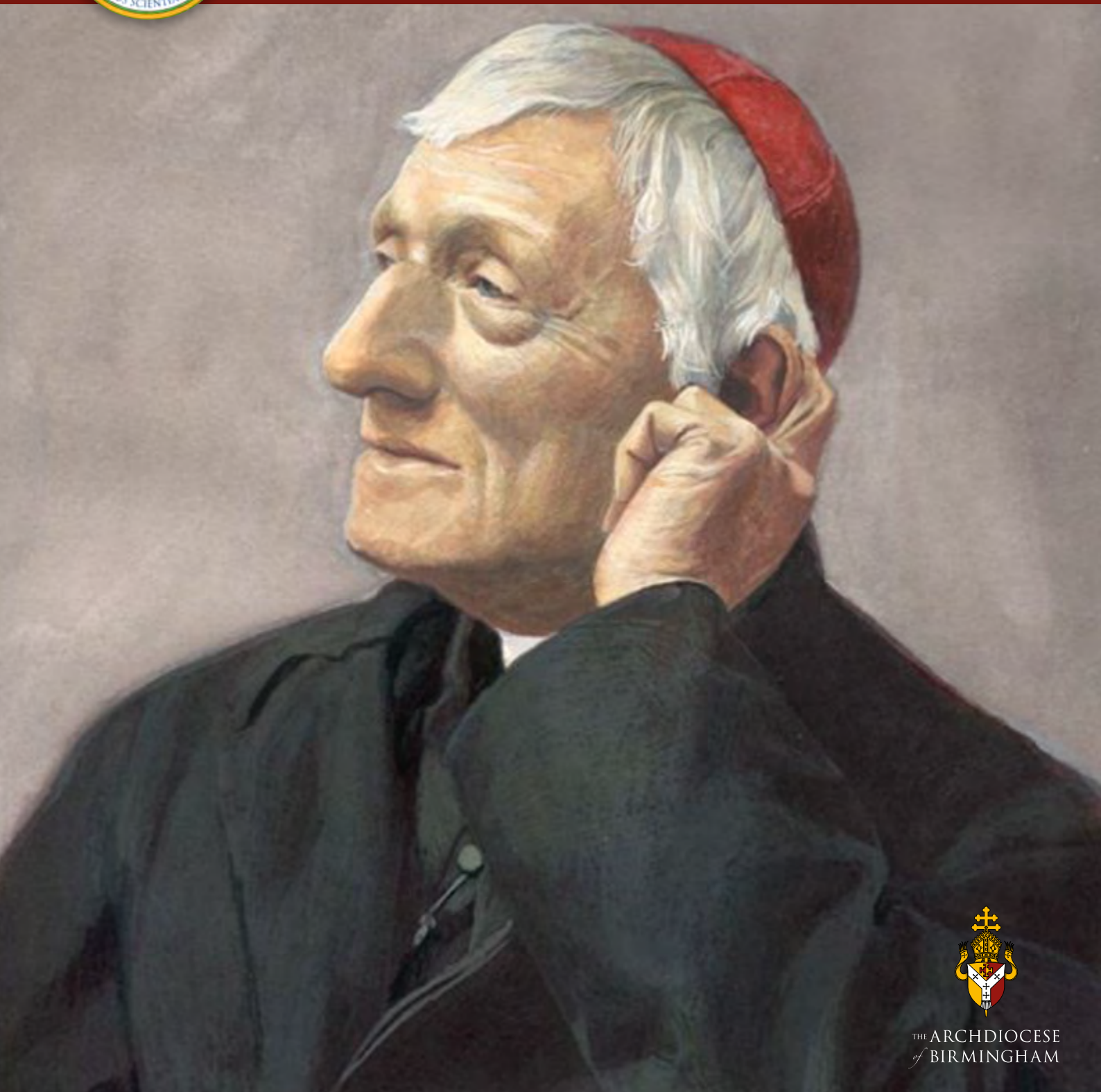




MARYVALE INSTITUTE

Higher Institute of Religious Sciences



THE ARCHDIOCESE
of BIRMINGHAM

COURSE INFORMATION 2023-2024

Ecclesiastical Licence in Divinity:
Pathway in Catechetical Sciences Programme

Validated by The Ecclesiastical Theology Faculty of l'Ecole Cathédrale de Notre Dame





Welcome to the Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (HIRS)

In this information pack we will outline exactly what you can expect from our Licence in Divinity programme.

Our validators and our students tell us that our unique blend of part-time, distance and residential learning is of the highest academic quality. It offers the possibility of gaining a theology qualification recognised by the Holy See while at the same time continuing your daily life.

Whether you study with us to start working for the Church in a variety of capacities; as a preparation for a chaplaincy role of any kind, to deepen your knowledge of the Faith for those in the religious life, priesthood or diaconate, or simply because you want to know more about Catholicism, or simply because you want to know more about Catholicism, the Licence in Catechetics Degree offers an in-depth immersion into the Faith. You will also join a community of like-minded people from across the world..

In the pages that follow you will learn a little about our origins, our deep commitment to St John Henry Newman's vision on learning, the structures of our programme, the way it is delivered and the wide range of staff involved in teaching.

If you have any questions, or simply want to have a chat about our programme and how it would fit into your life, Deacon Dr Harry Schnitker, our Admissions Tutor, is always happy to have a Zoom or Skype call. He can be reached via email:

researchcentre@maryvale.ac.uk

If you have queries about the modules and content of the programme, please contact the Programme Director, Dr Birute Briliute:

dean@maryvale.ac.uk

If you have any questions about fees or other finance matters, please contact Magdalena Edwards via email:

financemanager@maryvale.ac.uk

If you wish to apply, please contact the Programme Administrator, Melissa Pearce via email:

postgrad@maryvale.ac.uk

Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences

Archdiocese of Birmingham, Cathedral House, St Chad's Queensway, Birmingham B4 6EX

What our graduating students say:

‘The material covered on the course, its delivery in such a prayerful setting and the professionalism of the instructors was awesome... Each module was like a chapter of the most exciting book I had ever started.’

‘The overall quality of the Maryvale course has been wonderful for me. The coursebooks have presented a clear presentation of the faith which is comprehensive and orthodox.’

‘Distance learning has been very beneficial and Maryvale has facilitated it very well.’

‘The last five years have been a journey that, looking back, has had its ups and downs, its smooth and rocky patches but one that has shaped my outlook on life and deepened my faith. I can’t imagine my life before I started this course and it has inspired me to proceed further.’

What our validators say:

‘As usual, there was a very good cooperation spirit between our team and our Maryvale colleagues, including the examiners sitting for the first time on juries.’

‘The quality of students’ work matched what is expected for a Baccalaureate degree in religious science. Presentations and answers to the questions ranged from fair to excellent.’

‘Student performance demonstrates a very good quality of teaching and learning. Students are capable of clearly presenting the knowledge acquired, oriented towards true pastoral care.’



CONTENTS

| | |
|--|----|
| Historical introduction | 7 |
| Maryvale Institute | 7 |
| Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences | 7 |
| Our Spiritual Roots: Maryvale House, the Sacred Heart, Mission and St John Henry Newman | 8 |
| Licence in Divinity: Pathway in Catechetical Sciences | 10 |
| General | 10 |
| Admission requirements | 10 |
| Structure and content | 11 |
| Teaching and learning strategy | 11 |
| Assessment | 12 |
| Programme Calendar | 13 |
| Admission to the programme | 14 |
| Policy on admission and support of students with English as a second language | 14 |
| Course fees | 15 |
| Application and Registration | 15 |
| How to pay | 16 |
| Admissions process | 16 |
| Programme management | 17 |



OUR AIMS

The Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (HIRS) was born at Maryvale House in Birmingham. This was Saint John Henry Newman's first home as a Catholic and although, like him, we have moved from the house, he remains our main inspiration. This is what he said:

"What I desiderate in Catholics is the gift of bringing out what their religion is. I want a laity ... who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not, who know their creed so well that they can give an account of it, who know so much of history that they can defend it.



"I want an intelligent, well-instructed laity. I wish you to enlarge your knowledge, to cultivate your reason, to get an insight into the relation of truth to truth, to learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith and reason stand to each other, what are the bases and principles of Catholicism I have no apprehension you will be the worse Catholics for familiarity with these subjects, ...

"You ought to be able to bring out what you feel and what you mean, as well as to feel and mean it; to expose to the comprehension of others the fictions and fallacies of your opponents; to explain the charges brought against the Church, to the satisfaction, not, indeed, of bigots, but of men of sense, of whatever cast of opinion."

'The position of Catholics in England', 1851

When, in 1851, St John Henry Newman spoke of having a laity "who know their religion, who enter into it, who know just where they stand, who know what they hold and what they do not", in essence, a "well-instructed laity", who would "enlarge" their "knowledge", 'cultivate' their "reason" and "get an insight into the relation of truth to truth, to learn to view things as they are, to understand how faith and reason stand to each other" and the "basis and principles of Catholicism", he was making a brave new statement.

At that time, formation in theology and philosophy were largely in the realm of the Church and reserved for priests and religious. Over 100 years later, in 1980, when Maryvale International Catholic Institute, under the auspices of the Archdiocese of Birmingham, opened its doors to adult students, this bold vision of Newman's underpinned the education provided – it does to this day.

Historical introduction

Maryvale Institute

The Maryvale Institute is an international Catholic college, specialised in distance-learning, part-time programmes, and is part of the Archdiocese of Birmingham.

The main aim of the Institute is to educate and train men and women in Catholic Theology, Scripture, Religious Education, Catechesis, Liturgy, Spirituality and other related disciplines in order to equip them intellectually, personally and spiritually for their personal and professional lives. Based on a methodology pioneered by the Open University, Maryvale's collaborative-learning method is a unique form of distance learning with short residential periods specially adapted in accordance with the pedagogical principles outlined by the Holy See.

In 1989, Maryvale Institute was granted official recognition by the Holy See through the Catechetical Office of the Congregation of the Clergy. In 1990, it began a postgraduate diploma course validated by the University of Oxford.

That same year, Maryvale was recognised by the Congregation for Catholic Education as an Institute affiliated to the Pontifical University, St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Ireland and the distance-learning, five-year B.A. (Divinity) degree in Theology was launched, validated by Maynooth, and ran successfully until 2013.

In 1998, a Cert. HE in Applied Theology was validated by Open University Validation Services (OUVS) which in 2000, became the B.A. (Hons) in Applied Theology. This was revalidated in 2006, with the highest commendations.

Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (HIRS)

On 25 March 2011, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, Maryvale Institute was erected by the Holy See as an Ecclesiastical Institute, known as a Higher Institute of Religious Sciences (HIRS) according to the Norms laid down for such institutes by the Congregation for Catholic Education in Rome. This allowed the establishment of the Licence in Divinity: Catechetical Sciences, a programme recognised by the Church.

On 29 September 2016 the Congregation renewed its approval of the HIRS and confirmed its Statutes as an entity within, but distinct from, Maryvale Institute.

The Licence is a three-year, part-time, collaborative-learning programme validated by the Ecclesiastical Theology Faculty of the Ecole Cathédrale de Notre Dame, Paris (Faculté Notre Dame), as authorised by the Dicastery for Culture and Education of the Holy See. It gives its students a thorough grounding in all areas of theology.

The programme is delivered in English and evidence of competence in the language may be required of those for whom English is not their first language. This degree meets the requirements of the Bologna Convention by which there is co- recognition of undergraduate degrees across EU countries.

Our spiritual roots

Maryvale House, the Sacred Heart, Mission and St John Henry Newman

The Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences has its historical and spiritual roots in Maryvale House, Old Oscott, Birmingham.

As was the norm during the long centuries of anti-Catholic discrimination after the reformation of the sixteenth century, it fell to individual families, usually of some local or national standing, to provide hubs for the remaining Catholics. In the West Midlands, this was the Bromwich family. Their home, Oscott House, was to become a Catholic beacon, a shrine and the base for several Catholic institutes. This was a place where, however surreptitiously, Mass could be said, the Hours that sanctify the day and the calendar of saints and feasts that sanctify the year observed.

In 1753, the old house was substantially reconstructed in the Georgian style, with the chapel on the first floor. It became a three-storey building that was intended to house the Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District, the forerunner of the Archdiocese of Birmingham. For the rest of the eighteenth century, priests continued to arrive at Oscott House after their education and ordination on the continent. The 1778 Catholic Relief Act allowed Fr Pierce Parry to construct a new and large chapel, which had yet to conform to the restrictions of the Relief Act and so built in an unobtrusive brick, and which is still in existence and use today.

In 1820, the Sacred Heart Shrine was opened, the first outside France: the devotion to the Sacred Heart remains an important spiritual element to our Institute. For almost four decades, the West Midlands' seminary was based here, before moving to New Oscott. The old house became the home of St John Henry Newman. Here he lived for the first years after becoming a Catholic, here he developed the idea for the Oratory, and here he began formulating his ideas on education, which have such a major influence on our own approach to teaching and learning.

For a few years from 1849, the house was the home for the Oblates of Mary Immaculate (OMI), one of the major missionary orders of the Church. They, too, impact on our own sense of mission: like the OMI, our mission is global.

Having served as an orphanage for the Sisters of Mercy for many decades, Maryvale House became a centre for religious education in the Archdiocese of Birmingham under the direction of Archbishop George Patrick Dwyer from 1980 onwards. Having served as the base for the Institute for more than four decades, the old house has since been deemed no longer fit for purpose. Other changes had come, too, more particularly the internet, which had transformed the possibilities of distance learning.

Change has been the norm for the Church over two millennia and the global Catholic community in 21st century England is not that of the Victorian era or of the later 20th century. However, that change has to be rooted in the past if a certain set of values and identities are to continue to evolve; this is what St John Henry Newman referred to as 'authentic or true' development. His reference was to doctrine, but his idea was firmly rooted in a wider reality.

The essence of Maryvale House and of its educational role over the centuries informs a new, more digital Maryvale that has moved away from the house but remains true to its mission. Above all, St John Henry Newman's ideas on education, the education of the whole person, are timeless and spaceless; they can and will continue regardless of where Catholic education takes place.

Faculté Notre Dame de Paris

Based in the heart of the French capital, Paris, sits the Collège des Bernardins, the stunning architectural home to our validating partners, the Faculté Notre Dame de Paris (FND).

Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences is extremely proud of its association with this leading seat of learning in the Catholic Church. Founded by Cardinal Jean-Marie Lustiger in 1984, it is a revival of what was a premier seat of learning in the Middle Ages since the time of Charlemagne. Its degrees, baccalauréat en théologie, licencié de théologie and docteur en théologie, are recognised by the Holy See. FND is constituted in accordance with Pope Francis's apostolic constitution, *Veritatis gaudium*, and is under the umbrella of the École Cathédrale, part of the Archdiocese of Paris. Like Maryvale, FND teaches both clergy, religious and laity.

Please visit FND's website for more information:

www.collegedesbernardins.fr/la-faculte-notre-dame

Licence in Divinity: Pathway in Catechetical Science

General

Maryvale is the only institute in Britain – and indeed in the English-speaking world – approved by the Catholic Church to award bachelors and licence degrees in divinity. Maryvale Institute works according to Bologna Convention by which educational credits gained at BA and Masters levels can be counted according to the European Credit Tariff (ECTS). The programmes at Maryvale thus provide graduate and postgraduate qualifications for practising lay Catholics, lay religious and clergy in their service of parish and diocese, which have Church recognition.

The Licence Programme is especially suited to:

- those in diocesan positions of catechetics or adult faith formation
- those involved in the creation, or oversight, of catechetical resources
- those involved in work related to the new evangelization
- those in Catholic chaplaincy or Catholic school leadership positions.

Admission Requirements:

Admission to the Licence programme is available for all those who have the Ecclesiastical B. Divinity, or an equivalent qualification. See Admission Requirements on page 14 for more details.



Structure and content

To gain the Licence, students first complete eight postgraduate modules, which are normally taught over 24 months. This consists of:

YEAR ONE

| | |
|---------------|-------------------------------------|
| Module One: | Catechesis: Purpose, Nature, Method |
| Module Two: | God and Salvation in Jesus Christ |
| Module Three: | Christian Anthropology |
| Module Four: | Scripture for RE and Catechesis |

YEAR TWO

| | |
|---------------|------------------------|
| Module Five: | The Church |
| Module Six: | Liturgy and Sacraments |
| Module Seven: | Moral Formation |
| Module Eight: | Research Methods |

YEAR THREE

| |
|---|
| A classic text in the area of catechetics |
| A key figure in the area of catechetics |
| A contemporary debate in catechetics. |
| A dissertation in the area of RE and Catechesis (20,000 words). The dissertation is then assessed in a form of an oral examination. |

Teaching and learning strategy

A **collaborative-learning** approach is followed on the course, with course materials specially prepared by the Institute's team of academic, educational and pastoral specialists. Students follow the course at home through the material, readings and assignments presented to them in the coursebooks corresponding to each module of study.

Teaching Periods: The course includes a core teaching component of three weekends per annum. Of these, two are delivered online, and one is in person. For the academic year 2024, the in-person residential is planned for September. The online teaching periods are planned for January and May.

Those who cannot attend for appropriate reasons, including but not limited to disability, distance, and caring responsibilities, will need to provide adequate notice and evidence to the Programme Team. Reasonable accommodations will be made so that those with these exemptions are not adversely affected by missing the valuable teaching provided at these teaching periods.

Teaching periods also constitute invaluable opportunities for students to meet and discuss with each other, to socialise, worship and study together. During teaching periods, all students receive lectures and seminars from experts in the field which focus on particular modules being studied.

Programme Director

The role of the Programme Director is to guide students through the course and to monitor both their progress with their studies and the effect of the course on them. He or she monitors all the students' assessed work. He or she also acts as a tutor and operates an email/telephone/Zoom helpline for all the students of the course. One-to-one tutorial and evaluation discussions are held at all teaching periods. Students are encouraged to contact the Programme Director with any questions or problems concerning the course.

Academic Tutor

An **academic tutor** is assigned to each student for each area of study. This tutor provides support and direction through a response to the academic paper produced by the student at the conclusion of a module.

Assessment

Each module in the Licence year is assessed through a written assignment of 5000 words.

The final piece of work undertaken for the Licence is an oral defence of the Licence dissertation. The guideline length for this is 300–500 words or 5-10 PowerPoint presentation slides with comments of 500–700 words (excluding references). The summary of the oral presentation of the Licence dissertation should be written and submitted two weeks prior to the date of the oral defence.

For the Licence, the student also completes a modern language requirement (through attending language seminars online or at the Institute during the required teaching periods, if needed).

Coursework and dissertations are assessed initially by academic tutors, moderated by the Programme Director and all assessed work, including all the dissertations, is scrutinised by an external examiner. All reports and marks are made available to the Board of Examiners, which is responsible for taking the final decision on all cases.



Programme Calendar

The Institute has three terms, each punctuated by a teaching period: two virtual and one in person. The Licence Programme commences each **January**.

2024 terms

Lent Term: 9 January to 25 March

Easter Term: 15 April to 22 June

Michaelmas Term: 20 September to 9 December

Lent Term Teaching period (Online):

12-14 January 2024

For Year One:

Module One: *Catechesis. Purpose, Nature Method.*

Module Two: *God and Salvation in Jesus Christ.*

For Year Three:

Module One: *A Key Figure in the Area of Catechetics;*

Module Two: *A Key Text in the Area of Catechetics.*

Easter Term Teaching period (online):

10-12 May 2024

For Year One:

Module Three: *Christian Anthropology.*

For Year Three:

Module Three: *A Contemporary Debate in the Area of Catechetics. Preparation for the Oral Defence of the dissemination plan of the Licence Dissertation.*

Michaelmas Term Teaching period (in person):

20-22 September 2024

For Year One:

Module Four: *Scripture for RE and Catechesis.*

For Year Three:

Preparation for an Oral Defence of the dissemination plan of the Licence Dissertation.

Admission to the Programme

In addition to conforming to the general admissions requirements of the Institute, for admission to the Licence Programme, candidates will need to have studied Catholic theology in the following areas at first honours or second degree level:

- History of Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Anthropology
- Holy Scripture
- Fundamental Theology
- Dogmatic Theology
- Moral Theology
- Spiritual Theology
- Liturgical and Sacramental Theology
- Patrology and Church History
- Canon Law

Students should arrange for transcripts of previous relevant studies to be sent to the Institute. Provided the student has sufficient relevant studies that mirror our modules for years one and two, they can start year three.

Students who wish to join the Licence Programme and do not satisfy all of the requirements for admission can undertake an agreed number of bridging modules. These will be determined by the Admissions Committee following submission of an application.

Apart from these academic qualifications, candidates are asked to submit in writing their reasons for wishing to undertake the Licence. The intention is to ensure that candidates understand the contribution that higher studies might make to their professional life, and an acceptable attitude regarding the demands, spiritual, intellectual and personal, that the course could be expected to make on them.

Policy on the admission and support of students with English as a second language

All higher education programmes offered by Maryvale Institute are written, delivered and assessed exclusively in English. On application the Institute requires evidence of proficiency in written and spoken English; the evidence of proficiency required for entry into courses is as follows:

- International English Language Testing System (IELTS): Minimum average of 6.5 overall, with no sub-test below 6.0.
- Michigan Test of English Language Proficiency (MTELP): Minimum equated score of 90.
- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL): Minimum paper-based total of 550, computer-based total of 213, or Internet-based total of 79.
- Cambridge Certificate in Advanced English (CAE): Minimum grade of B.
- Cambridge Certificate of Proficiency in English (CPE): Minimum grade of C.

Students who cannot demonstrate proficiency in English to the satisfaction of the Institute are required to take a short, written examination which tests reading level and understanding, and facility in written English. This is designed, provided and assessed by the Institute. Dictionaries are allowed for the purposes of the exam.

As a standard procedure, all students for whom English is not their first language are identified at the relevant Assessment and Examinations Board.

Students who are deemed not to have passed may retake the exam, having demonstrated that they have undergone further instruction in English. Students who demonstrate a minimal level of proficiency may be accepted onto the course at the discretion of the Institute provided they give clear evidence of their plans for further improving their English.

Course Fees

The cost per annum for the Licence for 2024 is presently £3,744 for UK & EU students and £4784 for non-EU students. Fees rise annually, usually in line with inflation and are published in July each year for the following year.

There is also a £50 registration fee upon application.

The course fees are non-refundable 14 days from the date of your acceptance letter. The fee includes tuition, examinations registration and office administration, the resources for the Library and other facilities provided.

Please Note: Healthcare in the UK is not free to overseas visitors and students attending the UK for in-person teaching periods are expected to ensure that they have adequate health insurance cover before visiting. The Institute cannot accept responsibility for students' personal health, all students are expected to take reasonable precautions to safeguard their own health and wellbeing.

While the Institute endeavours to keep the course fees at a reasonable level, it cannot guarantee that fees will remain the same throughout the duration of the programme. The Institute reserves the right to amend its course fees at any time to reflect inflation and any other financial changes which may impact on the efficient and economic running of the Institute.

Students will incur some additional expenditure in connection with their course of study on such items as travel and accommodation, postage and books.

Application and Registration

An application form is available on request from the Programme Administrator via email: postgrad@maryvale.ac.uk, or may be downloaded from the ***Licence in Catechetics*** page of the Institute website. A non-returnable application fee of £50.00 is required when making application for the course. Full fees for the Licence year are required once you have been registered for the course, and must be paid before the first weekend of the course.

Payment can be made via the Maryvale website – see instructions overleaf. Payment must be made in Sterling. From countries outside the UK payment should be made in Sterling by way of a Banker's Draft drawn on a UK bank.

How to pay your Course Fees

Paying via the website

To pay through the website, please visit the **Course Fees** page

Click on the 'Course Fees for EU Students' or 'Course Fees for Non-EU Students' tab as applicable. Scroll to the bottom of the page and select the relevant blue box (e.g. 'Register 1' is for the application fee) and follow the instructions. The website allows payment using credit and debit cards and PayPal (you do not need a PayPal account in order to use this method).

N.B. Please indicate the course and your name in the additional info to seller.

Paying by cheque

We currently accept cheque payments and bankers' drafts. Please ensure that these are made payable to '**Maryvale Institute**' and posted to the Finance Manager at Maryvale House. Please also send a message to the Finance Manager through the **Course Fees** page on the website to confirm the cheque has been sent, your course and invoice number (if you have one).

It is also possible to pay by PayPal or by internet banking (see the enclosed document 'How to pay your Course Fees' for details). If you have any queries relating to payments, including requests for spreading the cost of HE course fees, please telephone (+44) 0121 360 8118 and ask for the Finance Manager, Magdalena Edwards or send a message through the **Course Fees** page on the website.

Admissions Process

When you have sent back your application form, an application fee to cover the administrative costs associated with the admissions process, a statement of why you would like to take this course, and once the references and transcripts which you will have arranged to have sent to us have arrived, your application will be considered by the Licence Admissions Committee. (Note: These references are treated as confidential between the referee and the Institute).

Following the meeting of the Admissions Committee, assuming that your application is successful, you will be sent a letter of acceptance no later than four weeks from the receipt of your completed application (including supporting documents e.g. references). Your acceptance pack will contain further information about Maryvale Institute and the Licence Programme, including details of how to apply for a student card, followed by an invoice for your fees in due course. Once we have received your fees for the Licence year, you are then formally enrolled as a student of the Institute.

If for any reason your application for a place on the course is not successful, the Institute reserves the right, because of the elements of confidentiality involved in the admissions process and the collection of references, not to give you the reasons for this decision. If at any stage you are dissatisfied with the admissions process we would advise you to follow the complaints procedure of the Institute: a copy of this can be found on the Institute's website under '**Study with us – Regulations and Policies**', or you can order a copy from the Institute's library. We will endeavour to ensure that your questions are dealt with promptly and professionally.

Programme Management

Maryvale HIRS Council

The Licence in Divinity is provided by Maryvale HIRS, which is affiliated to the Faculté Notre Dame de Paris (FND), in accordance with the Norms for such Institutes issued by the Dicastery for Culture and Education which approved its Statutes.

The Council of the HIRS, presided over by the Director of the HIRS, oversees all the undertakings of the HIRS. It is also responsible for the oversight of the content, delivery and standards of the ecclesiastical degree programmes. Membership of the Council includes the President of FND or his delegate, the Director of the HIRS, the permanent faculty of the HIRS, two representatives of the non-permanent staff of the HIRS, two student representatives, the Academic Registrar or Assistant Registrar, and any co-opted person or persons.

The Programme Board

Maryvale HIRS participates in the Institute's quality assurance structures. This means that there is a Programme Board which oversees the running and development of the programme. The Board is drawn from the Faculty of the Programme and includes student representatives. The Programme Board reports to the Maryvale Academic Board which has also established a number of other committees for the effective delivery of the various degree and other programmes – especially the Academic Standards Committee. There is also an Examinations Board.

The Director and Staff of the Programme

The HIRS Director is appointed by the Archbishop of Paris with the prior approval of the Archbishop of Birmingham and FND. The HIRS Faculty is appointed by the Archbishop of Birmingham. The appointment of permanent faculty requires the approval of FND.

The Programme Director, Dr Birute Briliute is responsible for establishing and developing all aspects of the programme. There is a large Associate Staff comprising Academic Tutors, Lecturers, Examiners, Moderators, and Advisers. (For a full list, see the separate PDF)

Regulations and Complaints

The Institute Regulations and the Complaints policy and procedures can be found on the Maryvale website.





MARYVALE INSTITUTE

Higher Institute of Religious Sciences

Maryvale Institute, Cathedral House, St Chad's Queensway,
Birmingham, B4 6EU, UK

Tel: +44 (0)121 360 8118



THE ARCHDIOCESE
OF BIRMINGHAM