

Programme and Pathway Specification 2021

1. Overview/ factual information

Programme/award title(s)	MA in Catholic Applied Theology
Teaching Institution	Maryvale Institute
Awarding Institution	The Open University (OU)
Date of first OU validation	1992 (2008 for Pathway in Spirituality; 2010 for Pathways in Marriage and Family and Apologetics)
Date of latest OU (re)validation	July 2018
Next revalidation	June 2023
Credit points for the award	180
UCAS Code	n/a
JACS Code	V6
Programme start date	January each year
Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)	TRS
Other external and internal reference points used to inform programme outcomes	n/a
Professional/statutory recognition	n/a
Mode(s) of Study (PT, FT, DL, Mix of DL & Face-to-Face)	PT, DL & Face-to-face.
Duration of the programme for each mode of study	2.5-5 years part time, distance learning & face to face
Dual accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Date of production/revision of this specification	2020

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the student module guide.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

2.1 Educational aims and objectives

The MA in Catholic Applied Theology aims to:

- Enable students to engage in an informed, systematic and critical manner with Catholic theology, philosophy and the human sciences
- Equip students to exercise responsibility and independence in their studies and research and to be able to apply the fruits of these critically and creatively

2.2 Relationship to other programmes and awards

(Where the award is part of a hierarchy of awards/programmes, this section describes the articulation between them, opportunities for progression upon completion of the programme, and arrangements for bridging modules or induction)

Maryvale Institute runs two Bachelor's degree programmes: a B.Divinity and a BA in *Philosophy in the Catholic Tradition*. Progress from either of these to the MA programme is possible for students who qualify with 2:2 honours or above.

Graduates of the MA in *Catholic Applied Theology* (RE and Catechesis) may progress to the *Ecclesiastical Licence in Catechetics* provided they have also obtained a first degree, or equivalent, in theology.

Students who achieve a Distinction grade for the MA are eligible for admission to the Research Degree programme (M.Phil and Ph.D).

2.3 For Foundation Degrees, please list where the 60 credit work-related learning takes place

N/A

2.4 List of all exit awards

Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Applied Theology (pathway title) – 60 credits
Postgraduate Diploma in Catholic Applied Theology (pathway title) – 120 credits

3. Programme structure and learning outcomes

<u>Programme Structure - LEVEL 7</u>					
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
Christian Anthropology ¹	15	As per your chosen pathway	45	No	N/A

Exit award possible on successful completion of half of the taught elements: Postgraduate Certificate in Catholic Applied Theology (Pathway X). Minimum points required 60

<u>Programme Structure - LEVEL 7</u>					
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
As above	15	As above	45		
Research Methods	15	As per your chosen pathway	45	No	N/A

Exit award possible on successful completion of all taught elements: Postgraduate Diploma in Catholic Applied Theology (Pathway X). Minimum points required 120

<u>Programme Structure - LEVEL 7</u>					
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points	Is module compensatable?	Semester runs in
As above	30	As above	90	No	N/A
Dissertation	60				

¹ The Christian Anthropology module is differently constituted according to pathway. On the pathway in *Apologetics* it is presented as *Human Dignity: Foundation of Western Culture and Civilisation*; on the pathway in *RE and Catechesis* it is presented as either *Human Dignity: Foundation of Western Culture and Civilisation* OR *Philosophical and Theological Anthropology*; on the pathways in *Marriage and Family* and *Spirituality* it is presented as *Christian Anthropology: a Call to Love*.

Exit award on successful completion of all taught elements and the dissertation: Master of Arts in Catholic Applied Theology (Pathway X). Minimum points required 180

Intended learning outcomes at Level 7 are listed below:

A student who successfully completes this pathway will be able to:

<u>Learning Outcomes – LEVEL 7</u>	
3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
A1 Show a critical understanding of the anthropological, philosophical and Christological foundations of Catholic applied theology	Course materials, tutorials, lecture input, written assignments, independent research Personal study, practical exercises, completion of assessment tasks
A2 Demonstrate a critical awareness of the implications of these foundations for the aims, nature and methods appropriate to engaging in one of the pathways of the programme	

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
B1 Critically analyse, compare and evaluate diverse conceptual frameworks/ arguments in the light of the principles underlying applied theological studies	Class discussions, tutorials, research proposal Presentations, research proposal leading to full dissertation
B2 Evaluate and apply research methods suited to theoretical and practical aspects of applied theological study	

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
C1 Understand, critically evaluate and formulate arguments relevant to the application of the Catholic Christian tradition to practical ministries	Seminars, applied element of written assignments
C2 Evaluate their own presuppositions/ practices in the light of knowledge of applied theology	Seminars, practical exercises, applied element of written assignments

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
D1 Exercise autonomy, initiative and personal responsibility in study and research, maintaining personal effectiveness over a long period of time	Personal planning, punctuality, self management in group contexts, assignment/research completion
D2 Communicate complex and nuanced concepts effectively and clearly, targeting a variety of audiences	Case studies, class interaction, reflection on professional responsibilities and approaches

Curriculum Map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (✓) particular pathway learning outcomes.

		Programme Outcomes							
Level	Module/Unit	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
7	Christian Anthropology	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓
	Research Methods			✓	✓			✓	✓

4. Distinctive features of the programme structure

- Where applicable, this section provides details on distinctive features such as:
 - where in the structure above a professional/placement year fits in and how it may affect progression
 - any restrictions regarding the availability of elective modules
- where in the programme structure students must make a choice of pathway/route

Students take two common core elements, as listed above and then proceed to the prescribed modules set for their chosen pathway. These are listed in the individual pathway specifications.

5. Support for students and their learning

Students are supported by the preparation of suitable course books for distance learning and by the input of module tutors. Advice and guidance comes from Pathway Leaders, the Programme Director and from the over-arching support systems of the Institute as noted in the Student Handbook and the Research Methods and Study Guide. Library and resources support is provided by the library team.

6. Criteria for admission

Students normally have an undergraduate degree (2:2 honours or above, or equivalent) and non-native English speakers are required to prove that they have a proper standard of use of English language suitable for Masters level study

7. Language of study

English

8. Information about non-OU standard assessment regulations (including PSRB requirements)

N/A

9. Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning.

At institutional level, the QAE systems of Maryvale Institute apply to the delivery and evaluation of M level degree work. The following provide points of reference for adaptation and development of the MA Programme:

- Annual Monitoring of the programme by the Programme Team.
- Annual Examination Boards and the advice of the External Examiner.
- Student feedback from residential events and from attendance at programme boards.
- Student evaluation of the residential weekend programme, the learning materials, written and tutorial guidance and support, the VLE, and dissertation supervision
- Regular re-validation events with the accrediting body.

10. Changes made to the programme since last (re)validation

The pathway in *Faith and Culture* has been discontinued (from Jan 2021)

The module from this pathway entitled *Human Dignity: Foundation of Western Culture and Civilisation* has replaced the module entitled *Christian Anthropology* on the Apologetics pathway, and is offered as an option with *Philosophical and Theological Anthropology* (formerly entitled *Christian Anthropology*) on the pathway in *RE and Catechesis*.

Pathway specification – Marriage and Family

Educational aims and objectives
<p>The Pathway in Marriage and Family aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable students to engage in an informed, systematic and critical manner with Catholic theology, philosophy and the human sciences - Equip students to exercise responsibility and independence in their studies and research and to able to apply the fruits of these critically and creatively. - Enable students to explore the theological, psychological, physical and social dimensions of marriage and family life.

Pathway Structure and Outcomes

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year One			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Marriage in Sacred Scripture	15		
Christian Anthropology: a Call to Love	15		
Living in Christ: An Introduction to Fundamental Moral Theology	15		
The Sacrament of Marriage: 'Loving as God Loves'.	15		

Exit award on successful completion of Year One: Post-graduate Certificate (minimum credits required 60)

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Two			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Love and Fruitfulness: Marriage and Family in the Teaching of the Church	15		
The Contemporary Socio-Political Context of the Family	15		
Love, Marriage and Family: A Psychological Perspective	15		
Research Methods	15		

Exit award on successful completion of Year Two: Post-graduate Diploma (minimum credits required 120)

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Three			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Dissertation in the area of Marriage and Family (20,000 words)	60		

Award on successful completion of Year Three: Master of Arts (minimum credits required 180)

Intended learning outcomes at Level 7 are listed below:

A student who successfully completes this pathway will be able to:

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
A1: Explain the relation between Catholic understandings of the human person and various forms of vocation	Course materials, tutorials, lecture input
A2 Exhibit systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the biblical, sacramental/ecclesial, moral and cultural dimensions of married and family life	Personal study, practical exercises, completion of assessment tasks

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
B1 Evaluate the contribution of psychology to an understanding of the dynamics of marriage relations and family life	Class discussions, tutorials, presentations
B2 Critically engage with the contemporary socio-political context of marriage and family	Personal research and reading

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
C1 Apply moral principles systematically in order to formulate responses to moral questions such as those relating to love and sexual ethics	Practical exercises, residential sessions
C2 Critically and creatively use psychological understanding to formulate practical methods for engagement with problematic situations in family life	Case studies

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
D1 Exercise autonomy, initiative and personal responsibility in study and research, maintaining personal effectiveness over a long period of time	Personal planning, punctuality, self management in group contexts, assignment/research completion
D2 Communicate complex and nuanced concepts effectively and clearly, targeting a variety of audiences	Case studies, class interaction, reflection on professional responsibilities and approaches

Curriculum map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (x) particular pathway learning outcomes.

Marriage and Family Pathway		Pathway Outcomes							
Level	Module/Unit	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
7	Marriage in Scripture		x		x			x	x
	Christian Anthropology (programme level)								
	Moral Theology		x		x	x		x	x
	Marriage as sacrament and state of life	x	x		x	x	x	x	x
	Marriage and family in the teaching of the church	x	x		x	x		x	x
	Contemporary socio-political context and the family		x		x			x	x
	Psychological Perspectives on the couple and family	x		x	x		x	x	x
	Research Methods (programme level)								
	Dissertation								

Pathway specification - Apologetics

Educational aims and objectives
<p>The Pathway in Apologetics aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable students to engage in an informed, systematic and critical manner with Catholic theology, philosophy and the human sciences - Equip students to exercise responsibility and independence in their studies and research and to be able to apply the fruits of these critically and creatively. - Equip students with the ability to defend the Catholic tradition in cultural contexts in a sophisticated and appropriate manner.

Pathway Structure and Outcomes

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year One			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Introduction to Apologetics	15		
Human Dignity: Foundation of Western Culture and Civilisation	15		
Philosophy, God and Science	15		
The Historical Jesus and the Church	15		

Exit award available upon successful completion of Year One: Post-graduate Certificate (minimum credits required 60)

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Two			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Catholic Sexual Ethics	15		
Controversial Issues from Church History	15		
Controversial Issues in Modern Apologetics	15		
Research Methods	15		

Exit award available upon successful completion of Year Two: Post-graduate Diploma (minimum credits required 120)

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Three			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Dissertation in the area of apologetics (20,000 words)	60		

Award available on successful completion of Year Three: Master of Arts Degree (minimum credits required 180)

Intended learning outcomes at Level 7 are listed below:

A student who successfully completes this pathway will be able to:

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
A1 Understand the knowledge base in biblical studies and theological tradition on which Catholic views are founded	Lectures, course materials, seminars, written assignments
A2 Engage in a critical manner with the Christological foundations of Catholic understanding and apply the fruits of this analysis to questions of the human person and wider moral issues	Lectures, course materials, tutorials, case studies

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
B1 Demonstrate an ability to construct intellectually viable arguments in defence of Catholic beliefs	Seminars, tutorials, practical exercises, essays
B2 Respond at depth to debates concerning religion, materialism and atheism	Written assignments, oral presentation and questioning (via Skype)

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
C1 Respond creatively to a range of philosophical and cultural challenges to the intellectual foundations of Catholic thought	Seminars, tutorials, practical exercises, case studies
C2 Develop a set of nuanced responses to questions raised on the matter of belief across a range of audiences and dialogue partners	Seminars, written assignment

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
D1 Exercise autonomy, initiative and personal responsibility in study and research, maintaining personal effectiveness over a long period of time	Personal planning, punctuality, self management in group contexts, assignment/research completion
D2 Communicate complex and nuanced concepts effectively and clearly, targeting a variety of audiences	Case studies, class interaction, reflection on professional responsibilities and approaches

Curriculum map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (x) particular pathway learning outcomes.

Apologetics Pathway		Programme Outcomes							
Level	Module/Unit	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
7	Introduction to Apologetics	x		x	x			x	x
	Christian Anthropology (programme level)								
	Philosophy, God and Science			x	x	x	x	x	x
	The Historical Jesus	x	x	x	x	x		x	x
	Catholic Sexual Ethics		x	x		x	x	x	x
	Controversies from Church History			x		x	x	x	x
	Controversies in Modern Apologetics	x		x	x	x	x	x	x
	Research Methods (programme level) Dissertation								

Pathway specification – Spirituality

Educational aims and objectives
<p>The Pathway in Spirituality aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable students to engage in an informed, systematic and critical manner with Catholic theology, philosophy and the human sciences - Equip students to exercise responsibility and independence in their studies and research and to able to apply the fruits of these critically and creatively. - Foster critical understanding of the relationship between spiritual theology and Catholic traditions of worship and prayer.

Pathway Structure and Outcomes

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year One			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Christian Anthropology: a Call to Love	15	Doctrine and Spirituality: Learning from the Fathers Learning from Monasticism (one to be taken)	15
God and Salvation in Jesus Christ	15		15
Prayer and the Spiritual Life	15		

Exit award on successful completion of year one: Post-graduate Certificate (minimum credits required 60)

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Two			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Psychology for Spiritual Formation	15	Mind and Heart: Medieval Spirituality Examining the Spiritual Traditions of the Early Modern Church (16 th - 17 th centuries) (one to be taken)	15
Catholicism and Contemporary Currents of Spirituality	15		15
Research Methods	15		

Exit award on successful completion of Year Two: Post-graduate Diploma (minimum credits required 120)

Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Three			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Dissertation in Spirituality topic (20,000 words)	60		

Award on successful completion of Year Three: Master of Arts (minimum credits required 180)

Intended learning outcomes at Level 7 are listed below:

A student who successfully completes this pathway will be able to:

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
A1 Detailed knowledge of the Catholic understanding of the nature and end of the human person	Coursebook, lectures, independent research, written assignment
A2 A critical understanding of the history of spirituality within the Catholic tradition	Course materials, lectures, further reading, essays

3B. Cognitive skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
B1 Critically analyse the philosophical and theological underpinnings of spirituality	Independent reading, seminars, presentations, applied dimension of assignments
B2 Explain the complex relationship between anthropology, prayer and worship as component aspects of spiritual development	Seminars, course materials, essays

3C. Practical and professional skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
C1 Apply appropriately knowledge of spiritual tradition to spiritual formation	Seminars, tutorials, applied aspect of written assignments
C2 Formulate creative methods of engaging the Catholic tradition of spirituality with contemporary searches for transcendent meaning	Independent reading, seminars, applied dimension of written assignments

3D. Key/transferable skills	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
D1 Exercise autonomy, initiative and personal responsibility in study and research, maintaining personal effectiveness over a long period of time	Personal planning, punctuality, self management in group contexts, assignment/research completion
D2 Communicate complex and nuanced concepts effectively and clearly, targeting a variety of audiences	Case studies, class interaction, reflection on professional responsibilities and approaches

Curriculum map

This table indicates which study units assume responsibility for delivering (shaded) and assessing (x) particular pathway learning outcomes.

Spirituality Pathway		Programme Outcomes							
Level	Module/Unit	A1	A2	B1	B2	C1	C2	D1	D2
7	Christian anthropology (programme level)								
	God and Salvation in Jesus Christ	x			x		x	x	x
	Prayer and the Spiritual Life	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Learning from the Fathers	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Learning from Monasticism		x		x	x	x	x	x
	Psychology for Spiritual Formation	x			x			x	x
	Mind and Heart: Medieval Spirituality		x			x	x	x	x
	Spiritual traditions of the Early Modern Church		x			x	x	x	x
	Catholicism and Contemporary Currents of Spirituality		x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Research Methods (programme level) Dissertation								

Pathway specification – RE and Catechesis

Educational aims and objectives
<p>The Pathway in RE and Catechesis aims to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Enable students to engage in an informed, systematic and critical manner with Catholic theology, philosophy and the human sciences - Equip students to exercise responsibility and independence in their studies and research and to able to apply the fruits of these critically and creatively. - Equip students with regard to the principles of Catholic education and Catechesis.

Programme Structure and Outcomes

Programme Structure - LEVEL 7 Year One			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
God and Salvation in Jesus Christ	15	Catechesis: nature, purpose and method	15
Scripture for RE and Catechesis	15	The Foundations of Catholic Religious Education (one to be taken)	15
		Human Dignity: Foundation of Western Culture and Civilisation	15
		Philosophical and Theological Anthropology (one to be taken)	15

Exit award on successful completion of Year One: Post-graduate Certificate (minimum credits required 60)

Programme Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Two			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
The Church	15	Liturgy and Sacraments	15
Moral Formation	15	Prayer and the Spiritual Life	15
Research Methods	15	(one to be taken)	

Exit award on successful completion of Year Two: Post-graduate Diploma (minimum credits required 120)

Programme Structure - LEVEL 7 Year Three			
Compulsory modules	Credit points	Optional modules	Credit points
Dissertation in area of RE and Catechesis (20,000 words)	60		

Award on successful completion of Year Three: Master of Arts (minimum credits required 180)

Intended learning outcomes at Level 7 are listed below:

A student who successfully completes this pathway will be able to:

3A. Knowledge and understanding	
Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
A1 Understand the scope of Catholic education and catechesis and their engagement with the nature and end of the human person	Lecture input, group textual analysis, coursebook, written assignments
A2 Explain the central doctrines of Catholicism and their interrelationships; how these underpin and inform Catholic faith and life	Lectures, seminars, coursebooks, written assignments

3B. Cognitive skills

Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
B1 Explain systematically how Catholic teaching with regard to the human person, the Church, morality and the spiritual life informs our understanding of the purpose and nature of catechesis and/or religious education	Lectures, seminars, course materials, applied dimension of written assignments
B2 Discuss critically the relation between theory and praxis in religious education/catechesis	Seminars, tutorials, applied dimension of written assignments

3C. Practical and professional skills

Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
C1 Reflect critically on a range of educational/catechetical principles in the light of Catholic theology	Independent research, seminars, case studies, applied element in essays
C2 Critically evaluate their own and others' pedagogical methods and develop their educational/catechetical methods in light of this analysis	Practical dimension of written assignments

3D. Key/transferable skills

Learning outcomes:	Learning and teaching strategy/ assessment methods
D1 Exercise autonomy initiative and personal responsibility in study and research, maintaining personal effectiveness over a long period of time	Personal planning, punctuality, self management in group contexts, assignment/research completion

