MASTER OF ARTS IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION 2017-2018

FORMALLY APPROVED AND BLESSED BY THE PAN-ORTHODOX EPISCOPAL ASSEMBLY FOR GREAT BRITAIN AND IRELAND

ALSO AVAILABLE BY DISTANCE LEARNING

INSTITUTE FOR ORTHODOX CHRISTIAN STUDIES

THE COMMON AWARDS

CAMBRIDGE THEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Durham University
The Institute for Orthodox Christian Studies is the pan-Orthodox house for theological studies in the ancient university city of Cambridge, England functioning with the formal approval and blessing of the Pan-Orthodox Episcopal Assembly for Great Britain and Ireland. Founded in 1999 the Institute is situated at a major crossroad for academic exchange and attracts students and scholars from across the world.

THE MA IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION

The IOCS pathway for the MA course bears the title Christian Thought in the Contemporary World. Its main aim is to explore how the Church and Christian theology can critically and creatively relate to the contemporary world and contemporary thought. Students have the opportunity to reflect on the current ecumenical situation, the dialogue between theology and science, secularisation, and the relationship between philosophy and theology. Resident students have also to select two modules from the range of modules taught by tutors from other theological colleges in the Cambridge Theological Federation. The IOCS pathway of Postgraduate Certificate/Postgraduate Diploma/MA in Theology, Ministry and Mission presupposes basic theological knowledge and is therefore unsuitable as an introductory course to Orthodox theology. Please see the admission criteria on the next page.
ADMISSION CRITERIA:

Applicants should normally hold at least an upper second class Honours degree (or other Level 6 qualification, such as a Graduate Diploma) in Theology or another subject relevant to the proposed subject of study. Graduates (classed as first-class or 2:1 honours) in other disciplines with experience of Theology or Religious Studies to at least undergraduate Certificate level (awarded with credit or distinction, or with an overall mark of at least 60%), may also be admitted to the programme, but only after a satisfactory performance in a ‘taster’ module at level 7. For the Postgraduate Certificate only, especially for mature students, prior professional experience may be taken into account. Given its professional development orientation, students are likely to be preparing for a ministerial or related vocation or be actively engaged in such a profession.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE SKILLS:

Students for whom English is their second language should have achieved a score of 7.0 in an IELTS examination, or equivalent.

FULL-TIME/PART-TIME

Our MA programme can be studied full-time over 12 months or part-time over 2 or 3 years. To maximise our students’ experience we will only offer the course full-time if a minimum number of students enrol for this route. Students may join the course either for the October or for the February intake. International on-site applicants need to enroll full-time (one year) in order to be eligible for the UK study visa.

COURSE FEES

DISTANCE LEARNING: For part-time study the price of the course will be calculated by the number of modules taken each year. Each of the seven modules (including the Dissertation) will cost £750 with an additional £150 House Fee, making the fee for each module £900. The overall fee for the part-time course is £6,300.

The fee for the full-time one-year MA course, if done by distance learning, is: £4,875 both for UK/EU and international students. An additional £1,000/year House Fee will be added to this fee.

ON-SITE TEACHING: The fees for on-site teaching are: £4,875 for UK/EU students and £7,350 for international students – if the course is completed within one year (full-time). An additional £1,000/year House Fee will be added to the above fees. International students can only enrol full-time, as UK study visas cannot be issued for part-time study. For UK/EU on-site part-time students the price of the course will be calculated by the number of modules taken each year (£900 each).

HOW TO APPLY

The deadlines for sending in your applications are 30 April 2017 for on-site international students and 31 May 2017 for all other students. Applicants are required to complete the standard application form which can be downloaded here: www.iocs.cam.ac.uk/courses/applying-to-study-at-the-institute or requested from our office.
ON-SITE TEACHING
COURSE STRUCTURE

THE CAMBRIDGE-TAUGHT MA
IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND
MISSION CONSISTS OF THESE
MODULES:

» Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods (20 credits)
» Advanced Philosophical Theology (20 credits)
» Theology and Science (20 credits)
» Ecumenism in Theory and Practice (20 credits)
» Dissertation in Theology, Ministry and Mission (60 credits)
» PLUS 2 further modules from the Common Awards/Durham University (20 credits each)

Programme TOTAL CREDITS: 180

RESEARCH AND REFLECTION:
RESOURCES AND METHODS

This module will offer an overview of quantitative and qualitative, empirical and theoretical research methods in theology, ministry and mission. It will address general research skills, including resources and methods, library and archival resources, IT, bibliography, referencing and developing a research topic. The module will require in depth study of one or more research methods appropriate to theology, ministry and mission. It will also tackle advanced methods and practice of critical theological reflection for interdisciplinary work and for integrating theory and practice. Seminars will offer students the opportunity to engage with each other’s areas of interest and research.

ASSESSMENT METHODS: Written assignment (3,000 words - 50%); Written theological reflection (3,000 words - 50%)

THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE

This module will explore one or more major questions in the area of theology and science (e.g., cosmology, quantum theory, evolutionary biology, neurobiology as they relate to theological accounts of creation, providence and miracle, freewill, time and eternity, or natural and revealed theology), and will include: examination of aspects of scientific developments in these areas; exploration of the history that lies behind current interactions between theology and science, and elucidation of the different models of interaction between science and theology that are exemplified by current debate.

ASSESSMENT METHODS: One written assignment (6,000 words)

ADVANCED PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY

The aim of this module is to enable students to undertake in-depth critical study of one major area of philosophical theology, and to advance their ability to understand, analyse and critically evaluate significant and influential approaches in this field. Students will also learn how to apply critical philosophical and theological thinking to contemporary issues in Church and society. In the academic year 2015/16 the module investigates the transformation of the human self through the acquisition of the central Christian virtue: Love. The reading list includes texts from the history of philosophy and theology, ranging from antiquity to post-modernity. It critically analyses different and conflicting notions of love in East and West, and pays attention to some of the major paradigm shifts in the history of ideas.

ASSESSMENT METHODS: Essay (6,000 words)

ECUMENISM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

This module will offer a general introduction to the problem of Christian disunity, including some outline history, with focus on particular issues of difference. It will present an overview of the breadth and patterns of local ecumenical activity, drawing in part on students’ own experience. Consideration will be devoted to possible future paths for ecumenism, also taking into account students’ local experience. It will also attempt the study of ecumenical methodology, through close examination of two or three reports and
their associated processes. This module will offer an exploration of fundamental ecclesiological principles at the heart of modern ecumenism, including examination of their relevance to students' own faith traditions.

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:** Written assignment (5,000 words - 80%); Written assignment (1,000 words - 20%)

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**DISSERTATION IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION**

Participants will, in consultation and negotiation with the tutor, identify a topic, issue, or ministerial area relevant to the study and research of theology, ministry and mission. The proposed title of the dissertation, together with a brief description and initial bibliography, is negotiated with an appropriate supervisor and agreed by the CTF’s Board of Studies and External Examiner. The student arranges supervisions and organises a timetable and plan for his/her work. The area chosen may enhance and integrate study from the taught module programme providing the independent study is clearly distinguished from the content of such taught modules

**ASSESSMENT METHODS:** A written piece of work of 15,000 words, based on 8 hours of supervision.

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**TWO OPTIONAL MODULES**

On-site students have the opportunity to select two more modules from a list of modules offered by staff from other colleges in the Cambridge Theological Federation. These may include the following modules:

- Methods in Modern Theology
- Christian Faith & Ethical Living
- The Bible and Christian Faith
- Issues in Biblical Theology
- Christian Practice in Multi-faith contexts

Also, MA students may pursue an Independent Learning Module (20/30 credits; 8,000-word written piece, based on 6 hours of supervision) on a topic of their choice in consultation with the Academic Director.
DISTANCE LEARNING TEACHING COURSE STRUCTURE

THE MA IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION BY DISTANCE LEARNING CONSISTS OF THESE MODULES:

» Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods (20 credits)
» Advanced Philosophical Theology (20 credits)
» Theology and Science (20 credits)
» Ecumenism in Theory and Practice (20 credits)
» Secularisation and Christianity (20 credits)
» Advanced Study of a Theological Text (20 credits)
» Dissertation in Theology, Ministry and Mission (60 credits)

TOTAL CREDITS: 180

RESEARCH AND REFLECTION: RESOURCES AND METHODS

DISSERTATION IN THEOLOGY, MINISTRY AND MISSION

THEOLOGY AND SCIENCE

ADVANCED PHILOSOPHICAL THEOLOGY

ECUMENISM IN THEORY AND PRACTICE

Please see the descriptions of the 5 modules above on the previous page:

ADVANCED STUDY OF A THEOLOGICAL TEXT

The aim of this module is to enable students to undertake in-depth critical study of a major theological text, and to explore the theological implications of that text for the contemporary life of faith, church and society. In 2015/16 the basic text will be The Bride of the Lamb (1945), written by Sergius Bulgakov (1871-1944), who is generally considered to be the most important Orthodox systematic theologian of the twentieth century. This book is the third volume of his trilogy with the general title On Divine Humanity, and discusses creation, freedom, evil, ecclesiology and eschatology. The book will be studied chapter by chapter, and students will be guided as to how to interpret Bulgakov’s work in the wider context of twentieth-century Systematic Theology.

ASSESSMENT METHODS: Written assignment (6,000 words)

SECULARISATION AND CHRISTIANITY

This module will offer a mapping of the evolution of the secularisation paradigm in the research field, beginning in the 1960s and of the methodology. It will attempt to study if/how changes in a particular socio-political context can trigger changes in the religious milieu, at the corporate and individual level, but also at the level of theology and practice. The module will also explore the relationship between church and state in different European contexts and the implications of ‘multiple modernities’ on the secularisation paradigm. This module will engage with core texts and models patterning the place of religion in modern/contemporary society and eliciting individual student responses, relevant to their own context and experience.

ASSESSMENT METHODS: Written assignment (1,000 words - 20%); Written assignment (5,000 words - 80%)
Master of Arts in Theology, Ministry and Mission

Orthodoxy in a Multi-Denominational Context

A full member of the Cambridge Theological Federation, IOCS has joined the MA programme of the Common Awards validated by the Durham University from October 2015, but it also interacts with Anglia Ruskin University and with the University of Cambridge. At IOCS students study together with colleagues from other traditions in the Cambridge Theological Federation: Anglican, Methodist, Roman Catholic and Reformed. In this diverse context IOCS students are encouraged to articulate and communicate their Orthodox faith and identity. What is an Orthodox understanding of the faith and how is it to be communicated today? How different are the concerns of the Western churches from those of the Orthodox churches? These are questions that Orthodox students face in a protective environment of dialogue and intellectual debate that will equip them to handle such issues in their home communities.

Why take our MA course?

Our Master of Arts programme:

» could constitute a launch pad for further academic research in Orthodox Theology (MPhil, PhD etc)
» provides tools for subsequent employment in church-related or social care positions
» offers a perfect formative environment for pastoral ministry within the church, both for clergy and laity
» opens up possibilities for academic employment

Postgraduate Certificate/Diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission

It is also possible for students to obtain a Postgraduate Certificate in Theology, Ministry and Mission if they only complete 3 modules (60 credits); or a Postgraduate Diploma in Theology, Ministry and Mission if they only complete 6 modules without the dissertation (120 credits).

IOCS Conferences and Events

Both on-site and distance learning MA students are strongly encouraged to attend (without extra tuition fees) any conference or event organised by the Institute during the academic year. Since the Institute invites many distinguished speakers to these courses, from Great Britain and from overseas, graduate students have an opportunity to listen to and meet with renowned Orthodox theologians.
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.