

DISTANCE LEARNING

CERTIFICATE IN ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES



CAMBRIDGE

**THE INSTITUTE FOR  
ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES**

*A member of the Cambridge Theological Federation  
Formally approved and blessed by the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal  
Assembly for Great Britain and Ireland.*

# DISTANCE LEARNING

## Certificate in Orthodox Christian Studies



*“Let us show respect to the inexhaustible variety of character and outlook among our pupils. For, as St. Paul insists, there are many differentiations within the created order: there is one glory of the sun, another glory of the moon and yet another glory of the stars (I Cor 15:41). So it is in our Institute, and in every place of learning: one pupil differs from another in gifts and potentiality and this is something that a true teacher will always respect.”*

Metropolitan Kallistos Ware, President of IOCS

Enrolments in the course take place every two months

### CERTIFICATE MODULES OFFERED THROUGH DISTANCE LEARNING: (normal progression)

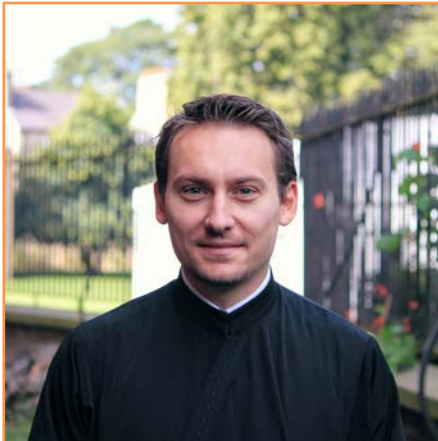
YEAR ONE	<b>PRAYER</b> (October-November)	Module One (10 credits)
	<b>SCRIPTURE: THE GOSPELS</b> (December-January)	Module Two (10 credits)
	<b>ORTHODOX CHRISTOLOGY AND TRINITARIAN THEOLOGY</b> (February-March)	Module Three (10 credits)
	<b>THE SACRAMENTS</b> (April-May)	Module Four (10 credits)
	<b>‘ASCENT TO HOLINESS’</b> (Extended theme, for double credit) (June-July)	Module Five (20 credits)
YEAR TWO	<b>ICON AND LITURGY</b> (October-November)	Module One (10 credits)
	<b>ASPECTS OF CHURCH HISTORY</b> (December-January)	Module Two (10 credits)
	<b>SANCTITY AND ASCETICISM</b> (February-March)	Module Three (10 credits)
	<b>THE CHURCH</b> (April-May)	Module Four (10 credits)
	<b>‘LOVE’</b> (Extended theme, for double credit) (June-July)	Module Five (20 credits)

Alternative arrangements can be made for students wishing to re-take modules or take modules out of sequence.

IOCS reserves the right to modify this programme in case of necessity.

# ANCIENT FAITH MEETS THE DIGITAL AGE

<http://distancelearning.iocs.cam.ac.uk/>



*'We believe that providing better access to Christian Orthodox theological education from Cambridge and at a Cambridge-standard addresses the larger problem of educating mature Christian members of the Church about their faith. Education helps combat misunderstanding and distrust and fosters a better understanding of one's own religious tradition and that of the others.'*

*Father Dragos Herescu,  
Principal of IOCS*

## Certificate Module on Prayer

Dashboard » IOCS » CF101

NAVIGATION

### Certificate Module on the Mysteries of Life and Death

Dashboard » IOCS » CF104

NAVIGATION

- Dashboard
- Site home
- Site pages
- Current course
  - CF104
    - Participants
    - General
    - Topic 1
    - Topic 2
    - Topic 3
    - Topic 4
    - Topic 5
    - Topic 6
    - Topic 7
    - Topic 8
    - Topic 9
    - Essay submission and deadlines FAQ
- My courses

SEARCH FORUMS

Advanced search

ADMINISTRATION

Grades

Important module information

- Module Description, Aims and Methodology
- Assessment and Marking Criteria
- Study skills resources
- How to submit your essay
- Information regarding study resources, assignments and bibliography
- Important Note about the Study Resources of the Module

St. Agathon: Among all good works, which is the virtue that requires the greatest effort? ... but I think that there is no greater labour than that of prayer ... a person wants to pray, one's enemies, the demons, want to ... for they know that it is only by turning one away from ... der one's journey. Whatever good works a person undertakes, ... n, one will attain rest. But prayer is warfare to the last breath.'

(Excerpt from Ward, B., 1975: The Sayings of the Desert Fathers (Kalamazoo, Michigan: Cistercian

**For more than seven years the Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies has offered a version of its Cambridge-based courses on-line, using the internet and the latest advances in on-line teaching and learning methodology to make available some of the most distinguished teachers of Orthodox studies to students anywhere in the world.**

## HOW ARE THE COURSES ASSESSED?

Assessment is normally made on one 2,000 word essay for each 10 credit-point module. Course requirements include viewing or hearing lectures on the video or sound recordings provided. Essays should be submitted electronically, and must be a student's own work. It must represent the student's individual understanding and interpretation of a topic, and should be prepared according to guidelines for theological essays posted on the course website. Tutors will advise on drafts and give every help to students inexperienced in putting together an academic essay.

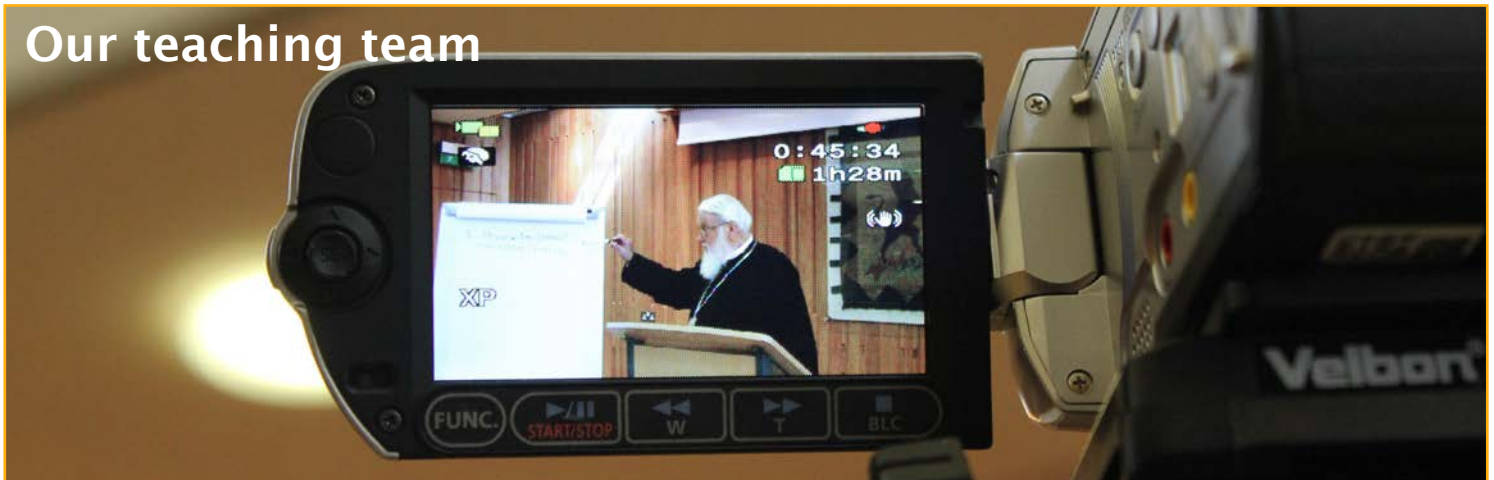
## EACH DISTANCE-LEARNER WILL HAVE:

- » a personal Tutor who keeps contact by e-mail, advises on study techniques, comments on drafts of work to be submitted, and conducts online discussions with groups of students at least once per week;
- » access to 'discussion forums' and 'chat-rooms', so as to keep contact with others studying the same subject;
- » additional material offered on-line for when you find it hard to access libraries.

- » The Distance Learning course is based on our Cambridge face-to-face courses. You will be taught by experts drawn from the United Kingdom and around the world, who present an up-to-the-minute digest of their topic on video and sound recording, available at any time and anywhere for private study.
- » We aim to offer the whole 'Cambridge experience' by providing teaching at the same level as our Cambridge-based residential courses. The online community of IOCS students and a constant connection with the specially assigned tutors help circumvent 'the loneliness of the long-distance learner'.
- » The modules of the course are taught as separate units, so students may join the course at any time. However, the modules follow in sequence through the two years, and students are advised to hold as far as possible to the proposed two-monthly timetable for each module, so that tutors and students may consider the same topic together.
- » Please note that August-September is a holiday period for which we do not take enrolments (except in the case of ongoing students who need to re-take modules or to follow modules they have missed).

# DISTANCE LEARNING

## Our teaching team



## WHAT MAKES OUR COURSE SPECIAL:

- » The distinction of our specialist teachers and twelve years of experience in offering Orthodox Christian studies.
- » A team of well-trained, experienced and friendly Tutors, who are always there to accompany the students during their academic journey.
- » We use the most up-to-date techniques for assisting distance learners and offer our courses on the Moodle platform that is favoured by leading providers of distance-learning at university level.

## OUR LECTURERS INCLUDE:

- Metropolitan Kallistos Ware** (University of Oxford)
- Revd Professor Andrew Louth** (University of Durham)
- Revd Dr Nikolai Sakharov** (Monastery of St John the Baptist, Essex)
- Revd Dr Demetrios Bathrellos** (Hellenic Open University, Visiting Professor IOCS)
- Dr Krastu Banev** (Durham University)
- Revd Dr Andreas Andreopoulos** (University of Winchester)
- Dr Norman Russell**

## OUR TEAM OF DISTANCE LEARNING TUTORS



**Revd Dr Alexander Tefft** is Chaplain at IOCS and a Tutor for the Distance Learning Courses. A graduate of St. Tikhon's Orthodox Theological Seminary in the USA, he is Priest of the Parish of Saint Botolph, London.



**Revd Dr Patrick Ramsey** is a priest-monk from New Zealand and a Distance Learning Tutor of the Institute. His speciality is in ecclesiology, in particular the hierarchy of the Church and its clerical orders.



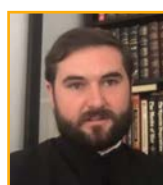
**Revd Dr Demetrios Bathrellos** is a Visiting Professor and Distance Learning Tutor for IOCS. He received his doctorate from King's College, London and is the author of *The Byzantine Christ: Person, Nature and Will in the Christology of St. Maximus the Confessor* (OUP, 2004).



**Todd Godwin** is a Distance Learning Tutor of the Institute. His interests are in "global Syriac Christianity," the interaction between Syriac Christian culture and Iranian, Central Asian, Chinese, Indian and Muslim cultures between the Late Antique and Early Modern Period.



**Revd Dr Liviu Barbu** is an Associate Lecturer and Distance Learning Tutor. He earned a PhD from King's College London and has lectured and published on Pastoral Theology, in particular on spiritual direction and formation in the Eastern Orthodox tradition.



**Rev. Dcn. David-John Williams** is a Distance Learning Tutor of IOCS. He is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Saint Katherine (US). His research areas include Byzantine relations with the West from 600-1453, Greek Palaeography and Shared Sacred Space.

# WHAT GUARANTEES ME A QUALITY EXPERIENCE?

<http://distancelearning.iocs.cam.ac.uk/>



*'I have been particularly impressed that students always have the possibility to interact with their tutor and with other students and get support immediately.'*

Johannes Klimmeck,  
Student  
on the DL programme

## WHAT ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS ARE THERE?

» If you do not have a university degree, you will have to show secondary school-leaving qualifications from a recognized institution in the United Kingdom or, for overseas students, the equivalent.

» If you are not a native speaker of English, you will be required to reach a level of 5.0 at IELTS, or an equivalent score in another recognized English language proficiency test. Comprehension of spoken English and the ability to write English with a measure of correctness are essential. Tutors will give overseas students appropriate assistance in essay-writing but cannot give language tuition of a remedial kind.



## CAN I ENROL AS AN 'AUDITOR'?

We recognize that students do not always want to write essays, pass examinations or gain a paper certificate. Many hope to improve their knowledge of Orthodox theology and practice, but are not preparing for the priesthood or lay ministry. They enrol simply out of interest or for personal development. We welcome these students, whether Orthodox or from another religious background. Any student can follow our Certificate course via two pathways: one pathway is 'academic' and it requires students to write essays at the end of the module for which they receive marks and credits; the other pathway is 'non-academic' (and sometimes people refer to it as 'auditing') for which no essays are required. As all students receive personal tutorship during their studies (including the ones following the non-academic path) the fees are the same for both categories of students. Students usually chose one of these pathways at the beginning of the course and let the tutor know of their choice, so that they may receive appropriate tutorship. To start as an 'auditor' only is a good way to 'taste and see'. You can always take modules for credit at a later date.

## WHAT DOES MY CERTIFICATE LEAD TO?

Your IOCS-validated Certificate will be regarded as a qualification in Orthodox Church circles. The Certificate course is not a university course and its credits cannot be transferred to other university programmes, though they may constitute an advantage in certain cases, when applying for post-graduate or research programmes. **This degree is not equivalent to nor can it substitute a BA course in theology.** Past graduates have used our Certificate mostly for enriching their knowledge of Orthodoxy, but also - in certain cases - for applying for university courses or in view of their ordination.

# DISTANCE LEARNING

## Fees and Registration



*"I immediately knew that this programme was going to be so much fun, so enjoyable, so educational; and I didn't have to stop my life and go back to school. The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies was providing all this to me in the comfort of my home and at times when it was convenient for me to study."*

Michael Basham, Student  
on the IOCS DL programme

## FEES

The fee for each Certificate module is £280, which means a total of £2,800 for the 120 credit qualification. However, a discounted fee of £2,520, representing a saving of 10%, is available to those who pay before their course commences. Monastics and clergy who have a letter of introduction from their Bishop or superior and also pay at commencement may receive a further 10% discount. For students seeking financial help from local churches or other charitable bodies, the Institute is happy to supply a letter of provisional acceptance. The fee for re-taking a Module is £140.

Payments may be made online here, or by cheque. Arrangements can also be made to pay by bank transfer, if necessary, but transfer costs must be borne by the student.

## REGISTRATION

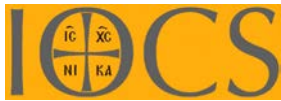
- » Students are strongly encouraged to register for the whole Certificate programme.
- » Please complete and return the 'DL Registration form' on the next page to the Institute by posting it to the address given below or e-mailing it to [info@iocscam.ac.uk](mailto:info@iocscam.ac.uk).
- » The form should be accompanied by photocopies or scans of certificates that prove educational qualifications and language proficiency (when required).
- » Upon acceptance of applicants in the course, first payment is due one week before the start of your module.

For further information about any issue related to the IOCS Distance Learning Programme you can contact the Institute's office at [info@iocscam.ac.uk](mailto:info@iocscam.ac.uk)



## CONTACT US:

The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies, 31 Jesus Lane, Wesley House  
Cambridge CB5 8BJ United Kingdom



## Distance Learning Registration Form

(Enrolment is ongoing and is open throughout the course year; intakes take place every two months, i.e. October, December, February, April, June. When completed, return this form to IOCS)

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Address for Correspondence: \_\_\_\_\_

Nationality: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Skype/Messenger ID: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

Secondary School or Higher Education Qualification (please include a copy of the certificate with your registration): \_\_\_\_\_

Name and Address of awarding body: \_\_\_\_\_

English Language Proficiency (for overseas students only: please provide name of the test, result, and date, and include a copy of the qualification with your registration):

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Result: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

When do you wish to begin the IOCS DL Programme? \_\_\_\_\_

Please give a short statement expressing your reason for wishing to study at IOCS via Distance Learning: \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to enrol in the whole 2-year Certificate programme and pay the discounted overall fee.

I wish to pay for the first module fee for now and then before each subsequent module.

I wish to receive proof of provisional acceptance from IOCS, so that I can seek financial assistance from my Church/parish.

Please supply the name and address of one person from whom we can obtain a reference (A relative should not be given as a referee): \_\_\_\_\_

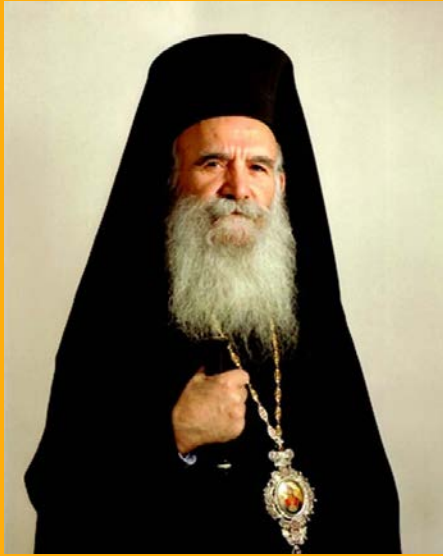
How did you find out about our Distance Learning programme? \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Please complete the form and send it back to: IOCS, 31 Jesus Lane, Wesley House, Cambridge CB5 8BJ United Kingdom or scan it and send by email to [info@iocs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:info@iocs.cam.ac.uk)

Tel: +44 (0) 1223 760958

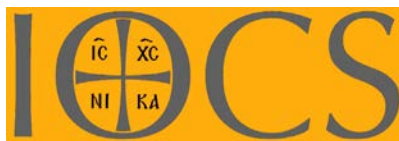
Photography: Dragos Herescu © (pages 5, 7), Dan Ava © (page 2), Paul Harkin © (page 6).



Archbishop Gregorios of Thyateira and Great Britain, of blessed memory, endorsed our Distance Learning courses when these were launched in 2009:

*'I feel that it is very important for the people to learn by correspondence the word of God and the teaching of the Orthodox Church. In our times we are privileged to enjoy the new scientific technical inventions which we must use for the Christian Faith.*

*I am very pleased and impressed by your effort to bring the Good News to those who are both near and afar.'*



[www.iocs.cam.ac.uk](http://www.iocs.cam.ac.uk)  
The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies  
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email: [info@iocs.cam.ac.uk](mailto:info@iocs.cam.ac.uk)

**DISCLAIMER** This brochure supersedes any information given in earlier brochures and reflects new arrangements for the national accreditation of our courses. While every effort is made not to vary from advertised programmes, the Institute reserves the right to revise advertised programmes, module content, topics, lecturers and dates, if circumstances so require.