

Chapter V

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: Reverend Séamus O’Connell, BSc, SSL, DTheol

To obtain the Licentiate in Divinity (STL), two years' full time specialised study is required. The course and degree are designed for students who have attained honours standard in their previous theological studies. Part-time students 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 student must hold at least a Baccalaureate in Divinity, second honours, Grade II (*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 and an appropriate knowledge of two modern languages.
- Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements

Programme of Study

The programme comprises the following:

Reading Courses

Year 1

Students select three reading courses from the list of courses on offer. Students must take courses from at least two different Departments.

Year 2

Students take two reading courses from the Department of their specialization.

Reading Courses are to convene at least once per month during the academic year (i.e., at least 7 meetings). Reading Courses are to be assessed by a variety of means: two end of semester papers and a formal seminar presentation. Each paper is to be of 5000 words. The formal seminar presentation may form the basis for one of the papers. The STL Programme Director, in consultation with those offering the suite of reading courses, is to ensure balance in the means of assessment.

Seminar Courses

Each student is required to take six Seminar Courses.

Year 1

Full time students usually take four courses

Year 2

Two courses in Year Two.

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.

Seminar Courses are normally assessed by assignment(s) of c.7,000 words. Variants may be approved by the Postgraduate Board

Scriptum

Each student shall prepare a *scriptum* or minor 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* will be assessed in a 30-minute *viva*. The examiners shall be the Director of the *scriptum*, an internal reader, and an external reader appointed by the Faculty.

Assessment

The Final Assessment is based on:

- Reading Course examinations
- Seminar Course assignments
- The Scriptum and Viva.

For further details contact:



Admissions Office
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Maynooth
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Doctoral Degree in Divinity

Admission Requirements

In order to register for courses leading to the Doctoral Degree in Divinity (DD), a student must hold at least a Licentiate in Divinity (STL) second honours, Grade I (*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, and an appropriate knowledge of two modern languages. Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements

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.
- Students who have completed the STL programme in the Faculty are not required to take courses or attend lectures.
- Students who have not taken any special courses at the Faculty but have a Licentiate of the required standard must take special courses for one year. These are qualifying only.
- At the end of the first year, doctoral students should provide sufficient evidence of progress in the preparation of the dissertation to warrant continuance.
- Dissertations submitted by 30th November are accepted for examination by early spring. Those submitted by 15th May are accepted for examination in early 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, and 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

The public examination shall comprise 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 half-an-hour 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 student. 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, on disk, microfilm or microfiche, to the main ecclesiastical Faculties of Theology.
- Deposition of a copy of the dissertation and of the disk 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.

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Doctoral Degree in Theology

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

Admission Requirements

- A Masters Degree 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 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.
- Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

Postgraduate Degree students will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Students wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty. Upon registration, PhD students 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.

Programme of Study

- Candidates must normally complete at least three 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 a modern continental European language.

Regulations for the PhD Defence

A defence of the dissertation is required for the awarding of the PhD.

- I. The candidate shall in the first place submit three copies of the dissertation which may be ring-bound.
- II. The examiners shall be the supervisor of the dissertation, an extern chosen by the Faculty, and a member of the Faculty appointed by the Faculty.
The Faculty will also appoint a chairperson for the defence, and members of the Faculty are invited to attend.
- III. The examiners may accept or reject the dissertation for defence.
- IV. The format of the defence shall be decided by the examiners but shall not exceed one and a half-hour's duration.

- V. The examiners shall make a written recommendation to the Faculty.
- VI. The dissertation may be accepted without change or with some modifications, or it may be rejected on the basis of the defence.
- VII. In the event of a successful defence the candidate must submit a hard-bound copy of the dissertation incorporating any changes which the examiners may require. Changes are verified by at least one of the examiners. The degree shall not be conferred until receipt of a duly revised copy has been confirmed by the Director of Postgraduate Studies.
- VIII. A copy of the dissertation will be lodged in the College Library, and candidates will be invited to complete the following form: *I hereby agree that the copy of my dissertation deposited in the Library shall be available for consultation under conditions laid down by the Pontifical University.*
- IX. All dissertations shall remain the property of the University.

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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 thesis.
- Mode B: candidates submit a major thesis and fulfil the requirements of the *Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* Seminar.

Theological Languages – Mode A and Mode B:

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

- 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. In certain circumstances an advanced course in one language may be accepted in lieu of a second.
- A candidate who has successfully completed a one-year full-time University course in Latin or Greek is exempt.
- The language(s) requirement is merely qualifying and does not form part of the final assessment.

This Degree qualifies for Higher Education grants.

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.

Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement. Students will normally be expected to register year by year

on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Students 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. This involves at least a one-year course 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. All *Mode A* candidates must successfully complete the *Postgraduate Induction Week* which takes place during September 11–14, 2017.

Course Option I: Systematic / Moral Theology

In Year One the candidate takes three seminar courses in Systematic / Moral Theology as well the obligatory course:

- *The Soul of Theology* (Dr Macnamara and Dr Rogers) in the second semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in Systematic / Moral Theology in the first semester, and completes the thesis.

Course Option II: Biblical Theology

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

- *The Soul of Theology* (Dr Macnamara and Dr Rogers) in the second semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in Biblical Theology in the first semester and completes the thesis. Thesis to be submitted by the 31st July

Course Option III: Pastoral Liturgy

In Year One the candidate takes four seminar courses, as well as auditing certain elements of the Liturgy course for the *Higher Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy* conducted by the *National Centre for Liturgy* (see Chapter VII).

In the first semester, the seminar courses are in Liturgical Theology and in Christian Worship; in the second semester they are to explore dimensions of the Scriptures in the Liturgy, and Sacramental Theology.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in 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 within two years of completion of the courses. This study is pursued under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology. While engaged on this work the candidate is not required to be in full-time attendance.

Admission Requirements: Mode B

To qualify for admission to a Master's Degree 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.

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

Programme of Study: Mode B

- 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.

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Master's Degree in Theology- *One Year Programme* ***Specialisation: Christianity, Human Rights and Society***

Course Director: Dr Suzanne Mulligan

The course will consist of six taught modules (10 credits each) delivered over two semesters and the submission of a thesis of 15,000 words. Modules will be delivered on Monday and Wednesday evenings and will be assessed by essay (c. 7,000 words). At the beginning of the academic year students will be provided with a range of titles from which to choose a thesis topic. Alternatively students may, in consultation with the course lecturers, write on a topic of their choosing. The submission date for the completed thesis is the end of August.

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 procedure. The Faculty of Theology may also accept applicants whom it deems to have achieved an equivalent standard. Students 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 successfully complete the *Postgraduate Induction Week* on September 11–14, 2017.

Semester 1:

- **PG 452** Church, State and Society
- **PG 703** Moral Theology: Meaning and Method
- **PG 709** Resourcing: Theology and Renewal in 20th Centurey

Semester 2:

- **PG 428** Social Ethics and the Common Good
- **PG 704** Healthcare Ethics and the Catholic Moral tradition
- **PG 705** Media Ethics and Virtue
- **PG 710** Re-imagining the Human: Towards a Renewed Theological Anthropology
- **Thesis** (*to be submitted by Aug 31st at 3:00pm*)

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.

Masters Degree in Theology – *One Year Programme* ***Specialisation: The Bible as Scripture***

Course Director: Dr Jessie Rogers

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

The study of the Scriptures is the ‘soul of theology’ (Second Vatican Council, *Dei Verbum* §24). The *Masters in the Bible as Scripture* is founded upon the experience that the most fruitful approach to the Bible begins with a deep and prolonged engagement with the biblical text—the approach of the New Testament writers, the Church Fathers, the medieval theologians, the Reformers, and of the mystical tradition. Founded upon critical biblical scholarship, this Masters values the faith dimension of engaging the Bible as Scripture—the Church’s book, a revelatory text. It therefore privileges literary, narrative, symbolic and theological approaches to the Bible, which enable candidates to acquire:

- the ability to negotiate biblical texts as literary and linguistic entities;
- a hermeneutical framework that permits the theological import of the Bible to emerge;
- a developed sense of the potential and power of the Scriptures—their challenge, call and spirituality.

Programme of Study

The course consists of six taught modules delivered over two semesters, including a blended module (requiring attendance on January 15–19, 2018), and a minor dissertation of 15000 words. In addition to the following programme of study, which is to be agreed with the Course Director, candidates must successfully complete the *Postgraduate Induction Week* on September 11–14, 2017.

Semester 1:

- **PG 477** “Come and see!” A Narrative and Dramatic Reading of John’s Gospel
- **PG 706** The House of Being: Towards a Theology of Language (January Module)
- **PG 709** Re-Sourcing: Theology and Renewal in the 20th Century

Semester 2:

- **PG 467** Exploring Ways of Reading Genesis
- **PG 710** Re-imagining the Human: Towards a Renewed Theological Anthropology

and *one* of the following:

- **PG 442** The Soul of Theology: Interpreting Sacred Scripture as the Word of God
- **PG 486** Word and Lection: Scripture Heard and Proclaimed
- **PG 488** The Kiss of Christ: Theological, Spiritual and Pastoral Dimensions of *Lectio Divina*
- **PG 707** Wanting it Darker: God in the Gospel of Mark

Minor Dissertation (15000 words)

The dissertation is to be written under the direction of a member of the Faculty of Theology, and submitted by July 31, 2018 by 3:00pm.

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 Professor Liam Tracey, Dr John O'Keeffe

The Masters 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. Students 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 Church's liturgy.
- 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 and two elective 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.

Year One

Postgraduate Induction and Orientation

Candidates for the Masters in Liturgical Music must successfully complete the *Postgraduate Induction Week* which takes place on the week before the commencement of lectures.

Core Academic Modules:

- Introduction to Liturgy and Christian Initiation
- The Eucharist
- Liturgical Time
- Music in Christian Worship
- Aspects of Liturgical music

Elective Academic Modules:

Candidates will take their elective modules from a range of options offered by the National Centre for Liturgy.

Practical Modules:

- Liturgical Composition
- Organ Skills I
- 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
- Practicum

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.

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Master's Degree in Theology

(Specialisation: Pastoral Theology)

Two years full time or three years part time

Acting Director of Pastoral Theology: Rev Dr Padraig Corkery
Assistant Director in Pastoral Theology: Ms Giovanna Feeley MTh

The Master's Degree in Theology (*specialisation: Pastoral Theology*) prepares people for ministry through participative learning, faith formation, theological reflection and practical pastoral experience. At the heart of the programme is the engagement between theology and ministry. The programme includes the study of topics relevant to pastoral theology and ministry including all aspects of theology, Sacred Scripture, contemporary culture, supervision and communications.

Admission Requirements

The minimum entry requirement for this programme is an honours primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should normally have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade I overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade I in Theology. 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.

Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirement. Students will normally be expected to register year by year on a continuous basis until they have completed their degree. Students wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty. A successful interview is an essential part of the selection process.

Course Aims:

The aim of the Master's Degree (Pastoral Theology) is to form and prepare people for ministry. In order to achieve this, the course aims:

- to study and reflect on Christian life and ministry, both individually and corporately in the Christian tradition
- to combine pastoral theology and the acquisition of skills with supervised experience in pastoral placements
- to deepen an understanding of the complementarity that exists between the ordained ministry and the full or part-time lay pastoral ministry in the Christian community

- to develop reflective, pro-active and evaluative skills through theological reflection, so as to enable students to relate theology and ministry to contemporary culture
- to develop and facilitate the on-going formation of people with management skills, including responsibility and accountability appropriate to pastoral ministry

Programme of Study

The Master's Degree in Theology is a two year course. The first year is a taught programme consisting of ten modules. Course work includes group theological reflection, lectures, presentations and interactive seminars. While classes are normally on Monday and Tuesday of each week, students may be required to attend courses and seminars that are only available outside these times. In the second year the student completes one unit of Clinical and Pastoral Education (CPE) and a dissertation / project on an issue relevant to pastoral theology. This course can also be taken over three years part-time.

Core Modules:

- Theology for Ministry
- Liturgy and Pastoral Ministry
- Ethics for Ministry
- The Kiss of Christ: Introduction to *Lectio Divina*
- Church at the Service of God
- Introduction to Pastoral Counselling
- School Catechesis and Chaplaincy
- Ministry in Context: Bringing Faith to Life
- Parish Ministry
- Theological Reflection

Pastoral Placement Education Module:

Students commit to a pastoral placement for ten to twelve hours per week. While placement usually takes place between Wednesday and Sunday of each week, students may also be required to participate in week long block placements. Placement takes place in the first year and is arranged by the student with the support of the placement coordinator. This module also includes a taught portion. Participation in theological reflection groups and supervision are central to the placement experience. The Theological Reflection module is a co-requisite with this module.

Clinical and Pastoral Education (CPE):

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 students apply for independently and take in the second year. Clinical Pastoral Education is a qualifying course for the completion of this degree.

Assessment

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations and a written assignment as outlined within the module. The three primary processes of assessment for the pastoral placement module will be:

- Two placement supervised visits
- A student placement portfolio
- And an integration interview (This forms part of a mid-course review that establishes the readiness for the student to progress to the second year of the programme.)
- Students need to pass all components of assessment in order to pass the module

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