

Pontifical University  
St Patrick's College  
Maynooth



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# POSTGRADUATE COURSES IN THEOLOGY

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**PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY**

# Postgraduate Courses

This document is intended as a guide and does not constitute a contract between the university and any other party.

St Patrick's College, Maynooth

## CONTENTS

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▪ Introduction	1
▪ Pontifical University	1
▪ Maynooth Town	1
▪ Student Accommodation	2
▪ Academic Advisory Office	2
▪ Student Health Centre	2
▪ Computer Centre	3
▪ University Library	4
▪ Chaplaincy	4
▪ Maynooth Access Programme	5
▪ Crèche	6
▪ Career Development Centre	6
▪ Student Assistance Fund (SAF)	7

### Courses

▪ Higher Diploma in Theological Studies (H.Dip)	8
▪ Higher Diploma in Pastoral Theology (H.Dip)	10
▪ Master's Degree in Theology (MTh) (The Bible and Its Worlds)	13
▪ Master's Degree in Theology (MTh) (Christianity, Human Rights and Society)	15
▪ Master's Degree in Theology (MTh) (History of Christianity)	17
▪ Master's Degree in Theology (MTh) (Contemporary Systematic Theology)	18
▪ Master's Degree in Theology (MTh) (Pastoral Theology)	21

• <b>Master's Degree in Theology (MTh) (Two-Year programme)</b>	<b>24</b>
• <b>Master's Degree in Liturgical Music (MLM)</b>	<b>28</b>
• <b>Doctoral Degree in Theology (PhD)</b>	<b>30</b>
• <b>Licentiate in Divinity (STL)</b>	<b>32</b>
• <b>Doctoral Degree in Divinity (DD)</b>	<b>34</b>
• <b>How to apply</b>	<b>37</b>

## **INTRODUCTION**

St Patrick's College, Maynooth opened its doors as an educational institution in 1795 and, over the intervening two centuries, it has established for itself an impressive reputation for scholarship and learning. The Faculty of Theology in the Pontifical University is committed to providing strong leadership for the future. The Faculty's own postgraduate section offers postgraduate qualifications from Higher Diploma to Doctoral level.

St Patrick's College, Maynooth is located on a historic and beautiful campus in County Kildare. With over 700 students enrolled on its academic programmes, its students share a thriving campus and world-class facilities with its larger academic partner institution, Maynooth University, with which it has enjoyed a long history of collegiality and scholarship, which continues to this day.

## **PONTIFICAL UNIVERSITY, ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE**

The Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth (SPCM) has close links with Maynooth University (National University of Ireland, Maynooth). The two universities share the same campus (St Patrick's College being on the south campus) and co-operate in a number of important academic programmes. The campus is also the seat of the National Seminary.

The south campus is beautiful with its elegant neo-gothic and Georgian architecture, while on the north campus the buildings are more modern and contemporary. The campus is also teeming with wild life; here you will find grey squirrels, rabbits and hares in abundance. On occasion, unusual birds such as hawks and kestrels have been observed. It is hard to imagine that this haven of tranquility is so close to the capital of Ireland!

## **MAYNOOTH TOWN**

The town of Maynooth is situated in north County Kildare. It is close to the borders of Counties Dublin and Meath. It is 15 miles/25 km. west of Dublin city centre, just off the N4/M4, the main Dublin to Sligo/Galway road. Maynooth is approximately 13 miles/22km from the N7 – the main Dublin to Limerick/Cork road and it is approximately 20km from Dublin Airport.

Today, Maynooth preserves much of its rural ambience and provides easy access to large tracts of peaceful countryside. At the same time, it is within easy reach of Dublin and is close to the high-technology industrial parks on the western edge of the city. It is home to a vibrant local community and offers students and others abundant opportunities to enjoy a busy and varied social life.

## **STUDENT ACCOMMODATION**

The Accommodation Office offers a comprehensive service to students of both the Pontifical University and Maynooth University. Accommodation is available in University Apartments, hostels, lodgings and private rented houses. To apply for campus accommodation all you need to do is go to [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation) and complete an online application form. There you can also find out all the information about living in Maynooth and campus housing.

Accommodation Office, Maynooth University.  
Tel: +353 (0) 1 – 708 3322 Fax: + 353 (0) 1 – 708 3523  
Email: [accommodation.office@nuim.ie](mailto:accommodation.office@nuim.ie)  
Web: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/accommodation)

## **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, selfdirected 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.

Tel: (01) 708 3368 or via email: [advisory.office@nuim.ie](mailto:advisory.office@nuim.ie).  
<http://academicadvisory.nuim.ie>

## **STUDENT HEALTH CENTRE**

The Student Health Centre is located in the Student Services Centre on the north campus. It is a confidential service and all consultations are free. However, there are charges for some services. For further information please see the Student Health Centre website. It is staffed by a secretary, two nurses and a doctor. Appointments may be made by calling in or telephoning the Student Health Centre on 01 7083878. For more information on services available please check the website:

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/student-wellbeing-support/student-health-centre](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/campus-life/student-wellbeing-support/student-health-centre)

## COMPUTER CENTRE

<https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/computer-centre>

The Computer Centre provides the IT infrastructure for staff and students at Maynooth University.

Core services we offer include logon accounts, email, access to our wireless network, Public Access Computer Rooms, a networked printing service, course-related software and Moodle, the University's elearning tool. Staff and students can also avail of the ECDL program which is provided through the Computer Centre.

As you register with the University you will be provided with a login account, password and email address. Please keep this information safely and do not share your passwords with any other party. If you feel your account is compromised please contact the Computer Centre immediately.

All staff and students are bound by both the Computer Centre's Code of Conduct and the University's Policy on Responsible Computing. Further details on these may be found at [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/computer-centre/students](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/computer-centre/students)

Public Access Computer Rooms are provided on both the North and South Campus. These are generally available to students but some of them may be booked for classes from time to time.

North Campus: Public access computers may be found in the Arts Building PACR, the Arts NetPoint and Callan Foyer PACR.

South Campus: Public access computers may be found in The Library, Long Corridor PACR and the Teaching Rooms.

Here IBM compatible PCs running Windows 7 Professional and Office 2007 and various packages requested by academic departments are connected to a networked printing system. Print jobs are sent to networked printer-photocopier devices, some of which also provide colour printing. As part of Maynooth University's move to a cashless campus, jobs are paid for via your student card which is called the MyCard.

**Contact:** 01 708 3830

[helpdesk@nuim.ie](mailto:helpdesk@nuim.ie)

[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/computer-centre](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/computer-centre)

## THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

The Library plays a key role in student life. The Russell Library is home to the pre-1850 collection, while modern collections are held in the John Paul II Library. Library staff will help you make the most of your time as a postgraduate student. The Subject Librarian for Theology can assist with in-depth information enquiries, recommend the best resources for your research needs and advise on information retrieval and management. There is also a Research Support Librarian for consultation and advice on a wide range of research areas. The Library provides a dedicated postgraduate study room in addition to a wide range of other study and meeting areas.

Both print (over 400,000) and eBooks (almost 400,000) are available. The eBook collection and almost 50,000 journals can be accessed via the web from anywhere in the world. Visitor cards, allowing access to all university libraries in the UK and Ireland, can be obtained from the Library Desk. Suites of PCs and laptops for library use are available throughout the Library.

An increasing number of library services can also be accessed through mobile phone apps. Social media tools, including YouTube, Flickr, Online Chat and RSS feeds are used to enhance services to our users.

More information about the library can be found at <https://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/library>

There are also specific theology web pages at <http://nuim.libguides.com/theology>

## CHAPLAINCY

There are two full-time lay Catholic chaplains, along with Ministers representing the Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian Churches. The chaplains are available to students and provide a range of religious and support services. There are also pastoral groups on campus such as the St Vincent de Paul Society, Maynooth Mission Outreach and Christian Union that welcome new members and offer a great opportunity for students to meet new friends and enjoy new experiences.

The chaplains can be contacted at the Student Services Centre, Tel. 7083588/7083320 and at Room 49 in the Arts Building, Tel. 7083469.

Website: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/chaplaincy](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/chaplaincy).

Facebook: [www.facebook.com/chaplaincy](http://www.facebook.com/chaplaincy)



## MAYNOOTH ACCESS PROGRAMME

The Maynooth Access Programme (MAP) is responsible for encouraging under-represented groups to progress to third level education. MAP uses the resources of the entire Access Office to provide a coordinated approach to supporting all students from these groups while at University, enabling supported students to develop the practical skills involved in becoming confident, independent learners and to carry these skills forward into the workplace or on to further study.

The Access Office/ MAP is based in MAP Lodge, North Campus, Maynooth University, Co. Kildare.

Further information on the Maynooth Access Programme is available;

- by email [access.office@nuim.ie](mailto:access.office@nuim.ie)
- by phone (01) 708 6025
- on the Access Office website:  
[www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/access-office)
- on YouTube [youtube.com/nuimaccess](https://www.youtube.com/nuimaccess)
- on Twitter [twitter.com/nuimaccess](https://twitter.com/nuimaccess)
- on the MAP Area [moodle.nuim.ie](http://moodle.nuim.ie)
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### **Students with Disabilities**

We strive to create an inclusive campus community where all students are afforded the same opportunities to learn, socialise, participate and progress. We have a wide range of supports that put you, the student, at the centre of your academic journey.

Students who typically register with the Disability Office include students with the following disabilities:

- Asperger's Syndrome (AS)
- ADD/ ADHD
- Blind/Vision Impaired
- Deaf/Hard of Hearing
- DCD/ Dyspraxia/ Dysgraphia
- Mental Health Conditions
- Neurological Conditions (incl. Brain Injury and Speech and Language Disabilities)
- Significant Ongoing Illnesses
- Physical/Mobility Difficulties
- Specific Learning Difficulty (incl. Dyslexia and Dyscalculia)

To receive support as a student with a disability you must register with the Disability Office at Maynooth and provide appropriate verification of your disability. Students with a specific learning difficulty, such as dyslexia, must provide a report from an appropriately qualified psychologist. All other students must provide a report from an accepted consultant/ specialist. See [nuim.ie/disability](http://nuim.ie/disability) for information on the documentation we require, consultants/ specialists that can verify a disability and the age limits on reports. While you can register with the Disability Office at any time throughout your studies, early registration is strongly recommended.

We put in place a range of supports to ensure that students with disabilities have the same opportunities for participation and progression as the rest of the university community. A dedicated Disability Advisor in the Disability Office will work with you to identify the supports you need to help you achieve your academic goals. Supports are designed to be enabling, equipping students with the necessary skills to become independent learners. Your MAP Academic Advisor is a designated lecturer in each academic department available to help you with any course-related concerns. Mainstreamed academic supports for postgraduate students include the Academic Advisory Office, the Mathematics Support Centre, the Academic Writing Centre, the Experimental Physics Centre, the Computer Programming Centre and the Library Information Skills Tutorials (LIST). Moodle is used by academic departments and other offices in the University to communicate with students, to post information, facilitate discussions and more. The Maynooth Access Programme uses the MAP Area on Moodle to post important announcements, share study skills resources and provide useful information about our services.

## CRÈCHE

Maynooth University Crèche is a modern, purpose-built crèche in the heart of the north campus, located next to Rye Hall. We care for children aged 1 year to school-going age. We are HSE registered with qualified staff. ECCE and CCS schemes available for qualifying parents.

For further information please visit [crèche@nuim.ie](mailto:crèche@nuim.ie) or telephone Mary or Debbie on 01- 7083319.

## CAREER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

The Career Development Centre provides a service that is student-focussed, professional and informative offering information, advice and guidance on areas such as

- Career options
- Further study
- Employment opportunities

We encourage students to make use of our resources throughout their time at university. The following services are provided:

- Career presentations (e.g. Options after your degree, Making Applications, CV and Interview Techniques, Business Etiquette)
- Drop-in Help-Desk: available 10am to 12.30pm and 2.30pm to 4.30pm Monday to Friday – come in and talk to a careers adviser – appointment not required.
- One-to-one guidance meetings with a careers adviser.
- Career Development Centre Website: [www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers](http://www.maynoothuniversity.ie/careers) providing useful resources including information on generating career options,

getting into your chosen career, tips on job-search and interview techniques, job listings and sample CVs.

- On-line Careers Interest Tests
- Careers Information Room with FREE takeaway material
- Graduate recruitment/employer activities, including on campus presentations and information stands.

Our annual Graduate Recruitment Fairs – a must for all those intending to go directly into employment, take place in the RDS in October and June, while our Postgraduate Fair, also in the RDS, takes place in February each year – see our website for further details.

### **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 full-time registered students of the Pontifical University.

**HIGHER DIPLOMA IN THEOLOGICAL STUDIES (H.DIP) – LEVEL 8  
ONE-YEAR PART-TIME PROGRAMME**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Suzanne Mulligan**

Email: [suzanne.mulligan@spcm.ie](mailto:suzanne.mulligan@spcm.ie)

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

1. **Introduction to Theology**
2. **Systematic Theology**, which examines the meaning and implications of the principal faith-affirmations of Christianity concerning God, Jesus, the Church, the human condition.
3. **Moral Theology**, which deals with the experience of morality and in particular with the bearing of Christian faith on the moral life. Topics include: conscience, making moral decisions, the Bible and morality, bioethics, justice, morality and law, ethics in public life, peace and war.
4. **Scripture**, which covers the nature and significance of the Bible, origins of Biblical texts, literary forms, interpretation today. It will include a study of particular Old Testament and New Testament books.
5. **Philosophy of Religion and Secular Thought**: The aim of this module is to use the resources of philosophy in order to think meaningfully about religion, and to critique secular belief systems.
6. A module on **Foundations of Worship** is also incorporated in the main programme of study.
7. Students will also take a number of **shorter modules** covering Foundations in Religious Education/Catechetics; World Religions; and Church History.

The core courses (Systematic Theology, Moral Theology, Scripture, and Foundations of Worship) will be taught on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

**COURSE STRUCTURE**

Monday: 6:30pm – 9:30 p.m.

Wednesday: 6:30pm – 9:30 p.m.

In addition to Monday and Wednesday lectures students must attend class on 6 Saturdays during the year:

2 Saturdays in Semester One, and 4 Saturdays in Semester Two. 10:00am – 4:00pm

**ASSESSMENT**

**Coursework and Examination**

All core courses will be assessed by means of either coursework *or* end of semester examination. Shorter modules are assessed by means of essay.

### **CAREER PROSPECTS**

The Higher Diploma is recognised by the Department of Education and Skills as entitling teachers holding Department-recognised degrees and teacher-training qualifications to teach up to 15 hours' Religious Education per week in a secondary school.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

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

### **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772.

**Website: [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)**

<b>HIGHER DIPLOMA IN PASTORAL THEOLOGY (H.DIP) – LEVEL 8 ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME</b>
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**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Reverend Martin McAlinden

**Email:** martin.mcalinden@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Higher Diploma in 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 sacred scripture, contemporary culture, supervision and an introduction to pastoral counselling.

**This course aims to:**

study and reflect on Christian life and ministry, both individually and corporately in the Christian tradition,

combine pastoral theology and the acquisition of skills with supervised experience in pastoral placements,

deepen an understanding of the complementarity that exists between the ordained ministry and full or part-time lay pastoral ministry in the Christian community,

develop reflective, pro-active and evaluative skills through theological reflection, so as to enable students to relate theology and ministry to contemporary culture,

develop and facilitate the on-going formation of people with social, organisational, communication and leadership skills, including responsibility and accountability appropriate to pastoral ministry.

**WHO DOES THE COURSE SUIT?**

- A graduate interested in a career in pastoral ministry
- A person who is already involved in the parish, in ministry with young people, or in catechetical work, but would benefit from further study in pastoral theology

**STRUCTURE**

A one-year programme.

The programme consists of 10 taught modules, a pastoral placement, and one unit of Clinical Pastoral Education at a University Hospital. 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.

**Assessment:**

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations and a written assignment as outlined within the module. The placement and theological reflection is assessed twice in the first year. A Learning Portfolio of work illustrating the student's reflections and learning in the taught programme and in the pastoral placement will also form part of the assessment.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

**Core Modules:**

- Foundations of Pastoral Theology.
- Liturgy and the Sacraments in Ministry.
- Historical Theology and Research Methodology.
- Contextual Theology: Ministry and Contemporary Culture.
- Scripture in a Pastoral Setting.
- Moral Theology and Ministry.
- Church at the Service of God.
- Pastoral Theology in Contemporary Society:
  - Primary Level Catechesis & Chaplaincy
  - Parish Ministry
  - Introduction to Pastoral Counselling.
- Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family.
- Human Formation and Faith Development for Ministry.

**Pastoral Placement Education:**

Students commit to a pastoral placement for ten to twelve hours per week and is arranged through the placement coordinator. Participation in pastoral/theological reflection groups and supervision are central to the placement experience.

**Clinical and Pastoral Education (CPE):**

This is a professional education for ministry for pastoral carers, and is based in a university hospital setting. CPE is a method of reflecting on actual ministry in which a supervisor together with a group of students formally agree to reflect critically on the student's ministry as a means of growing in self-awareness, professional competence, theological understanding and Christian commitment.

**CAREER PROSPECTS**

- Parish Pastoral Ministry
- Catechesis
- Education and health care chaplaincy
- Retreat Ministry
- Continued academic studies in pastoral theology

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum entry requirement for this Programme is a primary degree. Candidates should normally have obtained at least a Second Class Honours, Grade II overall. 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 wishing to suspend registration may do so only on the express permission of the Faculty. An interview will be part of the selection process.

### **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 24<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact Admissions Office. Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)



**MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY (MTh) – LEVEL 9**  
**ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME**  
**SPECIALISATION: THE BIBLE AND ITS WORLDS**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Professor Seamus O'Connell**

Email: seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The study of the Scriptures is the soul of theology (see Second Vatican Council, Dei Verbum §24). The Masters in the Bible and its Worlds 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 biblical writers, the Church Fathers, the Medieval theologians, the Reformers, and of the mystical and artistic traditions.

This programme offers students a sense of the contexts—historical, social, religious—out of which the Scriptures emerge. Students will acquire an ability to negotiate and interpret biblical texts and develop a sense of the divine reality which is the Scriptures' source, along with an awareness of the potential and power of the Scriptures

**STRUCTURE**

Six modules [three per semester] of 20 hours duration per module.

10 weeks per module.

Thesis: [15,000 words] in an agreed area of the candidate's research interest.

Seminars held on Monday and Wednesday evenings:

Semester 1: Monday: 4pm – 6pm / Wednesday: 4pm-6pm & 7pm-9pm

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

Seminar topics include:

Research in Theology: Approaches and Methods.

The Art of Biblical Narrative: Theory and Praxis of Narrative Theology.

The Historical and Cultural Contexts of the Bible.

The Theology of the Word of God.

Christ and Creed: The Journey from Scripture to Credal Theology.

In-depth Reading of the Gospel of Luke.

Understanding Exodus.

Theology and Praxis of Lectio Divina.

## **CAREER PROSPECTS**

### **Possible career routes include:**

- Second Level teaching (following the successful completion of the undergraduate degree in Theology followed by the Professional Master of Education (PME).
- Journalism.
- Parish Pastoral work, Retreat work.
- Public/Private Sectors
- School/ Hospital Chaplaincy (For professional qualifications in chaplaincy additional courses are also a requirement).

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade II overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade II 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. Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

## **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

<b>MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY (MTh) – LEVEL 9</b> <b>ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME</b> <b>SPECIALISATION: CHRISTIANITY, HUMAN RIGHTS AND SOCIETY</b>
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**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Suzanne Mulligan**

Email: [suzanne.mulligan@spcm.ie](mailto:suzanne.mulligan@spcm.ie)

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Offers students an understanding of the dynamic and evolving relationship between Church and State within modern societies, and its implications for the content of civil legislation and for the role of Catholic politicians.

Explores contemporary trends in globalization and the operation of human rights discourse in this context.

Examines the ethics of war and conflict; explores the global impact of conflict on communities; considers approaches to post-war reconciliation and social healing.

Provides an insight into key ethical arguments regarding international development.

Investigates the intersection of faith, scripture and spirituality with its implications for personal, communal and social morality.

**STRUCTURE**

Evenings: Monday (4pm-6pm), Wednesday (4pm-6pm and 7pm-9pm).

Six taught modules delivered over two semesters.

Modules will be assessed by essay (c. 7,000 words).

Submission of a thesis of 15,000 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.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

Among the modules offered include:

Ethics of War, Conflict, and Refugee Rights (22 hours)

Church, State and Society (22 hours)

Research Methodologies and Thesis Preparation (12 hours)

Human Rights and Globalization (22 hours)

Ethics of Development (22 hours)

Themes in Theological Ethics (22 hours)

## **CAREER PROSPECTS**

### **Possible career routes include:**

- Lecturing (with additional qualifier courses it would serve as a bridge to doctoral studies in Moral Theology)
- Second Level teaching (following the successful completion of the undergraduate degree in Theology followed by the Professional Master of Education (PME)).
- Journalism.
- Pastoral work, Retreat work, Parish catechesis.
- Public/Private Sectors
- School/ Hospital Chaplaincy (For professional qualifications in chaplaincy additional courses are also a requirement).
- Career working with NGO's and other organisations working in the fields of development and social justice.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade II overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade II 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. Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

## **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

**MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY (MTh) – LEVEL 9**  
**ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME**  
**SPECIALISATION: HISTORY OF CHRISTIANITY**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Professor Salvador Ryan**  
Email: salvador.ryan@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Offers a comprehensive critical overview of the evolution of Christian thought and practice over two millennia.

Explores the general principles necessary for understanding the history of the Christian Church (first semester) and their application in the context of Britain and Ireland (second semester).

Offers students opportunities to visit, view and research relevant texts from the rich and unique collections of holdings housed in the John Paul II and Russell Libraries on campus, some of which date from as early as the eleventh century. These collections will form an integrated element in most of the taught modules, affording students ample opportunity to explore potentially rich areas for original research in their end-of-year dissertations.

**STRUCTURE:**

This course consists of five taught modules (four 10 credit modules and one 5 credit module) delivered over two semesters.

The submission of a thesis of 15,000 words.

Modules are delivered on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

The three modules offered in the first semester are as follows: **History of Christian Thought** (10 credits); **History of Christian Practice** (10 credits), and **Research Methodologies and Thesis Preparation** (5 credits).

In the second semester, students take **“Isle of Saints and Scholars?” The Literary Culture of Medieval Ireland** (10 credits) on Monday evenings and **The Writing of Church History from the Reformation to the 20th Century** (10 credits) on Wednesday evenings.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

Modules on offer include:

History of Christian Thought (24 hours).

History of Christian Practice (24 hours).

Research Methodologies and Thesis Preparation (12 hours).

“Isle of Saints and Scholars”? The Literary Culture of Early Medieval Ireland (24 hours).  
The Writing of Church History from the Reformation to the 20<sup>th</sup> century (24 hours).

### **CAREER PROSPECTS**

A Masters course such as this one is chosen for a variety of reasons by students: for some, it arises out of a passion for the subject itself (sometimes a person has had a life-long interest in the area and only now has acquired the time and leisure to formalise this in an academic course of study).

Others regard it as offering a range of transferable skills which are highly valued in the marketplace: skills such as the ability to research and present one’s findings in a clear, concise and professional manner; the development of one’s critical thinking and analytical skills; organisational skills such as those which are required when dealing with large amounts of data across a range of sources. These are skills which serve a student well in applying for a range of positions including professions such as the civil service, journalism and the media, the teaching profession, adult education, and across the social sciences.

A solid background in religious history is also important in the area of ecumenism, peace-building initiatives and work with a range of NGOs, not to mention the areas of tourism and heritage. Some students will, at the end of their Masters studies, consider further progression towards acquiring a PhD in a chosen area.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS:**

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

### **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

**MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY (MTh) – LEVEL 9**  
**ONE-YEAR PROGRAMME**  
**SPECIALISATION: CONTEMPORARY SYSTEMATIC THEOLOGY**

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr Mary McCaughey**  
Email: mary.mccaughey@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

Offers students an in-depth understanding of major themes in Systematic Theology in the light of Vatican II, including: Faith and Revelation, Trinity, Creation, Christology, Ecclesiology and Sacramentology.

Students will develop an awareness of the contribution of some significant Catholic theologians to the renewal of Catholic theology in the twentieth-century, e.g. Karl Rahner, Joseph Ratzinger, Henri de Lubac, Yves Congar, and others.

Students will develop an ability to assess some of the more recent developments in systematic theology e.g. religious pluralism and contextual theologies.

**STRUCTURE**

Six modules [three per semester] of 20 hours duration per module.

10 weeks per module.

Semesters 1: Monday: 4pm – 6pm / Wednesday: 4pm-6pm & 7pm-9pm.

Semester 2: Wednesday: 4pm-6pm & 7pm-9pm.

Thesis [15,000 words] on an agreed topic in the area of Contemporary Systematic Theology

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY:** Seminar topics include (but are not limited to):

**Semester One:**

1. Methods in Systematic Theology
2. *Ressourcement* and Renewal in Twentieth-Century Systematic Theology I: Karl Rahner
3. Ecclesiology: Communion in Context

**Semester 2:**

1. Christology: From Christ to Creed (Biblical and Systematic Perspectives)
2. *Ressourcement* and Renewal in Twentieth-Century Systematic Theology II: Joseph Ratzinger
3. New Directions in Systematic Theology
4. Thesis

(Additional information on course content and assessment is available on enquiry)

## **CAREER PROSPECTS**

The One Year Masters in Systematic Theology provides an opportunity for students to consolidate learning in Systematic Theology from an undergraduate Programme in Theology.

### **Possible career routes include:**

- Lecturing (with additional qualifier courses it would serve as a bridge to doctoral studies in Systematic Theology)
- Second Level teaching (following the successful completion of the undergraduate degree in Theology followed by the Professional Master of Education (PME).
- Journalism.
- Pastoral work, Retreat work, Parish catechesis.
- Public/Private Sectors
- School/ Hospital Chaplaincy (For professional qualifications in chaplaincy additional courses are also a requirement).

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

The minimum entry requirement is a primary degree in which Theology comprises at least an equal joint component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade II overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade II 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. Students whose first language is not English will be required to satisfy the English language requirements.

## **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)



<b>MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY (MTh) – LEVEL 9</b> <b>TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME</b> <b>SPECIALISATION: PASTORAL THEOLOGY</b>
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**COURSE DIRECTOR:** Reverend Martin McAlinden  
**Email:** martin.mcalinden@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

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 sacred scripture, contemporary culture, supervision and an introduction to pastoral counselling.

**This course aims to:**

study and reflect on Christian life and ministry, both individually and corporately in the Christian tradition,

combine pastoral theology and the acquisition of skills with supervised experience in pastoral placements,

deepen an understanding of the complementarity that exists between the ordained ministry and full or part-time lay pastoral ministry in the Christian community,

develop reflective, pro-active and evaluative skills through theological reflection, so as to enable students to relate theology and ministry to contemporary culture,

develop and facilitate the on-going formation of people with social, organisational, communication and leadership skills, including responsibility and accountability appropriate to pastoral ministry.

**WHO DOES THE COURSE SUIT?**

- A graduate interested in a career in pastoral ministry
- A person who is already involved in the parish, in ministry with young people, or in catechetical work, but would benefit from further study in pastoral theology

**STRUCTURE**

A two-year programme.

First year is a taught programme consisting of ten modules and a pastoral placement.

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) at a University Hospital, and a dissertation / project on an issue relevant to pastoral theology.

This course can also be taken over three years part-time.

**Dissertation / Project:**

The student researches an issue of pastoral concern under the direction of a supervisor. The dissertation / project will be approximately 15,000 words.

**Assessment:**

Each module will be assessed by class attendance, participation, presentations and a written assignment as outlined within the module. The placement and theological reflection is assessed twice in the first year. A Learning Portfolio of work illustrating the student's reflections and learning in the taught programme and in the pastoral placement will also form part of the assessment.

**Mid Course Review:**

At the end of the first year the student, with representatives of the pastoral theology department, reviews her/his work and submits a proposal for their MTh Dissertation/Project. This facilitates the on-going development of the student, his/her potential to satisfactorily complete the degree and show a readiness for ministry.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

**Core Modules:**

- Foundations of Pastoral Theology.
- Liturgy and the Sacraments in Ministry.
- Historical Theology and Research Methodology.
- Contextual Theology: Ministry and Contemporary Culture.
- Scripture in a Pastoral Setting.
- Moral Theology and Ministry.
- Church at the Service of God.
- Pastoral Theology in Contemporary Society:
  - Primary Level Catechesis & Chaplaincy
  - Parish Ministry
  - Introduction to Pastoral Counselling.
- Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care of Marriage and Family.
- Human Formation and Faith Development for Ministry.

**Pastoral Placement Education:**

Students commit to a pastoral placement for ten to twelve hours per week. This takes place in the first year and is arranged through the placement coordinator. Participation in pastoral/theological reflection groups and supervision are central to the placement experience.

**Clinical and Pastoral Education (CPE):**

This is a professional education for ministry for pastoral carers, and is based in a university hospital setting. CPE is a method of reflecting on actual ministry in which a supervisor together with a group of students formally agree together to reflect critically on the student's ministry as a means of growing in self-awareness, professional competence, theological understanding and Christian commitment.

**CAREER PROSPECTS**

Parish Pastoral Ministry

Catechesis

Education and health care chaplaincy

Retreat Ministry

Continued academic studies in pastoral theology

**ENTRY 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 II overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade II 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. An interview will be part of the selection process.

**DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 24<sup>th</sup> April. Please contact Admissions Office. Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

<b>MASTER'S DEGREE IN THEOLOGY (MTh) – LEVEL 9 TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME</b>
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**COURSE DIRECTOR: Professor Seamus O'Connell**

Email: seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

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. This programme can also serve as a preparation for eventual doctoral work in theology.

**STRUCTURE**

There are two methods of obtaining this degree.

Mode A: students write a minor thesis and complete five Seminar Courses.

Mode B: students submit a major thesis and fulfill 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.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY / COURSE STRUCTURE**

**Mode A:**

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 / Moral Theology**

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

Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches (Professor Conway) in the first semester

The Soul of Theology (Professor O'Connell) 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 as well as taking two obligatory courses:

Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches (Professor Conway) in the first semester

The Soul of Theology (Professor O'Connell) in the second semester.

In Year Two the candidate takes one seminar course in Biblical Theology in the first semester and completes the thesis.

**Course Option III: Pastoral Liturgy**

The candidate:

Audits the Liturgy course work for the Higher Diploma in Pastoral Liturgy conducted by the National Centre for Liturgy.

Studies under direction three courses:

Liturgical Theology

Sacramental Theology

Pastoral Liturgy

Students are required to take the obligatory course *Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches* (Professor Conway) in the first semester.

**Minor Thesis:**

In addition to attendance at one of the three course options described above, the candidate is required to submit a minor thesis of 25,000 - 30,000 words on an approved topic 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.

**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.

### **CAREER PROSPECTS**

#### **Possible career routes include:**

- Second Level teaching (following the successful completion of the undergraduate degree in Theology followed by the Professional Master of Education (PME).
- Journalism.
- Pastoral work, Retreat work, Parish catechesis.
- Public/Private Sectors
- School/ Hospital Chaplaincy (For professional qualifications in chaplaincy additional courses are also a requirement).

### **ENTRY 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 II overall, and Second Class Honours, Grade II 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.

#### **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.

**DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772. [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

<b>MASTER'S DEGREE IN LITURGICAL MUSIC (MLM) – LEVEL 9 TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME</b>
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**COURSE DIRECTOR: Dr John O’Keeffe, Reverend Professor Liam Tracey**

Email: [john.okeeffe@spcm.ie](mailto:john.okeeffe@spcm.ie) / [liam.tracey@spcm.ie](mailto:liam.tracey@spcm.ie)

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

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

The course aims to:

provide an academic framework appropriate to the study of Theology at Masters level.

provide students with an in-depth theological and theoretical formation in the Church’s liturgy.

form students in the historical, textual, doctrinal and technical aspects of liturgical music.

enhance students critical awareness of music composed for and performed in the liturgy.

significantly enhance course participants’ competency and confidence in selected practical disciplines.

**STRUCTURE**

**Year One:**

Consists of six core and two elective academic modules, together with at least two practical modules.

Elective Academic Modules: Students will take their elective modules from a range of options offered by the National Centre for Liturgy.

Students will take Liturgical Composition in Year One, together with at least one of the remaining 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.



**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.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY****Year One:**

Core Academic Modules:

Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches.

Introduction to Liturgy and Christian Initiation.

The Eucharist.

Liturgical Time.

Music in Christian Worship.

Aspects of Liturgical music.

Practical Modules:

Liturgical Composition.

Organ Skills I x Cantor Skills I

**Year Two:**

Methodology in Research.

Guided Thesis Research.

Practicum.

**CAREER PROSPECTS**

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

**ENTRY 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 II overall. The Faculty of Theology may also accept candidates whom it deems to have an equivalent standard. As the 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. An interview will be part of the selection process.

**DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772 [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Professor Seamus O'Connell**

Email: seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The Doctoral Programme in Theology aims at broadening and deepening doctoral students' knowledge and ability to produce scholarly research in theology. The programme is especially geared toward preparing a doctoral dissertation, within a reasonable timeframe. The dissertation should constitute an innovative contribution to the area of theological research.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY / COURSE STRUCTURE**

Candidates must normally complete at least three years of study, one of which must include four postgraduate seminar courses. Two of these courses will normally be Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches and The Soul of Theology.

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

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.

**REGULATIONS FOR THE PhD DEFENCE**

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

The candidate shall in the first place submit three copies of the dissertation which may be ring-bound.

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.

The examiners may accept or reject the dissertation for defence.

The format of the defence shall be decided by the examiners but shall not exceed one and a half-hour's duration.

The examiners shall make a written recommendation to the Faculty.

The dissertation may be accepted without change or with some modifications, or it may be rejected on the basis of the defence.

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.

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.

All dissertations shall remain the property of the University

### **CAREER PROSPECTS**

The PhD in Theology programme is designed to provide a research-oriented education to women and men preparing to teach and pursue research in universities, or schools of theology.

### **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

A Master's Degree in Theology of at least Second Class Honours Grade 1 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.

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.

### **DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772 [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

<b>LICENTIATE IN DIVINITY (STL) – LEVEL 9 TWO-YEAR PROGRAMME</b>
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**COURSE DIRECTOR: Professor Seamus O’Connell**

Email: seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie

**PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The S.T.L. enables students to build upon previous work and focus more on a particular subject or field within a Catholic context. An advanced degree, it provides students with two full years of work above and beyond the B.D. or S.T.B. Course work is focused on supporting the student’s thesis.

To obtain the Licentiate in Divinity (STL), two years’ full time specialised study is required.

**STRUCTURE**

This is a two-year full-time programme, but with the approval of the Director it can be taken part-time over three or four years.

**PROGRAMME OF STUDY**

**Reading Courses:**

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

In Year Two students take two reading courses from the Department of their specialization.

All Reading Courses are assessed by a three hour written examination.

**Seminar Courses:**

Each student is required to take six Seminar Courses. Full time students usually take four courses in Year One and two courses in Year Two.

Please note that the courses Research in Theology: Historical and Methodological Approaches and The Soul of Theology are obligatory.

All Seminar Courses are assessed by assignment(s) of c.7,000 words.

**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 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.

**CAREER PROSPECTS**

The 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.

**ENTRY 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.

**DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772 [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)

## DOCTORAL DEGREE IN DIVINITY (DD) – LEVEL 10

**COURSE DIRECTOR: Professor Seamus O’Connell**

Email: [seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie](mailto:seamus.oconnell@spcm.ie)

### **PROGRAMME OVERVIEW / AIMS AND OBJECTIVES**

The D.D. is the culminating step in the three-degree ecclesiastical programme, which starts with the Bachelor of Sacred Theology (B.D./S.T.B.), progresses to the Licentiate in Sacred Theology (S.T.L.), and ends with the successful completion of the D.D.

The purpose of the D.D. programme is to enable candidates combine critical knowledge of a particular theological area with an ability to contribute original research in a chosen field of study.

### **PROGRAMME OF STUDY / COURSE STRUCTURE**

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.

## **CAREER PROSPECTS**

Most students who complete the D.D. 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.

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS**

In order to register for courses leading to the Doctoral Degree in Divinity (D.D.), a student must hold at least a Licentiate in Divinity (STL) 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.

**DATE FOR SUBMISSION OF APPLICATION**

Application closing date: 1<sup>st</sup> June. Late applications will be accepted. Please contact Admissions Office.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie) Tel: 01 7084772 [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)



## HOW TO APPLY

To apply for one of our postgraduate programmes please complete the relevant postgraduate application form, and return to: The Admissions Office, Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co. Kildare.

The application form can be downloaded from our website:  
<http://maynoothcollege.ie/pontifical-university/how-to-apply/>

In relation to the submission of documentation, please read the notes on last page of the application form. The application forms are for both EU and Non-EU/International applicants. There is no application fee. Please contact the Admissions Office with any further queries.

Email: [admissions@spcm.ie](mailto:admissions@spcm.ie)

Tel: (01) 708 4772

**Website: [www.maynoothcollege.ie](http://www.maynoothcollege.ie)**



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