one of the remaining practical modules.

Year Two

- Methodology in Research
- Guided Thesis Research
- Major *Practicum* in a Musical Discipline

Thesis (25,000-30,000 words)

The thesis is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by candidates by 3.00pm on the last Friday in June in Year 2. A grace period of two weeks applies.

Assessment:

Academic modules are assessed by class attendance, presentations and written assignments. Practical modules are assessed in exam-style presentations and, in the case of liturgical composition, the presentation of a portfolio of work.

Note: progression to the PhD from this programme requires the successful completion of a doctoral qualifying year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Master's Degree in Theology
(Specialisation: Pastoral Theology)
Two Years Full-time or Three Years Part-time

Director of Pastoral Theology: Dr. Aoife McGrath

This level 9 programme forms part of a minister's continuing journey of growth and development, strengthening capacity for ministry leadership in the Church, which includes taking significant responsibility for the work of individuals and groups, and for leading and initiating mission-focused activity in a wide (and sometimes unpredictable) variety of professional levels and contexts. Candidates develop new skills to a high level, including novel and emerging approaches in professional ministry, especially within the areas of leadership in public prayer, pastoral care and spiritual accompaniment, and building and strengthening community. They learn advanced skills to teach in diverse settings, provide effective catechetical and faith formation, and exercise responsible stewardship of parish personnel and resources.

This level allows candidates to develop a critical awareness of current issues of pastoral concern informed by scholarship from the forefront of pertinent fields of theological learning, and a systematic understanding of theological knowledge as it relates to his/her experiences in life and ministry practice. Each student completes a Masters dissertation that presents a rigorous, in-depth, and critical examination of a particular pastoral area or issue situated at the interface of academic theology and contemporary ministry. In doing so, the student acquires a mastery in specialised techniques of reflection and enquiry, and methods of research, forming an ability to scrutinise and reflect on the changing ministerial landscape, articulate an informed pastoral response, while seeking to contribute to transforming ministerial practice leading to growth or change.

This Masters programme further enables candidates to:
- examine existing procedural approaches and exercise appropriate judgment in complex planning, leading groups, and managing resources;
- learn to self-evaluate and take responsibility for forming a habit of reflective practice for ministry and for continuing academic and professional development;
- express a comprehensive, internalised, personal worldview, achieving self-awareness and critical reflection as these relate to pastoral ministry;
- engage in critical dialogue and face the demands of making collaborative ministry work;

- exercise initiative and independent thought, to interact intelligently, empathically, ethically, and professionally within their ministerial context;
- differentiate appropriate ministerial approaches to formulate pastoral responses to complex situations in pastoral contexts, and act to change them.

Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for the programme is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Applicants should normally have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. Applicants should also have significant experience in ministry practice. Individual and group interviews form an essential part of the selection process.

The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. They may be required to take additional courses in Theology to qualify for admission. In particular, applicants who have obtained a minimum 2H1 in the Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology (level 8) may be considered for admission to a one-year MTh (level 9) in Pastoral Theology. As part of the application process, such applicants will submit a Major Essay (5,000–7,000 words) on a topic relevant to Pastoral Ministry, written under the supervision of a member of the Faculty. The evaluation of this essay will form part of the admission interview, and its content may provide a foundation for the eventual Masters dissertation.

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Pontifical University.

Programme of Study

The Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology is a two-year progamme. At the discretion of the Faculty of Theology, and with its permission, candidates may also undertake the programme, on a part-time basis, over three years). The programme has three components:

• seven core modules	70 ECTS
• two postgraduate seminar courses	20 ECTS
• a minor dissertation (15,000-20,000 words)	30 ECTS

Year One
The first year is a taught and practical programme, and consists of seven core modules, which follow the same academic and placement schedules as the Diploma and Higher Diplomas in Pastoral Theology.

The *core modules* in Year One of the programme are:

PT430:	Pastoral Practice	30 Credits
PT431:	Prayer Leadership	10 Credits
PT432:	Caring and Spiritual Accompaniment	5 Credits
PT435:	Organisational Leadership in Ministry Contexts	5 Credits
PT434:	Theology and Pastoral Ministry	10 Credits
PT437:	Healthcare Chaplaincy: Ministry of Presence and Visitation	5 Credits
PT438:	Educational Chaplaincy: Ministry of Catechesis and Faith Formation	5 Credits

Year Two
In the second year of the programme, candidates take two postgraduate modules and write complete a minor dissertation of 15,000–20,000 words. This minor dissertation is written on a particular pastoral area or issue situated at the interface of academic theology and contemporary ministry, and under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology.

The *postgraduate modules* are as follows:

PG 523: 'Emancipating' Practical Theology	10 Credits

and

one postgraduate seminar course chosen from the modules on offer in the particular academic year	10 Credits

PG523 is obligatory. The second module is chosen from the palette of postgraduate seminar courses offered in any particular academic year. In consultation with the Director of Pastoral Theology and the Director of Postgraduate Studies, candidates will choose a seminar course that is relevant to their (future) professional ministerial needs, and, if possible, pertinent to their dissertation topic.

Note: Progression to Year Two requires successful completion of the core modules in Year One. Candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Masters candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty of Theology, upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Board.

In addition to the above programme of study, candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Learning Ethos

This Masters programme places a strong emphasis on participative learning. At a personal level, the course addresses the integration of academic and practice-based learning, with a focus on growth in self-understanding as well as personal, relational, and spiritual development. Course work includes group sessions, lectures, presentations, and interactive seminars. While core classes in Pastoral Theology are normally on Thursdays and Fridays, candidates may be required to attend lectures and seminars that are offered outside these times (e.g., postgraduate seminar courses which frequently take place on Wednesdays).

Pastoral Practice

Candidates commit to a placement education experience in a 'Teaching Parish', or equivalent context, from September to April. The basic areas of ministerial practice within the placement site are typically primary-level catechesis, second-level chaplaincy and/or catechesis, and parish/community based ministry. Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week, for an average of 19 hours per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday and Friday. Candidates may also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 22–25 hours per week.

Placement education sites, or 'Teaching Parishes', are arranged by the candidates in collaboration with the PT430 Module Coordinator. The Pastoral Practice module includes the following: mentoring support with an on-site Placement Contact Person, or his/her Designated Alternate; one-to-one consultation with staff members on-campus in the Pontifical University; two visits by an assigned Placement Supervisor; participation in weekly small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions; and, an end-of-year integration day. The placement education experience is a central context for learning and growth, and is fundamental for the overall pastoral formation of the candidates.

Clinical Pastoral Education

Candidates will undertake a second placement through one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) or its equivalent (12 weeks). CPE is a professional education for ministry conducted in the hospital setting. The course includes development of self-understanding and the foundation for the practice of pastoral care. CPE is a supervised twelve-week full time course, which candidates apply for independently and take at the completion of core modules and parish placement. CPE is a qualifying course for the completion of the programme, and the CPE placement site is arranged in collaboration with the Pastoral Theology Director.

Assessment

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations, and written assignments, or as outlined within the module descriptors. The two primary processes of assessment for the pastoral practice module will be as follows: placement supervised visits (two in total) and a pastoral practice portfolio. Candidates need to pass all components of assessments in order to pass the respective module.

Note: progression to a doctoral programme within the Pontifical University from this programme requires the successful completion of the Doctoral Qualifying Year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Master's Degree in Theology
(Specialisation: Pastoral Theology, Healthcare Chaplaincy)
Two Years Full-time or Three Years Part-time

Director of Pastoral Theology: Dr. Aoife McGrath

This level 9 programme forms part of a minister's continuing journey of growth and development, strengthening capacity for chaplaincy leadership in healthcare systems, and in various healthcare facilities. This includes taking responsibility for professional relationship building with multi-disciplinary healthcare colleagues, strengthening the provision of pastoral care in healthcare institutions, and for advancing professional, holistic, compassionate quality care for patients, families, and staff. Candidates develop new skills to a high level, especially within the areas of leadership in prayer, pastoral care, and spiritual accompaniment with persons who suffer because of illness, trauma, tragedy, grief, and bereavement.

This level allows candidates to develop a critical awareness of current issues of pastoral concern informed by theological scholarship, and a systematic understanding of theology as it relates to life experience and ministry practice. Each candidate completes a Masters dissertation that presents a rigorous, in-depth, evidence-based, critical examination of a particular pastoral area of healthcare chaplaincy practice. The candidate thus acquires a mastery in techniques of reflection and enquiry, and methods of research, while contributing to the body of chaplaincy research and to transforming ministerial practice. It will enable candidates to exercise the highest quality pastoral care in clinical practice and be effective leaders in the future development of the profession.

This Masters programme further enables candidates to:
- examine existing procedural approaches and exercise appropriate judgment in complex situations, advocate for the persons in their care, and manage crisis in the practice of pastoral care;
- learn to self-evaluate and take responsibility for forming a habit of reflective practice for ministry and for continuing academic and professional development;
- express a comprehensive, internalised, personal worldview, achieving self-awareness and critical reflection as these relate to pastoral ministry;
- engage in critical dialogue and face the demands of making collaborative ministry work and actively participate in the creation and maintenance of a healthy work environment;

- exercise initiative and independent thought, to interact intelligently, empathically, ethically, and professionally within their ministerial context;
- differentiate appropriate ministerial approaches within complex institutional cultures and systems, in response to varying group dynamics and organisational behaviour, and act to transform them according to best practice.

Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for the programme is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Applicants should normally have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. Applicants should also have significant experience in ministry practice. Individual and group interviews form an essential part of the selection process.

The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. They may be required to take additional courses in Theology to qualify for admission. In particular, applicants who have obtained a minimum 2H1 in the Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology (Healthcare Chaplaincy) may be considered for admission to a one-year MTh (level 9) in Pastoral Theology. As part of the application process, such applicants will submit a Major Essay (5,000–7,000 words) on a topic relevant to Healthcare Chaplaincy, written under the supervision of a member of the Faculty. The evaluation of this essay will form part of the admission interview, and its content may provide a foundation for the eventual Masters dissertation.

Applicants whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Pontifical University.

Programme of Study

The Master's Degree in Pastoral Theology is a two-year progamme. At the discretion of the Faculty of Theology, and with its permission, candidates may also undertake the programme, on a part-time basis, over three years. The programme has three components:

• Seven core modules	70 ECTS
• Two postgraduate seminar courses	20 ECTS
• An evidence-based research dissertation (25,000–30,000 words)	30 ECTS

Year One

The first year is a taught and practical programme, and consists of six core modules, which follow the same academic and placement schedules as the Diploma and Higher Diplomas in Pastoral Theology (Healthcare Chaplaincy).

The *core modules* in Year One of the programme are:

PT430:	Pastoral Practice	30 Credits
PT431:	Prayer Leadership	7.5 Credits
PT432:	Caring and Spiritual Accompaniment	5 Credits
PT435:	Organisational Leadership in Ministry Contexts	5 Credits
PT434:	Theology and Pastoral Ministry	7.5 Credits
PT436:	Healthcare Chaplaincy: Leadership Ministry of Healing and Justice	5 Credits

Note: Candidates may choose to exit with a level 9 Postgraduate Diploma Award.

Year Two

In the second year of the programme, candidates take three modules and complete an evidence-based research dissertation of 25,000–30,000 words (30 Credits). This dissertation is written on a particular pastoral area of healthcare chaplaincy practice, and under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology.

The *modules* are as follows:

PT 439:	Theological Reflection on Practice	10 Credits
PG 523:	'Emancipating' Practical Theology	10 Credits
One postgraduate seminar course chosen from the modules on offer in the particular academic year		10 Credits

The Theological Reflection on Practice module includes 240 hours of independent practice in an approved clinical setting (average 10 hours *p.w.* for 24 weeks, during the third and fourth semesters). The candidate should be working in post as a healthcare chaplain or have independently arranged a chaplaincy placement for the duration of Year Two. The student should arrange to be supervised and mentored by an experienced, accredited Healthcare Chaplain within this placement setting. The placement site must be approved by the Faculty of Theology, upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Board, prior to progression to Year Two.

The postgraduate seminar course is chosen from the palette of postgraduate seminar courses offered in any particular academic year. In consultation with the Director of Pastoral Theology and the Director of Postgraduate Studies, candidates will choose a

seminar course that is relevant to their (future) professional ministerial needs, and, if possible, pertinent to their dissertation topic.

Note: Progression to Year Two requires successful completion of the core modules in Year One. Candidates will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Masters candidates wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty of Theology, upon the recommendation of the Postgraduate Board.

In addition to the above programme of study, candidates must complete *Postgraduate Induction* which takes place during the week beginning September 13, 2021.

Learning Ethos

This Masters programme places a strong emphasis on participative learning. At a personal level, the course addresses the integration of academic and practice-based learning, with a focus on growth in self-understanding as well as personal, relational, and spiritual development. Course work includes group sessions, lectures, presentations, and interactive seminars. While core classes in Pastoral Theology are normally on Thursdays and Fridays, candidates may be required to attend lectures and seminars that are offered outside these times (e.g., postgraduate seminar courses which frequently take place on Wednesdays).

Pastoral Practice

Candidates commit to a placement education experience in a 'Teaching Hospital,' from September to April. The basic areas of ministerial practice within the acute general placement site are typically as follows: Integrated pastoral care ministry serving patients and their families, within a clinical environment including critical and emergency care; leading or participating in hospital liturgies and services in the chapel, mortuary, ward, or bedside; and, professional relationship building and pastoral care of staff, strengthening the pastoral care department. Placement usually takes place between Sunday and Wednesday of each week, for an average of 19 hours per week, with classes in Maynooth on Thursday and Friday. Candidates may also be required to participate in a number of block placements in their placement sites, with an extended contact time of 22–25 hours per week.

Placement education sites, or 'Teaching Hospitals', are assigned to the student by the PT430 Pastoral Practice Module Coordinator, who is working in collaboration with the Catholic Healthcare Chaplaincy Board. The Pastoral Practice module includes the

following: mentoring support with an on-site Placement Contact Person (the Director of Pastoral Care/Head Chaplain) or his/her Designated Alternate; one-to-one consultation with an assigned staff mentor in the Pontifical University; two visits by an assigned Placement Supervisor; participation in weekly small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions; and, an end-of-year integration day. The placement education experience is a central context for learning and growth, and is fundamental for the overall pastoral formation of the candidates.

Summer Intensive Placement in Clinical Setting

At the end of the academic year in Year One, students will undertake a second placement in a clinical setting consisting of 350 hours of clinical practice. Assigned clinical areas will include critical care: intensive care unit, trauma care, stroke care, emergency department, oncology, and haematology care. Small-group, peer-support, theological reflection sessions will take place at the placement site, facilitating a deepening of the student's reflective practice. The placement will consist of 10 weeks of placement, with 35 hours of clinical practice each week. The placement will include three nights of rostered work and three rostered weekends. A Summer School will take place in Maynooth over 3 Saturdays.

Assessment

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations, and written assignments, or as outlined within the module descriptors. The two primary processes of assessment for the Pastoral Practice module will be as follows: placement supervised visits (two in total) and a pastoral practice portfolio. Candidates need to pass all components of assessments in order to pass the respective module.

Note: progression to a doctoral programme within the Pontifical University from this programme requires the successful completion of the Doctoral Qualifying Year, the parameters of which are established by the Faculty of Theology.

Overview of Postgraduate Modules
in the Academic Year 2021-2022

Cross-Discipline Modules				
Code	**Lecturer(s)**	**Title**	**Semester**	**Comment**
PG 709	Meszaros / Corkery	Re-Sourcing Theology • Renewal in 20th Century[d]	1	
PG 442	Macnamara/ O'Connell	The Soul of Theology	1	
PG 464	Conway	Research in Theology[a,b]	2	
PG 710	Marmion/ O'Gorman	Re-imagining the Human	2	
PG 660	Kerr/Ryan	Research Methodology	Yearlong	Qualifier
Fundamental Theology • Systematic Theology • Faith & Culture				
PG 712	Conway	Karl Rahner: Society, Faith, and Culture[b]	1	
PG 716	Meszaros	Augustine and Christian Doctrine	2	
RC 519	O'Donoghue	A Highway in the Desert: Early Monasticism – The Egyptian Experience	Yearlong	
Moral Theology · Canon Law • Pastoral Theology[c]				
PG 713	Mulligan	"Good Politics"— Pope Francis + the Common Good	1	
PG 714	Corkery	*Sensus Fidei and Synodality:* " Implications for Moral Method and Content	2	
RC516	Shortall	Searching for a Universal Ethic	Yearlong	

Liturgy · Scripture • Ecclesiastical History				
PG 481	Corley	Liberation and Law: Approaches to …Exodus	1	
PG 708	Tracey	Pastoral Practice of Liturgy[d]	2	
PG 487	Whelan	*Sacramental Theology: Liturgical and Systematic Aspects*	1	
PG 477	Macnamara	Come & See: … John and Method	2	
PG 486	Rogers	Word and Lection[c]	2	
RC518	Rogers	Chaos and Freedom in Biblical Traditions	Yearlong	
Taught Programme-Specific Modules				
		None in the Current Year		

GENERAL NORMS for Postgraduate Modules

Each postgraduate module above, unless otherwise stated, is rated as 10 ECTS.

A minimum of FOUR participants is required for any module to be offered. Exceptions are to be referred to the Postgraduate Board.

If a particular taught programme cannot be offered, the related programme-specific modules are withdrawn.

Descriptors for each of the above modules can be found on the Pontifical University website.

NOTES and OBSERVATIONS

  a. For PhD, STL, Masters (Mode B) only;
  b. 12-hour module
  c. It is recommended, but not obligatory, that candidates who do not have experience in the discipline of *Lectio Divina* participate in an introduction to *Lectio,* such as that provided in the second part of PT431.

d. Blended Learning.

General Note: Postgraduate Courses Offered on a CYCLICAL BASIS

In order to permit postgraduates plan their studies in a balanced way, it is to be noted that the following modules are offered on a cyclical basis:

- PG708: Pastoral Practice of Liturgy *and* PG484: Liturgy: Ritual, Theological and Historical Approaches

- PG495: Exploring Biblical Narratives *and* TBC

- PG496: The David Story, PG467: Exploring Ways of Reading Genesis, *and* PG481: Liberation and Law: Approaches to the Book of Exodus

- PG302 History of Christian Thought *and* PG709: Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century

Doctoral Qualifying Year

The Doctoral Qualifying Year is a bridging programme designed to permit postgraduate candidates progress to one of the doctoral programmes offered in the Faculty of Theology. Generally the Doctoral Qualifying Year is undertaken by candidates who have not reached the required 2:1 (*magna cum laude*) in their Master's degree, or who have undertaken a 90 ECTS Masters, or a degree which has been deemed by the Faculty of Theology to require a doctoral qualifying programme.

Work load: 60 credits (full-time).

Programme of Study

The programme of study is comprised of six seminar courses from the palette of postgraduate seminar courses offered in any academic year. Three courses shall be taken in each semester, and the standard course requirements and assignment submission deadlines will apply. The courses are chosen in consultation with the Director of Postgraduate Studies at the beginning of the academic year.

Progression to PhD

Candidates who gain an aggregate 2:1 (60% or higher) may progress to the Doctoral Foundation Year.

Note: Candidates who have not fulfilled the theological languages requirement for the PhD may do so during the Doctoral Qualifying Year.

Masters Qualifying Year

The Masters Qualifying Year is a bridging programme, offering a blend of taught, reading and research modules. It is designed to be adaptable to the needs of the student while providing opportunities to attain the practices and standards needed for Postgraduate Study.

Work load: 60 credits (full-time). Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) may be granted.

Programme of Study

The Qualifying Year is organised according to individualised 'learning plans,' drawn up by the Director of Postgraduate Studies, the Registrar and the student. The purpose of the 'learning plan' is to empower the student to address their academic needs, while reaching the criteria for acceptance into a Masters programme. The *Learning Plan* is drawn from the module categories below, from which up to 6 modules are chosen:

- **Taught Courses – one in each semester**

Taken from the Undergraduate programme or the Higher Diploma in Theological Studies**.** *Assessment*: Paper 3000 words

- **Reading Course – one in each semester**

Guided reading directed by a mentor **or** Students may also opt for one of the major essays in BATh programme in any particular year. *Assessment*: Paper 3000 words

- **Masters Qualifier Seminar – Core course - semester 1**

Research, evaluation and discussion of given readings
Assessment: In-class Presentations and Paper 2000 words

- **Integrative Seminar – Core course - semester 2**

To be completed with a mentor during the Second Semester
Assessment: Paper 5000 words.

OR

- **Higher Diploma in Theological Studies with two dedicated Seminar Courses**

Progression to Masters

Candidates who gain an aggregate 2:1 (60% or higher) are eligible to apply for a Masters programme.

Fees

As the Masters Qualifying Year (MQY) is in the service of academic progress, a proportion of the MQY fees are considered as a contribution towards one's Masters fees. Details may be obtained from the Accounts Office.

For further information on any of the courses listed above contact:
Admissions Office, Pontifical University, Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth

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