



MA in Christian Liturgy **Validated by the University of Winchester**

PROGRAMME DESCRIPTOR 2015/16

Please read the following carefully.

Dates and Times

The MA is completed part-time over a minimum of two years and a maximum of five years. Students at Sarum College usually 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. 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** in the spring term of their second year of study, prior to beginning their dissertation.

All taught modules are worth 20 credits. Students are expected to complete the Core Module (compulsory) and five Optional Modules. This may include any one module from another Sarum MA programme.

For a list of module dates, please refer to the 'Academic Diary 2015-17' document.

Hospitality Costs

Students are not required to stay at Sarum College during a Module, or take up any of the meals. However, if they choose to do so, the hospitality rates are: £212 (residential, en-suite), £170 (residential, standard) and £47 (non-residential).

The residential charge (whether en-suite or standard) covers: bed and breakfast from Monday to Thursday, lunch from Tuesday to Thursday and supper from Monday to Wednesday, plus refreshments throughout.

The non-residential charge covers: supper on Monday, lunch Tuesday to Thursday, plus refreshments throughout.

As noted above, students can opt out of the hospitality element entirely and are very welcome to bring in their own meals and refreshments.

(Note: occasionally, in the case of bank holidays etc, a Module may run from Tuesday to Friday. All meals referred to in the above would then be shifted along one day e.g. the first evening's supper would be on the Tuesday etc.)

LIST OF MODULES

CORE MODULE

Approaches to Liturgical Study (20 Credits)

This module introduces students to the sources and methods used by scholars in the evaluation and interpretation of liturgical forms. These include those used for historical, theological and ritual analysis. It will equip students with skills in the critical evaluation of various sources and create awareness of the presuppositions which lie behind much liturgical scholarship. As further preparation for the degree, students will be introduced to the research and writing skills for work at Master's level.

OPTIONAL MODULES

The MA at Sarum College offers an exceptionally wide range of Optional Modules. Modules on the major topics (Eucharist and Christian Initiation) normally run at least every other year, the others will run every two or three years. Dates of the Optional Modules are available two years in advance to help students plan their programme of study.

The Eucharist (20 Credits)

This module explores the most significant developments of eucharistic worship from the New Testament to the contemporary church. Students will gain an understanding of the theological, historical and social influences upon the Eucharist and the debates surrounding different interpretations of its meaning. Through study of recent ecumenical conversations, students will be encouraged to relate their study to contemporary church contexts.

Christian Initiation (20 Credits)

Many Western Churches have significantly revised their baptismal liturgies in the last fifty years in response to the changing place of the church in society, the fruits of liturgical scholarship in assessing patterns of the early church and ecumenical exchange. This module will examine key historical periods which provide a context for contemporary rites and the theologies which lie behind them. There will be a field visit to consider the liturgical features of a font (for example, Salisbury Cathedral).

Liturgy and Mission (20 Credits)

The church in the west faces new challenges of maintaining and communicating its identity in what is sometimes referred to as a 'post-Christian' society. In this context the practice of public worship is receiving fresh attention as a means of articulating and embodying the *missio Dei*, the mission of God. This module will explore how recent developments in scholarship and practice are bringing the two disciplines of liturgical studies and missiology into conversation with one another. The module will introduce students to different ways of understanding the relationship between mission and liturgy by analysing the implications and theological assumptions of each approach. Reflection on these issues will be encouraged by close attention given to liturgical examples, drawn from contemporary and historical sources, and policy documents of the church and their critics. Students will be encouraged to reflect critically on the implications of the material discussed for their own liturgical context.

Music in Christian Worship (20 Credits)

Music is a significant feature of much Christian worship, whether chanted psalms, congregational hymns, liturgical texts arranged for choirs or contemporary worship songs. This module explores the variety of musical styles in Christian worship from both historical and contemporary perspectives and draws upon critical themes in musicology, theology and pastoral liturgy. It will equip students to make informed assessments of music choices in the liturgical events of different ecclesial settings. Musical skill or knowledge, while beneficial, is not required.

Liturgy and Time: Calendar and Daily Prayer (20 Credits)

This module will explore the ways in which Christian worship has been influenced by its relationship with time. The study of Daily Prayer and the Church's Year (Calendar) provide the twin foci for this exploration. The way Christians have developed daily patterns of prayer will be investigated, together with the constituent elements of this form of prayer, such as the use of psalms, scripture and intercessory prayer. The historical origins and evolution of the Christian festivals together with their theological and ritual meaning will form the basis of an analysis of annual rhythms of prayer. Contemporary revisions of either Daily Prayer or Calendar will be studied and students will be encouraged to relate their study to their own and other church contexts.

Worship, Art and Architecture (20 Credits)

The space in which Christian worship takes place is influenced by the culture of the age and place as well as ecclesiology. This module will investigate church buildings and their art in significant historical periods in order to highlight the way each artefact is the result of a confluence of variables. The theoretical notion of 'sacred space' will be explored and students will be encouraged to reflect upon the use of liturgical space in specific contexts. There will be a guided tour of the architectural features of a church (e.g. Salisbury Cathedral).

Liturgy and Spirituality (20 Credits)

The module engages with the relationship between spirituality and liturgy. Attention will be paid to complexity of the ways in which they relate, both conceptually and with reference to debates, such as the historic conflict between liturgy and popular piety. Students will have the opportunity to study specific examples of liturgical practice from a variety of Christian traditions, and in so doing develop their ability to interpret liturgical prayer as a form of spirituality.

Liturgy and Culture (20 Credits)

This module will investigate the relationship between liturgy and its changing cultural contexts. This is a topic that has become increasingly important for churches as they reassess their relationship to society and for liturgical studies as churches and scholars recognise the significance of cultural context for liturgical development. The module will introduce students to different ways of understanding the relationship between culture and liturgy, and the implications and theological assumptions of each approach. Reflection on these issues will be in relation to liturgical examples and policy documents of the church and their critics. Students will be encouraged to reflect critically on the implications of the material discussed for their own liturgical context.

Guided Reading in Christian Liturgy (20 Credits)

This module is designed to allow students to undertake a detailed and specialised study of a topic of their own choice in any aspect of the field of Christian liturgy. The topic chosen needs to be sufficiently distinct from other topics that the student has chosen for assessment in the taught modules. Students are supported in the development of their project through tutorials with an academic staff member.

Students may ALSO take ONE module from another MA programme with the agreement of the Programme Leaders of both the MA in Christian Leadership AND the MA Programme Leader of the programme from which the optional module is taken.

Dissertation Skills Training – not for credit but all students are expected to attend

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.

Practical Liturgy Research Project (60 Credits)

Students may take this module as an alternative to the Dissertation module. This module provides the student with an opportunity to engage with a project over a year in which liturgical practice is critically examined in the light of the theories of liturgical study. A supervisor is assigned who will advise on reading and project strategy. The module will start with an induction course.

Dissertation (60 Credits)

This module allows students to research in depth, in consultation with a designated supervisor, a topic of their own choosing, documenting it appropriately and putting into practice, in a sustained piece of work, the research methods and skills they have developed. The preliminary stage of writing a proposal is supported by the Dissertation Skills Training course (see above).

ADDITIONAL MODULE INFORMATION

Most modules begin on Monday* afternoon and then run from 9.30 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 20 classroom hours. In classroom sessions, learning will occur through a variety of methods, including lectures, discussion groups, and student-led seminars. During the residential portion of 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, skype, telephone or email) for each module will be available until the completion of the assessed written work. Students receive further support through the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) which will offer students access to key reading materials, discussion groups, module-specific knowledge bases, and formative assessment exercises.

Each taught module (20 Credits) 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(s).

*Except in the instance of a bank holiday week, and not in the case of the Dissertation Research Skills Training

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 in addition to the Core (Compulsory) Module, five Optional Modules are needed to complete the taught part of the MA course and progress to the Dissertation or complete your studies with a Postgraduate Diploma. These may be obtained in the following ways.

1. Choosing five of the Optional Modules offered in the Christian Liturgy programme at Sarum College.
2. Substituting one Optional Module from one of the three other MA pathways at Sarum College.

Students may only take one external Optional Module (from another of the Sarum MA programmes) and this must be agreed by the relevant Programme Leaders.

Attending Modules as General Study Courses (normally referred to as 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 of £212 (residential, en-suite), £170 (residential, standard) and £47 (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 2015/16' for full information about fees and payment methods.

Withdrawal from Study

Students withdrawing from the course will be charged the full year's fees for the number of years of study that have been commenced, plus any additional modules over and above three modules in year 1, six modules in year 2 and six 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 three years of commencing the course, the Postgraduate Diploma will be completed within two years of starting the course and the Postgraduate Certificate will be completed within one 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 2016.
- Postgraduate Diploma –continuing beyond 1 September 2017.
- Masters – continuing beyond 1 September 2018.

Application Procedure

Application for the course is made through the written application form. Please refer to the Application Checklist towards the back of the Application Form for full instruction on requirements. Interviews are normally held in the spring and summer before the commencement of the course. Candidates will be notified by either the Academic Administrator 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.

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.