



MA in Christian Spirituality

FURTHER INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS IN THE ACADEMIC YEAR 2013/14

Please read the following carefully.

Dates and Times

The MA can be completed full-time over 12 months or, more typically, part-time over a minimum of 11 months and a maximum of five years. Students at Sarum College usually study part-time and complete the degree within three years (two years for the taught part and a further year for the dissertation). Students who satisfactorily complete three taught modules (60 credits), and exit, obtain a Postgraduate Certificate. Students who satisfactorily complete six taught modules (120 credits), and exit, obtain a Postgraduate Diploma. Students who satisfactorily complete six taught modules and a dissertation (180 credits) gain an MA awarded by The University of Winchester. Further details of student registration and progression are available in the University of Winchester's *Common Academic Regulations for Taught Masters Programmes*.

Most students will begin the MA in September, but a January start could be available in 2014. Students attend six **3½ day intensive modules** at Sarum College supplemented by **preparatory reading, individual study, tutorial support, access to the Sarum College Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)** and assessed **written work**. Students are also required to attend a **research skills training course** at the start of their second year prior to beginning their dissertation.

All taught modules are worth 20 credits. Students are expected to complete the two Core Modules (compulsory) and four Optional Modules. With prior approval of the programme leader, students may also choose to take a co-validated Optional Module from another MA programme offered by Sarum College or a Guided Reading Module under supervision.

For a list of module dates, please refer to the 'Academic Diary 2013-15' document.

CORE MODULE 1

Foundations and Forms of Christian Spirituality (20 Credits)

An introduction to the study of Christian Spirituality through the medium of different spiritual traditions. The module investigates how Christian Spirituality may be studied as an academic discipline and considers the relevance of tradition for understanding Christian Spirituality. Students are also introduced to the general principles of interpretation applied to reading or using historical texts.

CORE MODULE 2

The Contemporary Study of Christian Spirituality (20 Credits)

An introduction to a variety of disciplinary approaches to the contemporary study of Christian Spirituality including theological, philosophical, political and aesthetic approaches. The module considers, in particular, the question of how contemporary Christian Spirituality is shaped by and responds to the post-modern condition.

OPTIONAL MODULES

The MA at Sarum College offers an exceptionally wide range of Optional Modules. Each module runs every other year and the dates of the Optional Modules will be available two years in advance to help students plan their programme of study. For an up-to-date list of module dates, please see the *Academic Diary*.

Art, Belief and Spirituality (20 Credits)

An exploration of the relationship between Christian art, experience, belief and practice. Case studies drawn from several different periods of art history are examined and their relevance for today's clergy and laity, theologians and artists evaluated.

Celtic Spirituality (20 Credits)

An exploration of some basic themes in Celtic spirituality and the historical background against which they were set. The module investigates how the Celtic peoples viewed the world around them and assesses what that vision can mean for us today.

Contemporary Spirituality (20 Credits)

An analysis of recent developments in Contemporary Spirituality, particularly in the light of various writing on the 'spirituality revolution' across a range of disciplines. Authors and texts will be studied from both Christian and non-Christian traditions in order to gain a broader perspective on the spiritual quest in the contemporary context.

Embodying Wisdom (20 Credits)

An introduction to some key concepts within the psychological and philosophical debates of the past 100 years that have moulded and influenced our contemporary understanding of Christian spirituality. It also explores in more depth the work of Jung, Wittgenstein and Derrida and their influence on the contemporary understanding of spirituality.

Spirituality: Public or Private Enterprise? (20 Credits)

This module will examine the ways in which the Christian tradition has impacted on ecological thinking and political and healthcare concerns. It will encourage students to engage with both positive and negative parts of the tradition in order to develop an ecotheology, and political and pastoral theology/spirituality that can be used in liturgy, doctrine and a range of public contexts. The module aims to enable students to critically evaluate the challenge presented by key public concerns to the spiritualities that underpin a Christian lifestyle. The module enables students to work in an interdisciplinary manner.

Literature and Spirituality (20 Credits)

Tracing the interconnections between literature and spirituality in a selection of novels and poetry from C17 to the present day, this module pays particular attention to the use of classical myth and the biblical theme of pilgrimage in modern English literature. Students are encouraged to give their own critical readings and to develop their own understanding of the relationship between the literary imagination and the spiritual quest.

Medieval Spirituality (20 Credits)

An examination of the politics and cultural movements that affected the development of Christian spirituality during the Medieval period. The module considers the role of medieval women and assesses the impact of the Crusades on the development of relationships with Islam.

Pastoral Ministry and Spirituality and Christian Spiritual Direction (20 Credits)

It is important to note that this module is not a training course either in spiritual direction or in counselling
An exploration of the nature of Christian ministry, broadly defined. This module addresses some central issues in pastoral ministry such as: faith development, aging, and death and dying and students are introduced to a variety of forms and traditions of spiritual guidance in the Christian tradition.

Sexuality and Spirituality (20 Credits)

An examination of the interface between sexuality and spirituality. This module explores how sexuality has been viewed in the Christian tradition; the challenges presented by developments in contemporary philosophy and psychology; and the contribution Christian discourse can make to contemporary debates on sex, sexuality and gender.

Western Christian Mysticism (20 Credits)

This module gives students an overview of the historical development of the Western Christian Mystical tradition, and identifies and analyses key historical figures and movements within that tradition. Students will be encouraged to examine both apophatic and cataphatic strands of the mystical tradition. Continental and English strands of the tradition will be compared and contrasted.

Guided Reading Module (20 Credits)

This module may count as one of the Optional Modules for the MA in Christian Spirituality. The module aims to provide students with the opportunity to pursue supervised study on a topic of their choice in any aspect of the field of Christian Spirituality which has been approved by the Programme Committee. It enables them to extend further the critical skills needed to interpret primary sources and/or to assess the judgements and interpretations of secondary sources. A reading schedule and essay question will be agreed with an assigned tutor and private study will be supported by tutorials.

Research Skills Training – not for credit but compulsory for all students

This 2 day training session will provide students from across the Sarum College postgraduate academic programmes to further develop their research skills. Students will become familiar with a variety of research methodologies and techniques, become conversant in the regulations associated with the planning, research, writing, and submission of their dissertation, and engage in small group activities designed to support the initial stage of dissertation topic-selection and planning.

Dissertation (60 Credits)

In 20,000 words, candidates must argue and discuss with a full critical method a stated proposition concerning faith-based leadership, which is to be presented and defended by demonstration of appropriate materials and the proper use of evidence. The proposition must be one which relates to the subject matter of the programme and which permits the demonstration of independent research, study and reflection.

Additional Module Information

Most modules begin on a Monday* afternoon and then run from 9.15 am until 5.15 pm on each full day over the next three days. Students may be residential or non-residential. On the first afternoon there is an important induction session and the first class takes place on the Monday evening. On each of the following days there will be two classes in the morning and two in the afternoon, each lasting 1½ hours. Each intensive course will thus involve 18 classroom hours. During the course there will also be time for meeting with tutors and use of the library. There is an 80% attendance requirement at modules. Tutorial support (by visits, telephone or email) for each module will be available until the completion of the assessed written work. Each module is completed over a three month period: three weeks of pre-course reading; the intensive at Sarum College and a further two months to complete the assignment.

**Except in the instance of a bank holiday week

Please note:

This course demands a real time commitment for individual reading, study and written work. This involves preparatory reading prior to each intensive and significant work afterwards to complete the additional reading and written work.

How to choose your Optional Modules

Please note that apart from the Compulsory Modules, four Optional Modules are needed to complete the taught part of the MA course and qualify for a Postgraduate Diploma. These may be obtained in the following ways.

1. Choosing four of the Optional Modules offered at Sarum College.
2. Substituting an individually tailored Guided Study Module for one Optional Module.
3. Substituting an Optional Module from other MA Programmes at the University of Winchester.
4. Substituting an Optional Module from another compatible British University course.

Students may only take one external Optional Module and this must be agreed by the Programme Committee.

Attending Modules as General Study Courses (Auditing)

Students may attend modules in addition to those which they are studying for credit, by permission of the Programme Leader. The hospitality rates will be the usual student rates £202.50 (residential, en-suite) and £44.50 (non-residential), with an added administration fee of £20. Please note that students must give clear information on whether they are attending modules as part of their accredited study in advance of attendance. Should the module be oversubscribed, preference will be given to students taking the module for credit.

Library, Information Technology & Bookshop

Registered Certificate/Diploma/MA students will have membership of the College library for the duration of their course. They will also have access, when the College is open, to the IT facilities. Sarum College Bookshop is a unique theological resource. Students registered for the MA automatically receive a discount. Books may be purchased by mail order.

Fees and Methods of Payment

Please see the separate document 'Fees and Methods of Payment 2013/14' for full information about fees and payment methods.

Withdrawal from study

If you withdraw from the course, you will be charged the full year's fees for the number of years of study that you have commenced, plus any additional modules over and above 3 modules in year 1, 6 modules in year 2 and 6 modules and the dissertation in year 3. The date of withdrawal will be the date of receipt of a formal notification of withdrawal by Sarum College.

Period of study

The fees are calculated on the basis that the Masters degree will be completed within 3 years of commencing the course, the Postgraduate Diploma will be completed within 2 years of starting the course and the Postgraduate Certificate will be completed within 1 year of starting the course. Students who take longer to complete their studies will be charged £525 per year of continuing study.

Continuation fees will be applied as follows:

- Postgraduate Certificate – continuing beyond 1 September 2014.

- Postgraduate Diploma –continuing beyond 1 September 2015.
- Masters – continuing beyond 31 July 2016.

Application Procedure

Application for the course is made through the written application form. (Please refer to the Application Checklist for full instruction on requirements.) Interviews are normally held in the winter and spring before the commencement of the course. Candidates will be notified by either the Academic Registrar or the Programme Leader when a suitable time has been arranged. After interview the Programme Committee will consider all applications and students will be notified of their decision as soon as possible after that meeting. Owing to the demand for places, on being offered a place we require that students send us a £100 registration fee to secure their place. The course will run subject to satisfactory student recruitment.

Students with Disabilities and/or Special Needs

Sarum College has an equal opportunities policy and welcomes students with disabilities onto its courses. The suitability of college facilities will be discussed during the application process separately from other discussions. Please fill in the necessary parts of the application form to facilitate this process.

Re-validation

Please note that all four MA programmes at Sarum College are scheduled for revalidation towards the end of 2013. There may therefore be some changes made to modules and other aspects of the programmes. Students will of course be kept fully informed during all stages of the revalidation process.

Non-UK/EU students

Sarum College is presently unable to sponsor non-EU students and are therefore not able to accept non-EU applicants onto its postgraduate programmes.

Academic Registrar, February 2013