

# Postgraduate Prospectus



St Patrick's  
Pontifical University



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# Welcome

**Since 1795, St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth has been a specialised university focusing on Theology and Philosophy.** Each year, students from all over the world come to study here. Some come from neighbouring EU countries such as Germany, France and Poland, while others come from Asia or Africa.

The quality of the teaching, the academic staff, and the facilities ensure an education at the highest level, offering students every opportunity to develop and grow. We are proud of our solid educational programmes. Within the Master's programmes, there are options which allow students to prepare for a wide range of careers such as in pastoral care, developmental work, education or in academia. As a student of

St Patrick's Pontifical University, you will be joining an international community of students and leading academics carrying forward these 220+ years of tradition in the highest-quality teaching and research.

There is much to discover in this prospectus about what makes us unique and special: the faculty and our location, the education and research programmes we have to offer, our small size and warmth within a larger academic environment, not to mention the open and relaxed atmosphere.



We would like to welcome you to our student community. This prospectus is a brief guide to our study opportunities. If you'd like to know more, visit us online at [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)

**Rev Prof Michael Mullaney**, President

# Why choose St Patrick's Pontifical University



Discover enriching programmes and a supportive community at St Patrick's.

- Research focused programmes
- A supportive learning community
- World class facilities
- Global reputation

**A community of learning that draws on a long and distinguished tradition of scholarship and pastoral practice**

John Paul II  
Library



Our staff are friendly and approachable and give personal care and attention to each student

## What we offer

St Patrick's Pontifical University offers a range of internationally recognised part-time, full-time and blended learning programmes taught by leading theologians and philosophers from our beautiful, historic campus in Ireland's only university town.

Doctorate, Licentiate, Postgraduate Diploma, Higher Diploma, and a range of Taught and Research Master's programmes are available covering topics such as Theological Studies, Pastoral Liturgy, Pastoral Theology, History of Christianity, Contemporary Ethics, Divinity, Biblical Spirituality, Philosophy, and Christian Communications and Media Practice.

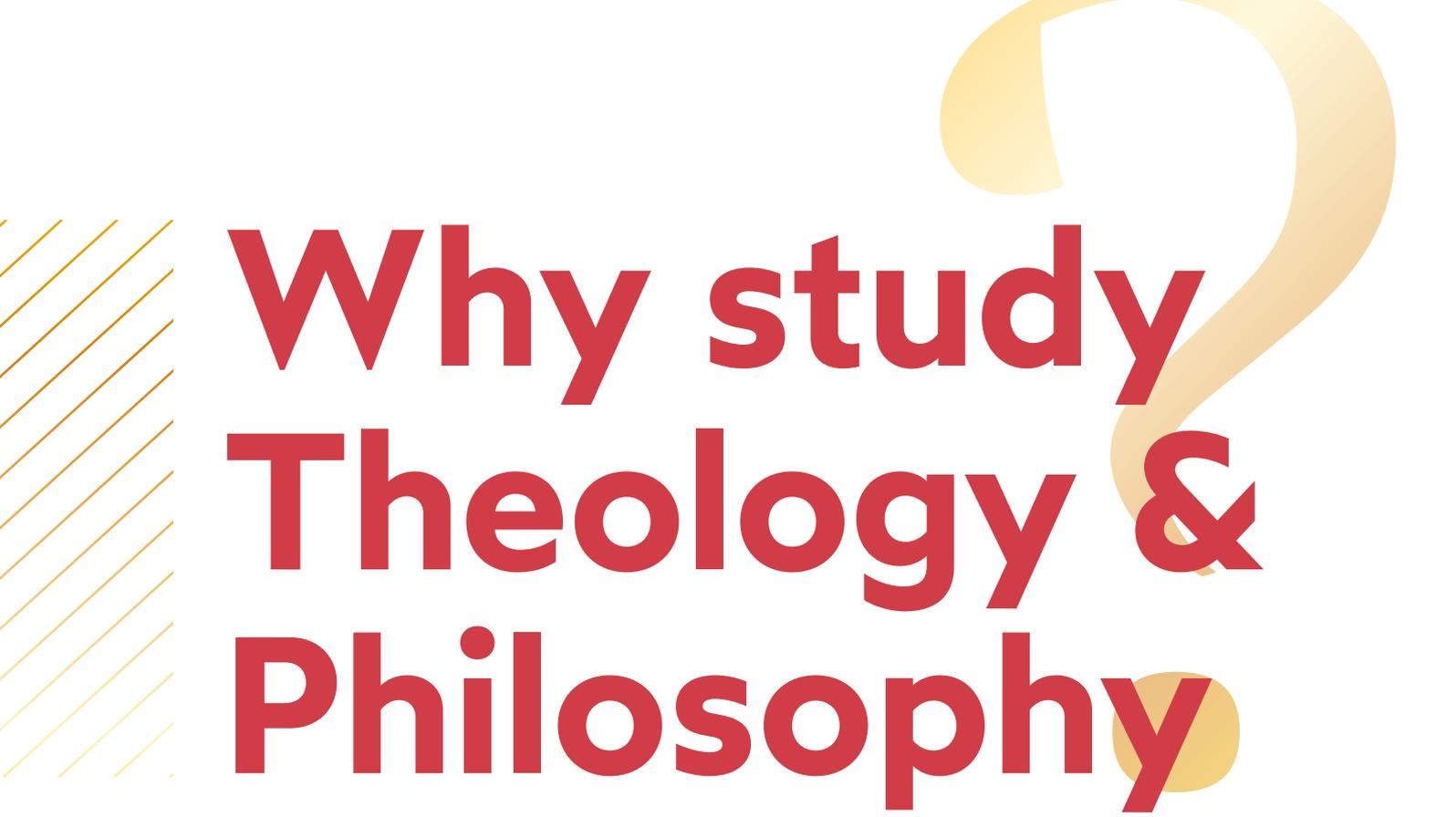
## Who are these programmes for?

Our postgraduate programmes appeal to a wide range of people from various countries, religions and academic backgrounds, including Teachers & Religion Teachers, those in Parish Pastoral Ministry, Healthcare & Education chaplaincy, Retreat Ministry, Parish Music Directors, Catechesis & Faith Development, Cantor, Sacramental Preparation Coordination, or those interested in continued studies.

We also have students from a wide variety of careers such as Administration, Publishing, Research, Public Relations, Schools & Parish Administration, Non-Governmental Agencies, Community Development, Journalism, Social Services, Finance, Marketing, Communications, Business and Religious life.

If you are looking to explore the bigger issues of life and want to develop a skillset that allows you to think more critically, debate and communicate effectively and research your topics in great depth and you feel that these skills can add to your career and your purpose in life, then you should consider a postgraduate programme at St Patrick's Pontifical University.





# Why study Theology & Philosophy

The fundamental questions of human origin and destiny cannot be resolved purely from the technological or human sciences. There is always more to life than the sciences are capable of determining.



**Discovering a meaningful life is a new challenge for many in our culture.**



Philosophy and Theology are disciplines that deal with such questions and that propose avenues for their critical exploration. They probe the human condition through various traditions of practice and reflection. Students can look forward to not only being challenged at the level of personal intellectual growth, but also, to learning new critical skills.

▶ **“Theology can ask big questions and chase worthy dreams, fuelled by a rich tradition and beckoned by a hopeful future.”**



**Dr Jessie Rogers,**  
Dean of Theology

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▶ **“The Master's in Liturgical Music programme offers students an opportunity to engage more deeply with the music of the Roman Rite, from its roots in plainchant to its expression in a contemporary vernacular context, whilst developing their**



**own particular skills as singers, organists or composers.”**

**Dr John O’Keeffe**  
Director of  
Sacred Music

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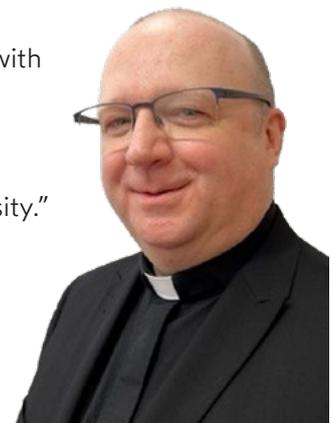
▶ **“The Philosophy Faculty at St Patrick’s Pontifical University is specifically designed to explore and engage with Philosophy in the Catholic Intellectual Tradition and beyond.**

**It will be of particular interest to those interested in further ministry or education within the Catholic Education Sector.**

We work closely with our colleagues in the Philosophy Department of Maynooth University.”

**Dr Simon Nolan,**  
**O.Carm,**  
Dean of  
Philosophy

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# Maynooth – The perfect town for study

Situated just 25km west of Dublin, you are right on the doorstep of Ireland's capital city

On-site campus accommodation available with preference given to SPPU Students, perfect for those wishing not to commute or whose programme runs over evenings or weekends.



Our campus is situated just off the M4 Motorway and within walking distance of Maynooth Railway station.

**Maynooth is Ireland's only university town.** It is home to a vibrant community, rich in heritage and modern conveniences, with excellent transport links across Ireland. With its warm and friendly atmosphere and array of shops, businesses, restaurants and bars, it has something to offer everyone, whether you are looking for culture, nature, or adventure.

The historic town has at either end of the main street, Maynooth Castle and Carton House, two former seats of the Dukes of Leinster. The University campus and town complement each other to the point where one acts as an extension of the other.

## How to get here

### By road from the West:

Travel along the M4 in the direction of Dublin, exit at Junction 7 for Maynooth and follow the brown University signs for South Campus.

### By road from the East/Dublin City Centre:

Travel M4 Westbound, Exit at Junction 7 for Maynooth, following the brown University signs for South Campus.

**By road from the North and South:** From the M50, Exit at Junction 7 for M4. From M4 exit at Junction 7 for Maynooth, following the brown signs for South Campus.

### By road from Dublin Airport:

Exit the Airport onto M1 direction for Dublin City/M50. Exit onto M50 travelling Southbound, From the M50, Exit at Junction 7 for M4. From M4 exit at Junction 7 for Maynooth, following the brown signs for South Campus.



Images by William Murphy - flickr.com/infomatique / CC BY 2.0

### By public transport:

#### Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail — Maynooth Service from Dublin Connolly — 41 mins



#### Iarnród Éireann Irish Rail — Sligo/Longford Service — 33mins



#### Bus Éireann — Route 115 — 41 mins



#### Dublin Bus — Maynooth served by C Spine routes from the heart of the city



#### Dublin Airport Hopper — Maynooth — Dublin Airport — 32mins



# What our Alumni think

▶ "My time in St Patrick's Maynooth gave me a wider lens to see the world, a greater perspective that I bring to my role as Chaplain. Being a Chaplain in this community is very rewarding and allows me bring that part of Maynooth with me.

What we bring to patients is much bigger than ourselves, it's representative of our faith and Christ, which is critically important for people when they are facing the unknown, a diagnosis or a loss."



Julianna Crowley, Chaplain  
Cork University Hospital &  
Cork Maternity Hospital,  
BATH & MTh.

▶ "My semester at St Patrick's took me on a journey through different philosophical fields and eras and helped me broaden and deepen my knowledge in philosophy.

I thoroughly enjoyed every single course I took, as each one provided me with a great source of material and the opportunity to explore what sparked my interest in the coursework.

Even though Ireland was in the midst of the pandemic, I couldn't have felt more cared for by my lecturers. I received attentive and precise answers to all my questions, whether academic or personal. It was only when I resumed my studies in Germany that I realised how much I had learned - not only academically, but also about myself."



Sophie Wax  
Philosophy Student  
Germany

“Postgraduate studies at a leading theological university as Maynooth was an incredible experience. The staff are highly professional and have a wealth of knowledge. Circumstances of all students are considered, which made my part-time studies so much more possible.

▶ **The MTh expanded my learning by exploring the Bible from new perspectives. It showed me how relevant theology is to all aspects of life.”**



**Arnold Hensman**  
MTh Graduate

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“The door has opened to me with many career opportunities as a lay person. Without doubt, my life is so much richer now having completed the Master’s.

▶ **I cannot express how much I encourage anyone to take on a Master's in Theology – no matter wherever you are in your life.”**



**Andrea Patton**  
Master's in Theology  
(Scripture)

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▶ **“My studies have been a fascinating and enriching experience. I thank the staff and my colleagues for the wonderful time we shared together in that journey. I am eternally grateful to my thesis supervisor, Dr Jessie Rogers”**

**Timothy Mejida**  
Doctorate in Theology

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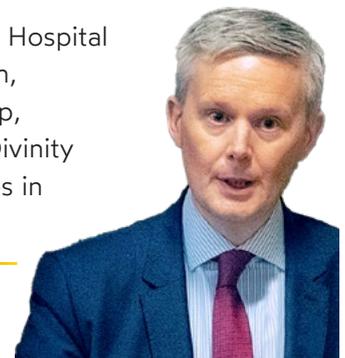


▶ **“Your theology studies have the potential to shape both who you are and what you do, just as it did with me.**

With your own distinctive creativity and imagination, your theology has the potential to influence worlds as diverse as business and finance, education, environmental care, farming and marketing.”

**Alan Burke**  
Head of Mission & Hospital  
Management Team,  
Bon Secours Group,  
Baccalaureate in Divinity  
& Graduate Studies in  
Moral Theology

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# Our range of programmes

Choose from Doctorate, Licentiate, Diploma, Higher Diploma, and a range of Taught and Research Master's programmes.

“Our students are people who want to contribute in a valuable way to society.

Graduates can be found in a diverse range of fields, including teaching, charity and development work

and journalism. They are sought out as people who have critical minds, with the ability to see the biggest possible picture.”

Rev Dr Michael Shortall,  
Dean of Postgraduate  
Studies



## Topics include:

Theological Studies

Philosophy

Pastoral Liturgy

Divinity

History of Christianity

Contemporary Ethics

Bible and Spirituality

**Research Master's** (120 credits, 2-Years Full-Time)

These can be undertaken either by

- **Structured Research (Mode A)**, or by
- **Pure Research (Mode B)**, refer to page 20

**Taught Master's** (90 credits 1 year Full-Time or 2 years Part-Time) specialising in:

- **General Theology** or
- **Bible and Spirituality** or
- **Contemporary Ethics**.

Please note that modules listed in this document are indicative and are subject to change from time to time. Applications close at different times for different programmes but late applications may be accepted. We recommend checking with the relevant Programme Co-ordinator/point of contact before making your application.



# Theology

**Qualification:**

HDip

**Duration:**

Full-time course delivered part-time over 1 year.

**Methods of Learning:**

Blended - online and on-campus learning

**Commencement date:**September of each year, check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)**Application closing date:**Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for application closing dates**Fees:**See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)**Programme Co-ordinator:**Prof Séamus O'Connell  
[seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie](mailto:seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie)

# Higher Diploma in Theological Studies (Blended Learning)

**Programme suitable for:**

The Higher Diploma in Theological Studies meets all the Teaching Council of Ireland's Requirements for the teaching of Religious Studies at post-primary level. It entitles teachers holding Department-recognised degrees and teacher training qualifications to apply to the teaching council to teach up to 15 hours Religious Education per week in a secondary school.

Other graduates may use the programme as a gateway to applying to a Master's programme in Theology or Pastoral Ministry either here in Maynooth or elsewhere. Others may be interested in the programme simply as a structured way to approach the big questions in life, giving their personal inquiry a theological shape in the Catholic tradition. Additionally, the Higher Diploma equips graduates to take a more active role in their local church community.

**Description:**

This one-year, evening/weekend, Level 8, 60 ECTS credits programme gives a foundation in Theological Studies to students who hold a primary degree in another discipline.

**Admission requirements:**

A primary degree or its equivalent is required. While the degree/qualification will normally be in a discipline other than Theology, consideration will be given to all applications.

**Course Content:**

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

**Modules**

- Introduction to Theology
- Reason, Faith and Revelation
- Understanding Jesus Christ Today
- The Church and its Sacraments
- Moral Theology
- Bioethics
- Catholic Social Teaching
- Sacred Scripture
- The Bible and its Worlds
- The Old Testament
- The New Testament
- Liturgy
- Foundations of Worship
- Teaching of Religious Education through the Catholic Ethos
- Introduction to World Religions
- Church History
- Philosophy of Religion Grace, Salvation and Christian Anthropology

# Master's in Liturgical Music

## Programme suitable for:

The programme qualifies holders to undertake the post of Organist, Cantor, or Director of Liturgical Music at parish, diocesan or national level.

## Description:

The Master's in Liturgical Music is a joint academic and practice-based programme which combines theological and theoretical study of the Church's liturgy with advanced-level tuition in voice, organ and liturgical composition.

## 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 Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

### Year 1

#### Core Academic Modules

- Liturgy: Ritual, Theological and Historical Approaches
- Sacramental Theology: Liturgical and Systematic Aspects
- Introduction to Liturgy and the Sacraments of Christian Initiation
- The Eucharist / Liturgical Time
- Music in Christian Worship
- Aspects of Liturgical Music

Recognition of Prior Learning may be considered for certain candidates in respect of the following modules:

- Introduction to Liturgy
- the Eucharist / Liturgical Time

In the following Practical Modules, students take Liturgical Composition and choose between Organ Skills and Cantor Skills

#### Practical Modules

- Liturgical Composition
- Organ Skills I
- Cantor Skills I

### Year 2

#### Practical Modules

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



#### Qualification:

MLM



#### Duration:

2 years Full-Time



#### Methods of Learning:

In-person



#### Commencement date:

September of each year, check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



#### Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for application closing dates



#### Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



#### Programme Co-ordinator:

Dr John O'Keeffe

[john.okeeffe@spcm.ie](mailto:john.okeeffe@spcm.ie)

Rev Dr Neil Xavier O'Donoghue

[neilxavier.odonoghue@spcm.ie](mailto:neilxavier.odonoghue@spcm.ie)





**Qualification:**  
MTh



**Duration:**  
2 years Full-Time  
or 3 years Part-Time



**Methods of Learning:**

- In-person on campus
- Placement Education onsite in a Teaching Parish or equivalent setting
- Supervised Research



**Commencement date:**  
September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



**Application closing date:**  
Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



**Fees:**  
See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



**Programme Co-ordinator:**  
Dr Michael Shortall  
[michael.shortall@spcm.ie](mailto:michael.shortall@spcm.ie)

# Master's in Theology (Pastoral Theology)

## Programme suitable for:

Graduates of Theology degrees seeking to specialise in some form of pastoral ministry and undertake research within the field of Pastoral/Practical Theology. Candidates may have a significant amount of ministry experience in a given area but have not had any formal preparation for pastoral leadership. Ministers seeking professional growth and development to strengthen their leadership capacity in a changing ministerial landscape.

## Description:

This level 9 programme ideally forms part of a minister's continuing journey of growth and development, strengthening his/her capacity for ministry leadership in the Church.

At this level, ministers are enabled to take 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. Students 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. Students learn complex and advanced skills to teach in diverse settings, provide effective catechetical and faith formation, and exercise responsible stewardship of parish personnel and resources.

## 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.



## Placement Education:

At St Patrick's Pontifical University, our goal is to provide pastoral formation for our students, to cultivate the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they will need to minister effectively in the diverse pastoral settings.

Our strategy is to have vital 'Teaching Pastoral Contexts' that will work in partnership with the Pastoral Programmes at SPPU, and complement the learning that takes place in the classroom setting in Maynooth. The Teaching Pastoral Contexts will provide students with good quality placement experiences within beneficial and instructive learning environments.

Students undertake between 414-429 hours of ministry practice in Teaching Placement sites (i.e., in approved community and school settings), alongside experienced mentors, for the duration of the academic year. They undertake a second, 10-12 week placement in a clinical setting by completing a unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) in an accredited CPE hospital.

In addition, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, held in September.

# Master's in Theology (General Theology)

## Programme suitable for:

The Taught Master's (90 ECTS) programmes provide students with an expertise in religion, theology, church and society, generally pursued by second level teachers.

## Description:

This one-year Taught Master's 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.

## 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.

## Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

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.

### Semester 1:

Theology – Renewal in the 20th century and two of the following:

- “Good Politics” – Pope Francis and the Common Good
- Come and See: John and Method
- Sacramental Theology: Liturgical and Systematic Aspects

### Semester 2:

Any three of the following\*:

- Augustine and Christian Doctrine
- Sensus Fidei and Synodality
- Word and Lection
- The David Story
- Pastoral Practice of Liturgy

\*This list is correct as of going to print.

### Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology.



### Qualification:

MTh



### Duration:

1 year Full-Time



### Method of teaching:

In-person



### Commencement date:

September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



### Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



### Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



### Programme Co-ordinator:

Dr Michael Shortall

[michael.shortall@spcm.ie](mailto:michael.shortall@spcm.ie)





**Qualification:**  
MTh



**Duration:**  
2 years Part-Time



**Method of teaching:**  
In-person (1 day per week)



**Commencement date:**  
September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



**Application closing date:**  
Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



**Fees:**  
See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



**Programme Co-ordinator:**  
Dr Suzanne Mulligan  
[suzanne.mulligan@spcm.ie](mailto:suzanne.mulligan@spcm.ie)

# Master's in Theology (Contemporary Ethics)

## Programme suitable for:

Typically, mature students, who wish to top up their knowledge.

## Description:

In an increasingly globalised world, we are confronted with complex questions about identity, human rights, ecology, and media ethics. This Master's programme provides a comprehensive analysis of current ethical issues in a dynamic learning environment. Students will also explore contemporary trends in globalisation, issues in healthcare ethics, social justice and human rights concerns, as well as the ethics of media relations.

## 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.

## Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

### Cycle A:

- Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century
- Implications for Moral Method and Content
- "Good Politics", Pope Francis, and the Common Good

### Cycle B:

- History of Christian Thought
- Spirituality, Religion and Contemporary Healthcare Ethics
- War: Ethical and Theological Perspectives
  - Minor Dissertation (15,000 words)



# Master's in Theology (Bible and Spirituality)

## Programme suitable for:

Typically, graduate and mature students, who wish to top up their knowledge.

## Description:

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 Master's 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.

## 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. In addition, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, held in September.

## Course Content:

Students take two modules per semester in semesters 1, 2 and 3 and complete a minor dissertation in semester 4.

### 2024/25

#### Semester 1

- Re-imagining the Human
- Exploring Biblical Narrative (online + one week on campus)

#### Semester 2

- Liberation and Law: Approaches to the Book of Exodus
- Word and Lection: Scripture Heard and Proclaimed

### 2025/26

#### Semester 1

- History of Christian Thought (online)
- John and Method

#### Semester 2

- The David Story
- Pathways in Biblical Spiritualities

### 2026/27

#### Semester 1

- Theology and Renewal in the Twentieth Century
- Exploring Biblical Narratives (online + one week on campus)

#### Semester 2

- Synodality: Perspectives from Scripture and Spirituality
- Exploring Ways of Reading Genesis



## Qualification:

MTh



## Duration:

2 years Part-Time



## Method of teaching:

In-person (Wednesdays)



## Commencement date:

September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



## Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



## Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



## Programme Co-ordinator:

Dr Jessie Rogers

[jessie.rogers@spcm.ie](mailto:jessie.rogers@spcm.ie)





**Qualification:**  
MTh



**Duration:**  
120 Credits, 2 years Full-Time



**Method of teaching:**  
In-person



**Commencement date:**  
September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



**Application closing date:**  
Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



**Fees:**  
See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



**Programme Co-ordinator:**  
Rev Dr Michael Shortall  
[michael.shortall@spcm.ie](mailto:michael.shortall@spcm.ie)

## Master's in Theology (Research)

### Programme suitable for:

The Research Master's tends to be most suitable for those pursuing academic ambitions, but also attracts people from a wide variety of professions.

### Description:

The Research Master's is aimed at giving students the necessary skills and knowledge to permit them to acquire an initial mastery in their field of interest.

Research Master's programmes form the foundation of enduring postgraduate study at the University. In a Research Master's, candidates exercise far greater choice in the shape of their study and personal research, in contrast to Undergraduate Study or a Taught Master's where a student follows a course of study determined to a huge extent by the degree they have chosen. There are two Research Master's routes — the Master's by Minor Thesis and Allied Courses (Mode A), and Master's by Major Thesis (Mode B).

A Master's degree requires a thorough, broad, and interdisciplinary academic training. It is in this perspective that the Pontifical University brings the wide experience and expertise of its theologians to bear.

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

### 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.

To qualify for admission to a Master's in Theology by dissertation only (Mode B), 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. Master's Mode B is recommended only for students who have a clear research focus and a proven ability to work on their own. An interview will be part of the selection procedure.



## Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

There are two methods of obtaining this degree.

**Mode A:** candidates complete five Seminar Courses and write a minor thesis (25,000-30,000 words).

**Mode B:** candidates submit a major thesis (40,000 words) and fulfil the requirements of the Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches Seminar.

### Programme of Study: Mode A - Structured Research

The duration of the programme is two years. This involves at least a one-year course of full-time study in one of the options below. In the second year the candidate completes a thesis. The candidate also takes one seminar course in the first semester of second year.

- Course Option I: Systematic Theology
- Course Option II: Moral Theology
- Course Option III: Biblical Theology
- Course Option IV: Pastoral Liturgy

### Programme of Study: Mode B - Pure Research

Candidates must fulfil the requirements of Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches, and work for at least three semesters under the direction of a permanent teacher within the Faculty.

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.

Candidates may be examined on the subject matter of the dissertation if the examiners so decide.





**Qualification:**  
STL



**Duration:**  
2 years Full-Time



**Method of teaching:**  
In-person



**Commencement date:**  
September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



**Application closing date:**  
Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



**Fees:**  
See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



**Programme Co-ordinator:**  
Rev Dr Michael Shortall  
[michael.shortall@spcm.ie](mailto:michael.shortall@spcm.ie)

## Licentiate in Divinity

### Programme suitable for:

The Licentiate in Divinity (STL) degree is suggested for lay, clergy and religious to further theological expertise for service in official capacities in religious communities and dioceses, and for teaching in higher education, diocesan schools, and seminaries. Officially, it “is the academic degree which enables one to teach in a major seminary or equivalent school.” It also serves as a preparation for doctoral work.

### Description:

The STL is a pivotal postgraduate degree in the Pontifical University, as the STL qualifies candidates to teach theology in a major seminary, and in the canonical programmes of a Roman Catholic university. St Patrick’s Pontifical University awards the Licentiate in Fundamental Theology, Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Sacred Scripture, Sacred Liturgy, and in Philosophy (LPhil or PhL).

Since the STL qualifies candidates to teach theology as described above, it provides both the necessary skills and knowledge to permit candidates to acquire mastery in their field of interest and offers a demanding cycle of seminars and reading courses that ensure a rigorous grounding in a particular theological discipline. The programme takes at least 4 semesters, during the final two semesters of which the candidate undertakes a dissertation, which is examined *Viva voce*. 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 in their previous theological studies. Part-time candidates may, with the approval of the Director, take the course over three or four years.

### Admission Requirements:

- 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.
- STL candidates entering the Faculty of Theology shall be required to sit a qualifying examination in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin. Otherwise, students can complete this acquirement during the programme.
- Candidates must have or must acquire a good reading knowledge of one modern continental European language.
- Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

In addition, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, held in September.



# Doctorate in Theology (Full-Time / Part-Time)

## Programme suitable for:

The PhD programme is an opportunity for those who want to further their studies after completing a Master's Degree. A PhD will qualify you to lecture in higher level education, conduct research and enter other fields where there are high standard for scholarly insight and advanced analytical thinking.

## Description:

This programme of study can be undertaken on either a full-time or part-time basis.

Under the supervision of a member of the Faculty of Theology, a candidate undertaking the PhD in Theology delineates and investigates a question or the aspect of a question in a way that permits her or him to acquire an overarching mastery and competence in their chosen theological discipline, so as to formulate a thesis, write a dissertation thereon, and thus contribute to the development of theological understanding. The Faculty of Theology currently supervises the PhD in Theology in all principal theological disciplines.

Obtaining a doctorate is not just obtaining a more advanced degree—gaining a doctorate is gaining another life! Researching and writing a doctoral dissertation is not simply a question of more detailed and demanding study, it is the study of a question, a question that fascinates the candidate and captures their imagination. As well as academic ability, undertaking doctoral studies demands dedication, focus, and an ability to hold to one's academic path. This is clearly not for everybody, but for those who endure in their research, the rewards are great: an overarching mastery and competence in their field of research, a deep insight not only into their sub-discipline but into the very character of theology or philosophy, and an ability to frame and engage new questions and research challenges as they emerge.

The Maynooth doctoral candidate—be it for the PhD or the D.D. (S.T.D.)—has access to a very large, international, multilingual, research-active, and diverse Faculty in the Catholic tradition that is part of a dynamic academic network across Europe's premier theology faculties, in an institution where theology has been taught since 1795, with a contemporary research library (the John Paul II University Library) and a venerable archival library (the Russell Library), and sharing research facilities with a large State university on Ireland's most beautiful and most peaceful University campus.

Are you considering a career in research? The PhD programme is an opportunity for those who want to further their studies after completing a master's degree. A PhD will qualify you to lecture in higher level education, conduct research and enter other fields where there are high standards for scholarly insight and advanced analytical thinking.

In addition, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, held in September.



## Qualification:

PhD



## Duration:

4+ years Full-Time or Part-Time



## Method of teaching:

In-person



## Commencement date:

September of each year, check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



## Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for application closing dates



## Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



## Programme Co-ordinator:

Rev Dr Michael Shortall  
[michael.shortall@spcm.ie](mailto:michael.shortall@spcm.ie)

▶ **“Studying Theology at the St Patrick's Pontifical University provided me with the necessary critical skills for an academic career.”**

**Dr Jonathan Burroughs,**  
Lecturer in Theology and  
Religious Studies - PhD

## Admission Requirements:

A Master's in Theology of at least Second Class Honours Grade I or its equivalent. The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard.

A competence in theological language(s) is a qualifying requirement.

Doctoral candidates entering the Faculty of Theology shall be required to sit a qualifying examination in at least two of the following: Hebrew, Greek, or Latin.

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 language may be accepted in lieu of a second.

Candidates who have successfully completed a one-year full-time University course in Hebrew, Latin or Greek are exempt, as are candidates who have successfully completed theological language courses in the Pontifical University.

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

Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English Language Requirements.

Postgraduate Degree candidates will normally be expected to register year on 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 their choice of courses and thesis director.

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.



## Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

Candidates must normally complete at least four years of full-time 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 and The Soul of Theology.

Candidates who have recently completed these two courses as part of an STL or Master's 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 members of the Faculty. This research topic, is not a doctoral proposal, 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.

# Doctorate in Divinity

## Programme suitable for:

Most students who complete the DD (STD) go on to teach in university faculties, seminaries, and theological schools. They also contribute to Church administration and pastoral work, using their extensive study, training, and expertise as resources for their community.

## Description:

The DD (STD) is a canonical doctorate in Theology. In contrast to the PhD in Theology, the DD demands that candidates develop the deep theological synthesis necessary for the teaching of theology in Catholic seminaries and centres of formation.

Like the PhD in Theology, the DD is completed under the supervision of a member of the Faculty of Theology who guides the candidate to delineate and investigate a research question in a way that permits her or him to acquire an overarching mastery and competence in their chosen theological discipline, write a dissertation thereon, and thus contribute to the development of theological understanding.

## 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. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements of the Faculty of Theology.

## Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

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.



## Qualification:

DD



## Duration:

A Doctoral Foundation Year, generally followed by minimum 3 years Full-Time research and writing.



## Method of teaching:

In-person



## Commencement date:

September of each year, check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



## Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for application closing dates



## Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



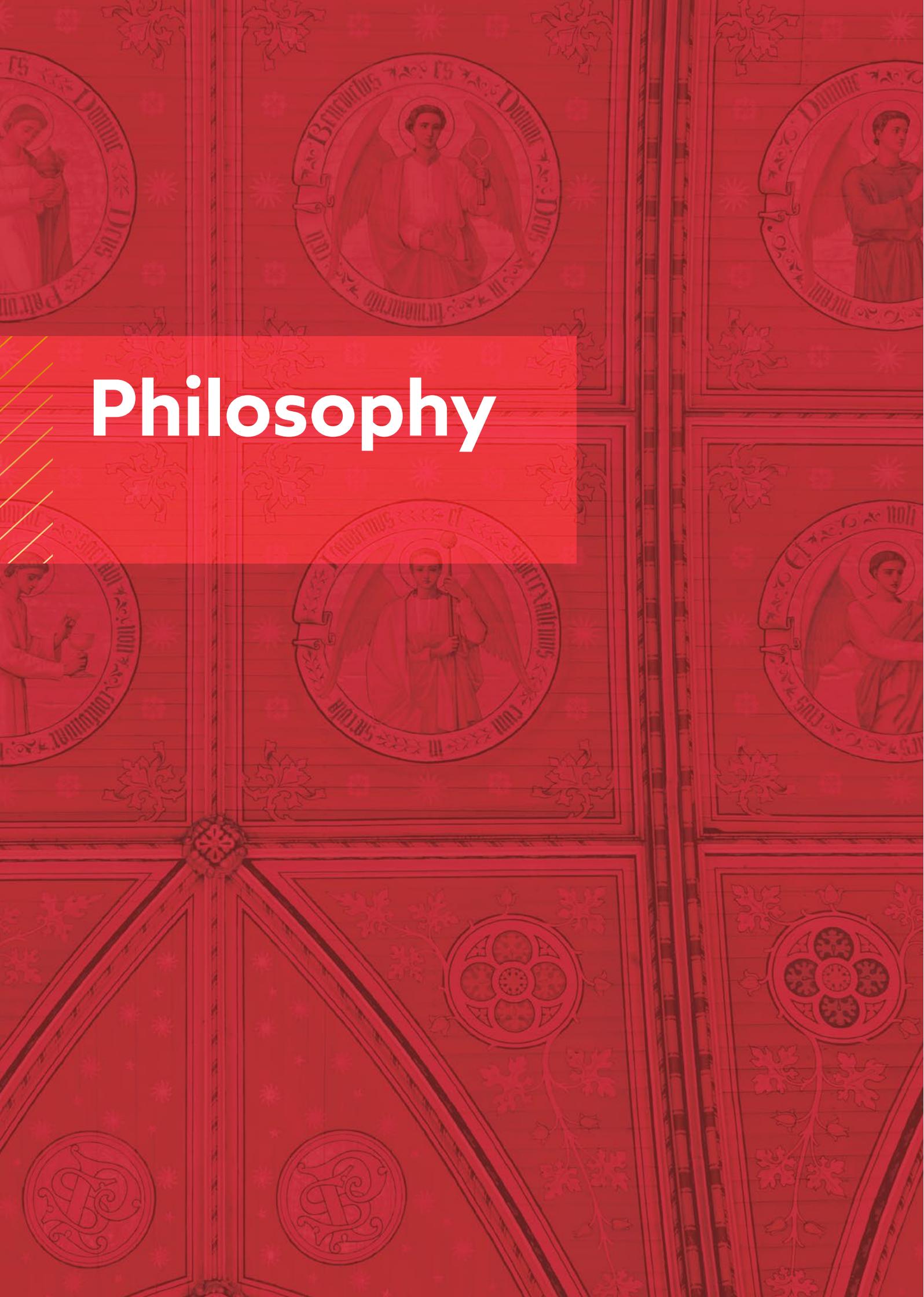
## Programme Co-ordinator:

Rev Dr Michael Shortall  
[michael.shortall@spcm.ie](mailto:michael.shortall@spcm.ie)

► **“Undertaking a doctoral dissertation in Maynooth is challenging, demanding, and rigorous, but is also worthwhile, rewarding, and enjoyable. The commitment and ownership required are on an entirely different level.”**

Anne Lanigan - PhD

# Philosophy



# Master's in Philosophy (Taught)

## Programme suitable for:

This programme is designed for students who wish to deepen their foundational knowledge and capacity in philosophical thought, within the Christian tradition. It is devised to facilitate students who may have other professional commitments, whether in professional or ministerial life.

## Description:

The MPhil (Taught) is a two-year part-time programme and consists of six taught modules and a minor thesis 15,000 – 20,000 words. Students must take a research and methodology module or provide evidence of having completed training in research and methodology. The programme overall is worth 90 ECTS.

Candidates who undertake this programme may need to take a bridging year to develop research skills, if they wish to continue to the doctoral programme. Students undertake two modules per semester, completing six modules by the end of the third semester. Candidates devote the fourth semester to writing the thesis. Admission Requirements

## Admission Requirements:

The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Philosophy comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I or equivalent overall. An interview will be part of the application procedure. The Faculty of Philosophy will also consider applications from candidates whose primary degree is in a subject cognate with philosophy and which comprises a significant philosophical component as determined by the admission board of the Faculty. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement of the Faculty of Philosophy. 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.

## Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

### Cycle A:

- Philosophical Themes in Ancient and Medieval Thought: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics
- Perspectives on Selfhood
- Creation and Desire

### Cycle B:

- Texts in Modern Philosophy
- Political Theology
- Themes from Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas
- Philosophy of God



## Qualification:

MPhil



## Duration:

1 year Full-Time/  
2 years Part-Time.



## Method of teaching:

In-person



## Commencement date:

September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



## Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



## Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



## Programme Co-ordinator:

Dr Gaven Kerr  
[Gaven.kerr@spcm.ie](mailto:Gaven.kerr@spcm.ie)



**Qualification:**  
MPhil



**Duration:**  
2 years Full-Time



**Method of teaching:**  
Research



**Commencement date:**  
September of each year,  
check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



**Application closing date:**  
Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for  
application closing dates



**Fees:**  
See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



**Programme Co-ordinator:**  
Dr Philip Gonzales  
[philip.gonzales@spcm.ie](mailto:philip.gonzales@spcm.ie)

## Master's in Philosophy (Research)

### Programme suitable for:

The programme for degree of Master's in Philosophy (MPhil) offers candidates the opportunity to deepen their knowledge of Philosophy through specialised study, personal work and research. The programme is worth 120 ECTS.

This programme is designed to facilitate students who are committed to long term research, within the Christian tradition. As such, it is a direct route into the Doctoral programme.

### Description:

There are two methods of obtaining this degree by research.

- Mode A / Structured Research: candidates complete five seminar courses and write a minor dissertation (25,000-30,000 words).
- Mode B / Pure Research: candidates submit a major Dissertation (40,000 words) and complete a requirement in research methodology.

### Admission requirements:

The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Philosophy comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I or equivalent overall. An interview will be part of the application process. The candidate will be expected to submit a proposed topic for research and a short abstract; this will be discussed during the interview. The Faculty of Philosophy will also consider applications from candidates whose primary degree is in a subject cognate with philosophy and which comprises a significant philosophical component as determined by the admissions board for the faculty. Candidates are expected to show evidence of knowledge of a second language relative to their research. Candidates whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement of the Faculty of Philosophy.

### Course Content:

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

Mode A - Structured Research Programme along with the writing of the thesis, students as a rule will be expected to (i) undertake a research and methodology module, (ii) complete five seminar modules offered by the faculty and (iii) contribute to public speaking events in the life of the University. Candidates must complete Postgraduate Induction week.

Mode B - Pure Research - consists of specialised research on a chosen topic culminating in the production of a 40,000 word thesis (excluding footnotes and bibliography) Along with the writing of the thesis, students as a rule will be expected to (i) undertake a research and methodology module, (ii) participate in modules offered by the faculty, if relevant to the topic of research, and (iii) contribute to public speaking events in the life of the University.

# Licentiate in Philosophy

## Programme suitable for:

The LPhil degree is an important postgraduate degree in its own right as well as being a stepping stone towards a doctoral degree. In itself the LPhil is suggested for lay, clergy, and religious to further philosophical expertise for service in official capacities in religious communities and dioceses, and for teaching in higher education, diocesan schools and seminaries. As a stepping stone to a doctoral degree, the LPhil, much like a Master's degree, functions as a prerequisite for application to doctoral programmes. Not only that, the LPhil introduces the student to postgraduate research and thus provides a valuable entryway into doctoral research.

## Description:

The Licentiate in Philosophy (LPhil) is a full-time Level 9 Award. It is a specialised licentiate in the systematic study of Philosophy.

In order to be admitted to the Licentiate in Philosophy (LPhil) a candidate shall have followed, and taken the examinations in, the required postgraduate courses over two years and submitted a dissertation that demonstrates ability for scientific study in philosophy.

Successful candidates for the MA (Mode 2) examination in the Faculty of Philosophy, Maynooth University, may also be admitted to the Licentiate. They are required in addition to present a minor thesis, on a separate topic from the MA thesis but of comparable length. The thesis should focus on an area of Christian philosophy. Prospective candidates should contact the Philosophy Office by the end of January of their degree year.

In addition, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.



## Qualification:

LPhil



## Duration:

2 years Full-Time



## Method of teaching:

In-person



## Commencement date:

September of each year, check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



## Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for application closing dates



## Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



## Programme Co-ordinator:

Dr Gaven Kerr

[gaven.kerr@spcm.ie](mailto:gaven.kerr@spcm.ie)



► **“Teaching philosophy at St Patrick’s Pontifical University is a real privilege. Our students are highly engaged at all levels, and no matter what area of philosophy is being dealt with, e.g. ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, they always come to the issue with critical questions. This creates an excellent community within which philosophical discussion can occur.”**

**Dr Gaven Kerr,**  
Lecturer in  
Philosophy



### **Admission Requirements:**

- Applicants should provide transcripts to establish that they have received a Baccalaureate or Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy from a recognised institution. Candidates who have done their philosophical studies in a civil Faculty of Philosophy can only be admitted if their preparation meets the requirements for an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy.
- Applicants must normally have been awarded at least an upper second (2:1) or equivalent in their Bachelor’s degree in Philosophy.
- Applicants should provide a letter of recommendation showing evidence of their character and integrity.
- Applicants should provide a personal statement accompanying their application, in which they provide reasons for applying to study for a Licentiate, the prior preparation (undergraduate study) and skills (e.g. knowledge of philosophy, organisational and critical thinking abilities, etc.) they possess, and the goals they have, including both short-term aims for the programme, and long-term goals for their work after the proposed degree.
- Applicants will undergo an interview with two members of Faculty, which will normally be based on the personal statement they have submitted as well as upon their academic history
- Applicants should provide evidence that they have a funding plan for their studies.

### **Course Content:**

In addition to the following programme of study, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.

Candidates are required to follow, and take examinations in, the required postgraduate courses over two years and submit a dissertation that demonstrates an ability for systematic study in philosophy. Candidates must complete at least nine graduate Modules, and a minor dissertation, the topic of which must be first approved by the director and reader of the dissertation. Modules are chosen from the suite of modules available at the appropriate level (Level 9/10) through the Faculties of Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical University, and the Department of Philosophy, Maynooth University. The Programme of Study must be arranged in consultation with the Dean of Philosophy.



# Doctorate in Philosophy

## Programme suitable for:

Graduates from the doctoral programme will have achieved the highest degree that a graduate student can obtain. As such, graduates tend to move into the academic world of teaching and research, and so are often employed by third level institutions around the globe. Whilst competitive, a career in academic philosophy is highly rewarding and allows the graduate to enter a form of life whereby he or she can make real and significant contributions to philosophical thought.

## Description:

The principal requirement for the award of the Doctorate in Philosophy (DPhil) is a major dissertation which proves the candidate's capacity for scientific investigation and which makes a real contribution to philosophy. Candidates may also be required to follow a specified range of qualifying courses. Candidates for the DPhil must have achieved a grade of at least Magna cum Laude / Second Class Honours, Grade I / B in the LPhil or its equivalent.

The DPhil introduces the student to high level systematic research in philosophy, and upon completion places the student amongst academic peers who contribute in an ongoing way to perennial issues in philosophy.

The Faculty of Philosophy at St Patrick's Pontifical University has a number of high-level international scholars, who are consistently publishing and engaging in philosophical discussion with thinkers around the globe.

Our research expertise extends but is not limited to:

- The History of Philosophy (ancient, medieval, and modern).
- Scholasticism (particularly the thought of Aquinas).
- Continental Philosophy.
- The History of Analytic Philosophy.
- Philosophy of Religion (as developed in all the main areas of philosophy).
- Political Philosophy.
- Phenomenology.

Applicants for the degree of DPhil at St Patrick's will have the opportunity to work within the research areas listed above and their related fields.

In addition, candidates must complete Postgraduate induction, week beginning in September.



## Qualification:

DPhil



## Duration:

3 years Full-Time



## Method of teaching:

In-person



## Commencement date:

September of each year, check [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie)



## Application closing date:

Check [sppu.ie/courses](http://sppu.ie/courses) for application closing dates



## Fees:

See [sppu.ie/fees-and-funding](http://sppu.ie/fees-and-funding)



## Programme Co-ordinator:

Dr Gaven Kerr

[gaven.kerr@spcm.ie](mailto:gaven.kerr@spcm.ie)

▶ **“Teaching as a guest lecturer at St Patrick's was a great intellectual and cultural experience. I was warmly welcomed and the students did not only have profound philosophical knowledge, but also a deep-rooted existential interest in philosophical questions.”**



**Benjamin Hahn,**

Research assistant at the University of Passau

# Postgraduate Support

## The University Library

The Library is a key resource for students. A team of dedicated staff provide all students with a high quality service in a friendly and student-centred environment. The library offers space for eight different learning styles, from the collaborative to totally silent spaces. Staff are always on hand to deal with any queries students may have. The eBook collection and almost 50,000 journals can be accessed by registered students via the web from anywhere in the world. Kindle readers are available to borrow and PCs and laptops are available throughout the library. More information about the library can be found at [sppu.ie/library](http://sppu.ie/library)



John Paul II  
Library

## Student Accommodation

Postgraduate students can avail of accommodation on site in the historic St Patrick's campus on a short-term basis to suit your needs. Students attending evening and weekend classes can opt to stay over should they wish.

To express your interest in campus accommodation please email [villageaccounts@spcm.ie](mailto:villageaccounts@spcm.ie). For more information, please go to [sppu.ie/accommodation](http://sppu.ie/accommodation)



# Scholarships

St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth awards scholarships, grants, and fee remission to current and incoming postgraduate candidates in order to promote and foster excellence in scholarship and research, but also to support postgraduates in their studies, to enhance their experience of postgraduate study and research, and to broaden their academic horizons.



**Scholarships and grants are awarded initially for one year but may be considered for renewal from year to year during the holder's course of studies subject to renewed application.**

The range of scholarships and grants offered by the University may not necessarily be awarded every year. Preference is given to applicants who do not hold any other scholarship or educational award. Prospective incoming candidates who have been accepted into a programme may be invited to apply for scholarships, grants or fee remission as appropriate. Scholarships are awarded to successful candidates specifically in recognition of their academic excellence and potential. Grants may be assigned to successful candidates on a financial needs basis in all other cases.



Fee Remission is awarded in identified circumstances on the instruction of the President in consultation with the Scholarships and Grants Board. The Scholarships and Grants Board reserves the right to determine any Scholarship, Grant or Fee Remission in whatever manner deemed suitable given a candidate's application.

Such awards may include support for accommodation costs, fees, or otherwise. Further information and the Scholarships Listing can be found on our website: [sppu.ie/scholarships-funding](http://sppu.ie/scholarships-funding).

# Applying to us

## Irish and EU applicants

Applications are now being accepted on **pac.ie**. If you have any queries please contact **pgadmissions@spcm.ie**.

- You must have an active e-mail account in order to use this facility. It is your responsibility to check your PAC account regularly for any updates on your application and ensure it is active and in working order.
- Please note there is a €50 non-refundable application fee payable to PAC.

## Admission Requirements

- All intending applicants are advised to familiarise themselves with the entry requirements and the start dates for the programme(s) of their choice. Full details for each programme on offer in St Patrick's Pontifical University can be found at **sppu.ie/courses**.

## Student Assistance Fund (SAF)

The Student Assistance/Access Fund is jointly sponsored by the European Social Fund and the Irish Government. It is available for students who require additional financial support to enable them to benefit fully from their third level studies. Registered students do not necessarily need to be grant holders to apply for funding. It simply offers a limited amount of financial support to students who experience financial difficulties related to the costs of their studies. The funding is available to all EU registered students of St Patrick's Pontifical University

## Transfer applications

Applications are welcomed from candidates who have completed one or more years of a postgraduate programme and wish to transfer into one of our postgraduate programmes. Transfer applicants must also apply online through PAC.

## Fees

The fees for our postgraduate courses vary from course to course. Our Full-Time, Postgraduate Master's in Theology, & Doctorate in Theology are approved courses for the purposes of SUSI Grants.

For further queries please contact **fees@spcm.ie** or visit **sppu.ie/fees-and-funding**.

## International Students

### International / Non-EU applicants from outside the Republic of Ireland

Applicants are to apply by the date specified alongside each course.

International / Non-EU must apply through PAC. There is an “Apply Now” button on the front page of each programme on our website, which will take applicants directly to PAC.

### Visa Applications

**It is vital that international students begin the visa application process as soon as possible.** All postgraduate students are obliged to attend induction/orientation sessions at the start of the first semester. The timetable will be sent to you on acceptance to the programme. *Please be aware that students who arrive late may not be allowed to start the programme.*

### Academic and English-Language Requirements for non-EU citizens

International applicants must have a recognised primary (undergraduate) degree which is considered equivalent to an Irish university primary degree. Some programmes may have additional requirements. The minimum English-language requirements for postgraduate study are: IELTS 6.5 overall or equivalent.

## Information on Recognised Prior Learning and Recognised Prior Experiential Learning at SPPU

SPPU accepts applications for both recognised prior learning (RPL) and recognised experiential prior learning (RPEL). SPPU is in alignment with the National Strategy for Higher Education to 2030 and Ireland’s National Skills Strategy 2025, where the University has committed to develop and implement a standardised system of accreditation of prior learning taking account of previous education, skills, work experience and engagement in society. QQI's core statutory quality assurance guidelines also require that SPPU policies and procedures for learner admission, progression and recognition include fair recognition of education and training qualifications, periods of study and prior learning, including the recognition of non-formal and informal learning. In this way SPPU’s ethos enables flexible learning pathways.

From an admissions perspective, whilst there are normally defined academic entry requirements for university programmes, it is appropriate that SPPU has mechanisms to allow entry to applicants who do not meet the normal requirements, but who are, for other reasons deserving of admission.

Recognition of prior learning is when formal recognition is given for relevant learning already obtained prior to starting on a programme or module. That learning may have been attained through or in a formal, non-formal and informal experience or context.

### **There are three defined routes of access through RPL to SPPU;**

1. Direct entry to first year: Learners can commence a programme of study at SPPU, based on learning outcomes which identify the knowledge, skill and competence required to enter.
2. Advanced entry to a programme of study in cases where a learner can demonstrate that they already achieved the learning outcomes associated with all modules for the stage or year for which they are seeking an exemption.
3. Granting of exemptions or credits for all types of learning.

Please contact [registry@spcm.ie](mailto:registry@spcm.ie) for further information

#### Information on placements for International Learners

International learners enrolled on courses on certain programmes at SPPU (Level 7 or equivalent and above) are allowed to undertake an internship where this forms part of their programme. This is subject to the following rules.

- The internship or work placement component of the course cannot exceed 50% of the duration of the course. In addition the employment cannot be in a self-employed capacity.
- Work placements as part of the academic programme must form an integral part of the course and their completion contribute to the final award.
- SPPU ensures that the placements are appropriate to the nature and level of the academic programme being pursued.

The Programme Coordinator for the respective programme will assist students in securing placement.

## **Additional Services for Students**

### **Academic Advisory Office**

The Academic Advisory Office functions as a convenient first point of contact for students who wish to seek advice or assistance with their general experience of university life. The office provides an ombudsman-like role for students who may be encountering difficulties in their programme of study.

The mission of the Academic Advisory Office is to provide high-quality academic advice and guidance to enable all students to reach their full academic potential. Academic Advisors are here to help you to explore, identify and achieve your academic goals and to become an independent, self-directed learner and decision-maker.

The office is an open, welcoming and inclusive environment that nurtures and empowers all students through its programmes, services and initiatives.

## Career Development Centre

The Career Development Centre provides a service that is student-focused, professional and informative offering information, advice and guidance on areas such as career options, further study and employment opportunities. We encourage you to make use of our resources throughout your time at university, and to begin working on your career plans early on.

We offer:

- Career presentations
- Drop-in Helpdesk daily
- One-to-one guidance meetings with a careers adviser
- Career Development Centre Website ([sppu.ie/careers](http://sppu.ie/careers)) - useful resources including information on generating career options, getting into your chosen career, tips on job-search and interview techniques, job listings, sample CVs and online Careers Interest Tests.
- Careers Information Room with free takeaway material.
- Graduate recruitment/employer activities, including on-campus presentations and information stands.

For further information on the Career Development Centre, visit [sppu.ie/careers](http://sppu.ie/careers)

## Counselling Service

The Student Counselling Service is a professional counselling service provided on campus to all registered students of the University. The Service is strictly confidential and is free of charge.

Counselling offers a confidential space to discuss in private any concerns that may be impacting on your academic performance or personal health and well-being.

All contact with the Service is by appointment only. If you would like to speak with a counsellor please contact us by telephone on **+353 (0)1 708 3554**

## Crèche

The crèche cares for children aged 1 year to school-going age. The service provided is Tusla registered with qualified staff. Tel: **+353 (0)1 708 3319**.

## Parking Permits

Designated permit parking is now compulsory in the University. Permits may be purchased online. For more information consult our website [sppu.ie](http://sppu.ie).

## Chaplaincy

The Chaplain is available in the Arts Block in the North Campus and offers appointments and drop-in facilities. Chaplaincy is here to support you, offering a friendly non-judgemental ear whenever needed and is here for those of all faiths and none. Chaplaincy organises weekly & monthly events to facilitate student engagement & build community. If you're interested in getting involved, please email [chaplaincy@mu.ie](mailto:chaplaincy@mu.ie) or call **+353 (0)1 708 3469** for more information.



## The learning platform for all involved in ministry in parishes and dioceses.

Aspal, the Irish for Apostle reminds us that we are all called in order to be sent. The baptism we share, recalled in the blue waters of the Aspal logo, calls us to mission – to bring others to a knowledge of our Triune God, pointed to in that first A of Aspal. A God from whom all emerge and toward whom all intend.

The seven buildings that make our Aspal Church remind us, then, of our goal the completeness and perfection to which we are, with God's help, intended and for which seven stands as a continual reminder; the seven sacraments moments of encounter with our God.

In learning we grow, in coming together our Church is built, in our being sent others are called.

Aspal is the product of a collaboration of the Adult Faith Development Team in Ossory Diocese and St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth. It is the leader in digital faith formation on the island of Ireland, serving every parish and diocese in Ireland.

Our collaboration allows for people in the comfort of their own homes to engage with the highest quality ongoing faith formation. This new means of digital catechesis – the future of faith learning – has been made possible thanks to the support of the Benefact Trust.

Digital Faith Formation is the future of our helping people to know God in a deeper way. We are delighted in this collaboration to lead people on this journey.

## Courses

Current Courses include:

- Introducing Synodality
- Formation for Ministers of the Eucharist
- The Kiss of Christ
- Pathways to Ministry
- Pastoral Council training & planning
- Foundations in Youth Ministry
- Advent course - Emmanuel- God with us

For more information and to register for online courses visit [aspal.ie](http://aspal.ie)

*Aspal, this new means of digital catechesis has been made possible thanks to the support of the Benefact Trust.*



**Disclaimer:** The information contained in this publication is intended as a guide for those seeking admission to St Patrick's Pontifical University and does not constitute a contract or any terms thereof between the University and any intending applicant or any third party. Neither is it intended to give rise to legal obligations of any kind on the part of the University or its employees. The University reserves the right at any time, or from time to time, to cancel, revise, amend, or alter programmes of study and academic regulations. The University is not responsible for and shall not be bound by any errors in, or omissions from this publication.



**St Patrick's**  
Pontifical University



St Patrick's Pontifical University, Maynooth also offers a range of programmes from Certificates to Diploma/Higher Diploma to Master's in Theological Studies, Liturgical Music, Youth Ministry, Pastoral Liturgy, Pastoral Theology, Healthcare Chaplaincy, Diaconate studies and Christian Communications.

These Programmes are offered by our Centre for Mission & Ministries, details are available online at [sppu.ie/courses](https://sppu.ie/courses) and in the Centre for Mission & Ministries Prospectus.

## Staying in touch

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