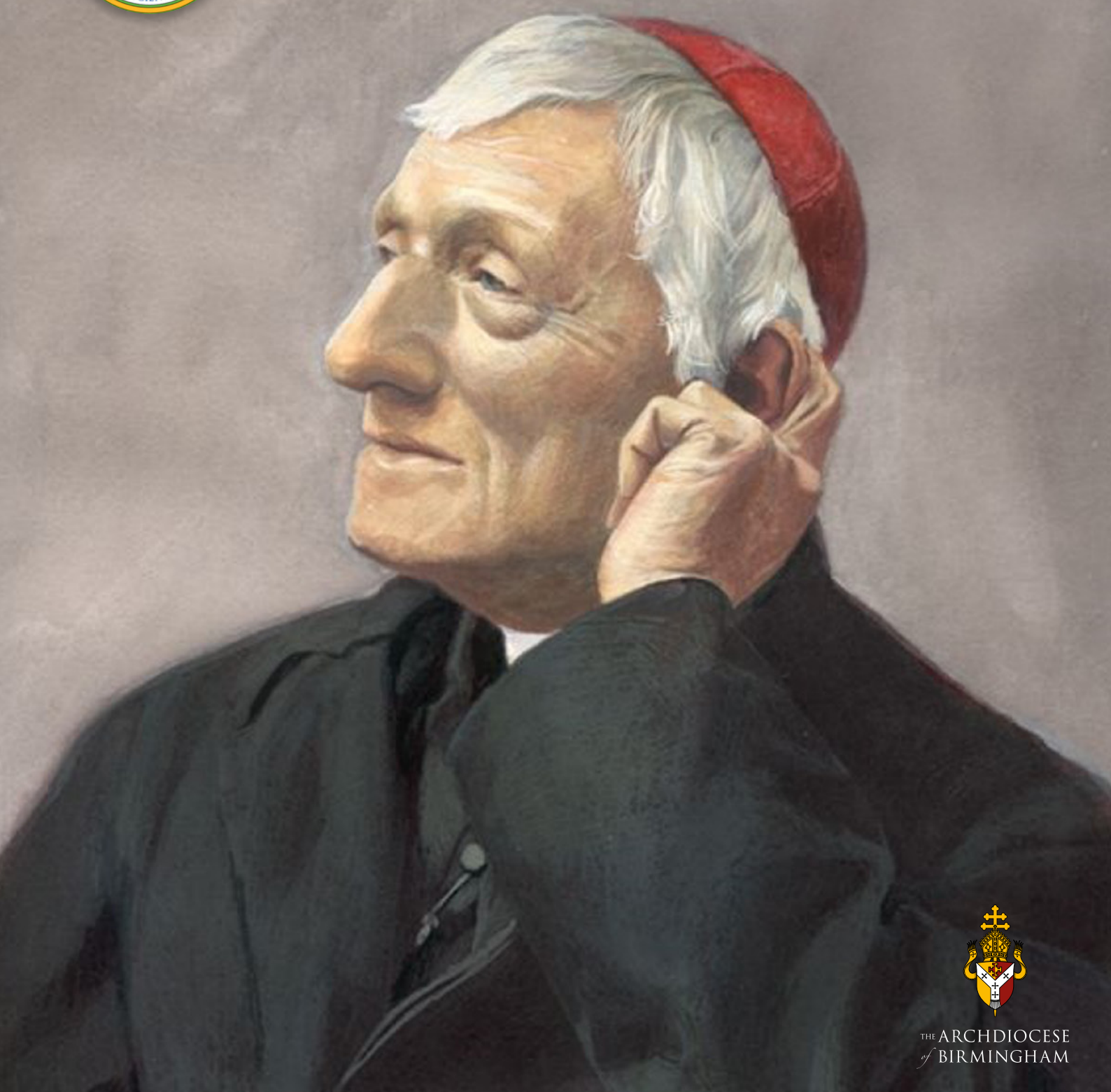




MARYVALE INSTITUTE

Higher Institute of Religious Sciences



THE ARCHDIOCESE
of BIRMINGHAM

COURSE INFORMATION 2024-2025

Ecclesiastical Bachelor of Divinity Programme:
Oscott Diaconal Pathway

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 special two-year pathway to our Bachelor of Divinity degree, for those who have successfully completed the Diaconal Formation programme at St Mary's College, Oscott.

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.

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 structure 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, Rev Dr Michael Cullinan:

bdivdirector@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, Viktoria Meszaros via email:

undergrad@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

Introduction to Maryvale HIRS

Our Aims	6
History and programme	7
St Mary's College, Oscott	8
The Maryvale HIRS Staff	8-9
Faculté Notre Dame de Paris	10

Introduction to the programme: Aims and objectives

Ecclesiastical Bachelor of Divinity Programme: Oscott Diaconal Pathway	11
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Teaching and learning strategy

Course books	12
Teaching periods	12
Programme Director	13
Academic Tutors	13
Advisers	13
Study at home	13
Other resources	13

Assessment

Programme structure and content

Entry requirements

Admissions process

Fees

Annual programme cycle for students



OUR AIMS

The Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences was born at Maryvale House in Birmingham. This was St 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 Present 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.

History and programme

The History of Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences

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 the Open University, which, in 2000, became the B.A. (Hons) in Applied Theology. This was revalidated in 2006, with the highest commendations.

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 Ecclesiastical Bachelor of Divinity Degree, a Programme recognised by the Church. On 29 September 2016 the Congregation renewed its approval of the HIRS and confirmed its Statutes as distinct entity.

The B.Div. is a five-year, part-time, collaborative-learning programme leading to a Bachelor of Divinity degree validated by the Ecclesiastical Theology Faculty of the Ecole Cathédrale de Notre Dame, Paris (Faculté Notre Dame), as authorised by the Congregation for Catholic 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.

The HIRS also offers an Ecclesiastical Licence in Divinity. If you are interested in this programme, please contact the Admissions Tutor.



St Mary's College, Oscott

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

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 was deemed no longer fit for purpose. Other changes had come too, more particularly the internet, which had transformed the possibilities of distance learning.

From 2024, Maryvale Higher Institute of Religious Sciences will be working closely with the Birmingham Archdiocesan Seminary, St Mary's College, Oscott. Based on a stunning campus only a few miles from Maryvale House, Oscott College was developed to replace Maryvale House as a seminary in 1838.

The buildings were designed by famed architects, Augustine Pugin and Joseph Potter, and include what is commonly agreed to be one of the outstanding jewels of Catholic Second Spring Architecture, namely the college chapel. The seminary is set in extensive parkland. Maryvale students have full access to the wonderfully rich Oscott Glancey's Library, both to its physical and electronic resources.

The Maryvale Community

Maryvale HIRS students have their residentials at Oscott College, where they have an opportunity to meet teaching staff in person and spend time together as students. Our residentials are punctuated by daily Mass, elements of the Liturgy of the Hours, communal meals and social time. Creating community has always been an important aspect of the Maryvale mission.

Our students come from countries ranging from Hong Kong and the Philippines to the Gulf, from Anglophone Africa, from across Europe and from the Americas and build lasting relationships. This continues after graduation, as they join our very large alumni association. We believe that studying at Maryvale HIRS is more than study: it is a pilgrimage of Faith of brothers and sisters in Christ from across the world.



The Maryvale HIRS Staff

Permanent Faculty and Support Staff

Revd Dr Michael Cullinan Dr Birute Briliute	HIRS Director. Also at St Mary's College, Oscott. Licence Programme Director. Also at St Mary's University, London.
Revd Dr Harry Schnitker	Admissions Tutor & Research Director. Also at St Mary's University, London.
Rt Revd Bishop David Evans Revd Dr Robert Letellier Revd Dr Martin Onuoha	Representative of the Moderator & Lecturer. Lecturer. Also at the University of Cambridge. Lecturer.
Ms Sophia Morgan	Academic Registrar.
Mrs Viktoria Meszaros	HIRS Administrator.
Mr Sean Carron	Library Manager.
Mrs Magdalena Edwards	Finance Manager.



Associate Lecturers

Dr Sr Margaret Atkins O.S.A.	Trinity and All Saints College, Leeds.
Dr Catherine Bedwei-Majdoub	University of Northampton.
Revd Matthew Bernard-Qureshi	Brentwood Diocese.
Revd Dr John Berry	Leeds Diocese.
Mrs Joanna Bogle	DSG, St Mary's University, London.
Dr Tracy Cattell	
Dr Keith Robert Chappell	University of Birmingham; Honorary Fellow, Edward Cadbury Centre.
Revd Dr Richard Conrad O.P.	Blackfriars, Oxford University.
Mrs Barbara Davies	Archdiocese of Birmingham.
Revd John Deehan	Westminster Archdiocese.
Mr John Deighan	Chief Executive, Society for the Protection of Unborn Children.
Nathaniel Dreyer	I.V.E., Fides et Ratio Institute, Fossanova Abbey, Italy.
Dr Tamra Fromm	Catholic Biblical School of Michigan; Sacred Heart Seminary, Detroit.
Revd Julian Green	Archdiocese of Birmingham.
Revd Dr Paul Hayward	Archdiocese of Birmingham.
Sr Hyacinthe Defos Du Rau O.P.	Dominican Sisters of St Joseph.
Revd Dr Oliver Keenan O.P.	Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford; Director of the Aquinas Institute, Oxford.
Revd Uwe Michael Lang	Cong. Orat., St Mary's University, London; Allan Hall. Seminary; Liturgical Institute, Mundelein, Illinois.
Dr Mary McCaughey	St Mary's College, Oscott.
Revd Dr Joseph McLoughlin	Archdiocese of Birmingham.
Dr Robert McNamara	Franciscan University, Steubenville.
Dr Joshua Madden	Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford.
Sr Prof. Mary Mills	Emeritus Professor, Liverpool Hope University.
Revd Prof Stephen Morgan	Rector, University of St Joseph, Macau.
Revd Dr Eamonn Mulcahy C.S.Sp.	
Revd Dr Marcelo Navarro I.V.E.	Fides et Ratio Institute, Fossanova Abbey, Italy.
Dr Christina Pal, Lux in Tenebris	Associate Staff, Oscott College.
Revd Dr Richard Parsons	Westminster Archdiocese.
Dr Jeremy Pilch	St Mary's University, London.
Revd Dr Andrew Robinson	Archdiocese of Birmingham.
Dr Sean Ryan	The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology, Cambridge University.
Dr Daniel Schneider	Franciscan University, Steubenville.
Revd Robert Taylerson	Archdiocese of Birmingham.
Revd John Udris	Northampton Diocese.
Dr Helen Watt	Blackfriars Hall, University of Oxford.
Dr Christopher Wojtulewicz	Dean of Philosophy, St Mary's College, Oscott.
Dr Stephen Yates	Ongoing Faith Formation, Diocese of Shrewsbury.
Revd Dr Zbigniew Zieba	Archdiocese of Birmingham.

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 the 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 clergy, religious and laity.

Please visit FND's website for more information:

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

Introduction to the programme: Aims and objectives

Ecclesiastical Bachelor of Divinity Programme: Oscott Diaconal Pathway

This B.Div. is a five-year, part-time, collaborative-learning programme leading to a Bachelor of Divinity validated by the Ecclesiastical Theology Faculty of the École Cathédrale, Paris. There are two 'pathways', the first provided at Maryvale (Pathway 'M'), the second (Pathway 'D') oriented to formation for diaconal ministry. Both pathways provide formation in catechesis and apologetics.

In 2021 FND authorised a shortened two-year pathway to the Degree for graduates of the Diaconal programme at St Mary's College, Oscott. This is the degree path open to you as a Permanent Deacon. If you are a Permanent Deacon trained elsewhere than Oscott, you are welcome to enquire whether this pathway may still be open to you.

Although based in Birmingham, the Programme is intended to attract students from across the United Kingdom and abroad. The distance-learning and part-time characteristics of the Programme make it accessible to those in part-time or full-time employment. **The student is expected to be able to study approximately 15–20 hours per week.**

Whilst it is an education in academic theology, it is not merely so. It is designed and delivered to promote the religious and theological formation of the students so that they may participate more fully in the life and mission of the church.

The Maryvale Programme is open to any adult capable of learning at an academic level and who wishes to advance his or her theological education. It aims to enable students to:

- Develop an understanding of Christian Doctrine through study of the Sacred Scriptures, the writings of the Fathers and Doctors of the Church, and the documents of the Magisterium;
- Discover and realise their vocation in the Church;
- Nourish their spiritual life through growth in understanding;
- Develop a critical sense and academic judgement so as to evaluate theological positions.

The Catholic orientation of this Programme means that, as a degree specialising in Catholic theology, academic discipline is combined with the life of Christian worship. Students from all backgrounds are invited (but never compelled) to share in this. They will also become aware of what the Catholic Church actually teaches, as opposed to incorrect versions of its teaching. This will increase their understanding of Christianity.

This approach does not demand any lowering of academic standards, which are rigorously monitored by Maryvale HIRS and by Faculté Notre Dame. It demands that the context and dynamic of learning is a living faith-community. This, we believe, is a particular advantage in our approach.



Teaching and learning strategy

This Programme is a part-time, distance-learning programme. It involves a nine-month academic year consisting of directed home-based study assisted by residential schools at Maryvale. The teaching and learning strategy adopted within Maryvale HIRS derives from the Open University distance-learning methodology, which has been adapted to the specific situation of Maryvale HIRS over 25 years with the guidance of the Open University and then through the training and experience gained in developing and delivering collaborative-learning courses at all levels.

Many elements make up the complete collaborative-learning strategy which all help to enable students to use the system effectively in their lives. These include written modules or course books, study guides and handbooks, online lectures, one-to-one online contact between students and staff, teaching periods, introductions to staff, fellow students and Maryvale's facilities for supporting students at a distance such as the library services and the SMILE (Canvas) platform.

Course books

The course books, prepared by specialist staff, are the teaching texts which provide the basis for the local, home-based study and assignment work. Authors prepare texts in the specialised style that good distance-learning requires in order to maximise the involvement of the student.

This involves course book authors pointing the students to specific texts to read, recognising what, in the reading, needs commentary or careful explanation and showing how students can consolidate and expand their learning through tasks and exercises. The course books are written, therefore, not as learned monographs in which the author has the subject at the forefront of his mind but as self-contained teaching and learning manuals, in which the author keeps the student at the forefront of his mind.

The course books then, are not books in the normal sense of the word, but are written lessons of a much larger and cohesive programme; they are learning aids; tutorials in print; guided ways into fields of knowledge.

Teaching periods

There are three teaching periods or 'residentials' each year (either three weekends or two weekends and a midweek period of four days), which are mandatory. They are a vital part of Maryvale's distance-learning methodology, allowing students to interact and be encouraged as well as participating in lectures and seminars.

Of these, two are delivered online, and one is in person. For the academic year 2024-25, the in-person residential is planned for May 2025. The online residentials are planned for October 2024 and January 2025.

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.



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 Tutors

Academic Tutors are responsible for lecturing, marking assignments, and providing reports. The role of the Academic Tutor is both to assess the work and to provide substantial tutorial feedback on the assignments and advice on academic progress. The method of marking assignments, by detailed annotation, is specifically designed to be of maximum help to the student at a distance. Maryvale uses Turnitin for this purpose. Tutors are also available at designated periods for an online office hour, during which essay questions can be discussed.

Advisers

Designated recent graduates are available as advisers to help students with everyday problems.

Study at home

Students are expected to devote approximately 15–20 hours per week studying. There are two months of vacation each year. Students can obtain advice and help about study techniques and methods and good time-management skills at the teaching periods, from the B.Divinity office at Maryvale, and from designated programme staff, especially during the first year.

Other Resources

- Students are provided with lists of additional recommended books and articles. These may be purchased or borrowed from libraries.
- Students have access to library facilities at Oscott and St Mary's University, Twickenham, for reference purposes. The Librarian is available to offer advice and guidance, for example in searching for local theological libraries. Student cards are provided to identify students wishing to use other libraries.
- Advice from the Librarian can also be given to students on relevant academic internet sites, and audio-visual resources.
- There are regular online seminars and lectures to which all students have access.



Assessment

Each academic year of the degree programme a student submits assignments electronically via an online facility within a prescribed Academic timescale. All assignments are to be completed before the exams. The assignments are marked, and feedback is given electronically also within a prescribed Academic timescale. Students are assessed at the end of each academic year through a grade derived from the marks awarded for assignments and the examination and these results are released after the Examination Board meeting, usually at the end of July.

Assignments and written examinations are initially assessed by academic tutors and examiners. Assignments are monitored and moderated by the Programme Director. Any student receiving consistently poor grades will be counselled at an early stage concerning the appropriateness or otherwise of continuing with the Programme. At the end of the academic year, samples of all work are scrutinised by an external examiner.

The Holy See requires that each student show some competency in a foreign language and in the final year submit a dissertation and take an oral examination. The foreign language requirement may be satisfied either by already having a qualification in a modern language or by a one-day course provided in Year 1 or 2.

All reports and grades are presented for approval by the Examination Board which is responsible for final decisions.

Maryvale HIRS currently uses the normal degree classification followed by most universities in the UK: First Class Honours, Second Class Honours – Grade One (2:1), Second Class Honours – Grade Two (2:2), Third Class Honours and Pass. The final assessment is calculated from the marks obtained over the five years.



Programme Structure and Content

For successful graduates of the Oscott Diaconal Formation Programme, there is a special two-year pathway to the B.Div degree, specifically approved by Faculté Notre Dame.

There are five modules in the first year. The second year includes three modules and an elective together with your dissertation. Students are required to complete an assignment on every module and half-module.

A special kind of assignment is introduced by the end of your first year, which is called a doctrinal theme. It is designed primarily to demonstrate knowledge of a particular doctrine, the evidence for it being a doctrine, and how the doctrine links to the rest of the faith and to liturgy and Christian moral life.

The curriculum is as follows:



YEAR ONE

Old Testament	(essay/exegesis)	10%	7.5 ECTS
New Testament	(essay/exegesis)	10%	7.5 ECTS
History of Philosophy	(essay)	30%	7.5 ECTS
Philosophy	(essay)	30%	7.5 ECTS
Mariology	(doctrinal theme)	20%	5 ECTS

YEAR TWO

Doctoral themes in:

Grace	12%	5 ECTS
Creation-Fall-Redemption	12%	0 ECTS
Trinity	12%	5 ECTS
Elective to make up any deficiencies	14%	5 ECTS
Dissertation	30%	15 ECTS
Oral	20%	

In this special pathway there are no written examinations.

Entry Requirements

Academic requirements for this shortened programme are:

- Proof of satisfactory completion of the academic element of the Oscott Diaconal Formation programme
- Proof of satisfactory completion of an equivalent academic Diaconal Formation recognised by the Church

The HIRS participates in credit transfer arrangements. Those interested in further information concerning these arrangements should contact the Director of the Programme.

Maryvale HIRS welcomes students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and chronic medical conditions, who are selected for courses according to the same academic criteria as other candidates. We will endeavour within its limited capacity to ensure that all individual requirements are met so that each student has an enjoyable, positive and fulfilling experience during their academic studies.

The HIRS appreciates that deciding to disclose any accessibility needs can be a difficult choice for students applying to Further & Higher Education. Whilst we accept that this is a personal decision, we strongly recommend that students inform us in order that their individual requirements can be addressed.

The HIRS continues to develop a range of services for students with accessibility needs that is overseen by the Accessibility Coordinator who can indicate support that is already in place or work towards developing a reasonable adjustment.

Admissions Process

An application form must be completed and accepted, together with a 500-word explanation of the reasons for applying for the course. You must also arrange for references to be sent to Maryvale (these references are treated as confidential between the referee and the HIRS) and enclose payment of an application fee. The application will then be considered by the Admissions Committee of Maryvale HIRS. If necessary, you might be asked to an interview either face-to-face or by Zoom but this is not usual. You will be informed when you apply when a decision will be made about your admission.

Assuming that your application is successful you will be sent an Acceptance Pack including further information about Maryvale HIRS and the course, details of how to apply for a student card and some indication of preliminary reading. You will be asked to sign a statement agreeing to abide by the Regulations and support the ethos of Maryvale HIRS, and you will be sent an invoice.

Once we have received your fees for the first year, which must be paid before the start of the Programme, and your signed statement you are formally enrolled as a student of the HIRS.

If for any reason your application for a place on the course is not successful, the HIRS reserves the right, because of the elements of confidentiality involved in the admissions process and the collection of references, not to give 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 HIRS: a copy of this can be found on the Institute's website. We shall ensure that your questions are dealt with promptly and professionally.

Please note that the delivery of the course takes place only when a minimum number of applicants have enrolled.

Fees

Cost per annum

The cost per annum for the B. (Divinity) Programme for 2024 is presently £3,300 for all students.

Payments can be made in instalments. This can be done quarterly or monthly.

There is an administrative fee of 5% for this. Please contact Mrs Magdalena Edwards at finance to arrange a payment contract.

There is also a £55 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.

There will be separate fees for board and lodgings for the annual residential. The HIRS aims to keep these costs to an acceptable level.

While the HIRS 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 HIRS 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.

Payment Methods: Payments can be made with Debit or Credit cards. This incurs a 3% bank charge. Alternatively, we accept cheques. You can also pay by making an electronic bank transfer. These are usually free of charge.

Please Note: *Students attending residentials are expected to ensure that they have adequate health insurance cover before visiting. The HIRS cannot accept responsibility for students' personal health, all students are expected to take reasonable precautions to safeguard their own health and safety.*

Visas: *The HIRS does not assist students who require an entry visa for the UK with the application process. As our courses are not on campus, our students do not require a student visa to enrol, but may need a tourist visa to attend our residentials.*

Grants

Fees charged do not represent the actual cost of running the degree programme. No government grants are available to Maryvale HIRS.

Maryvale is funded by its Course fees, any projects undertaken and by a grant from the Archdiocese of Birmingham and from any projects or courses it offers. The HIRS will support applications of students to any source of grants.

Students would be well advised to investigate the possibility of obtaining grants from other educational sources. In addition, local dioceses, deaneries and parishes may well be prepared to fund part of a student's fees, especially if the degree programme is seen as training for a more effective catechetical and pastoral work in the church.

The HIRS will also support applications of students who propose to make such arrangements with their local church which may give help with fees to students in return for vocational service either rendered in the present or promised in the future.

Programme Management

Maryvale HIRS Council

The B.Div Degree 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 Congregation for Catholic 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 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 Board which oversees the running and development of the programme.

The Committee 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 are also an Examinations Board and an Assessment and Examinations Committee.

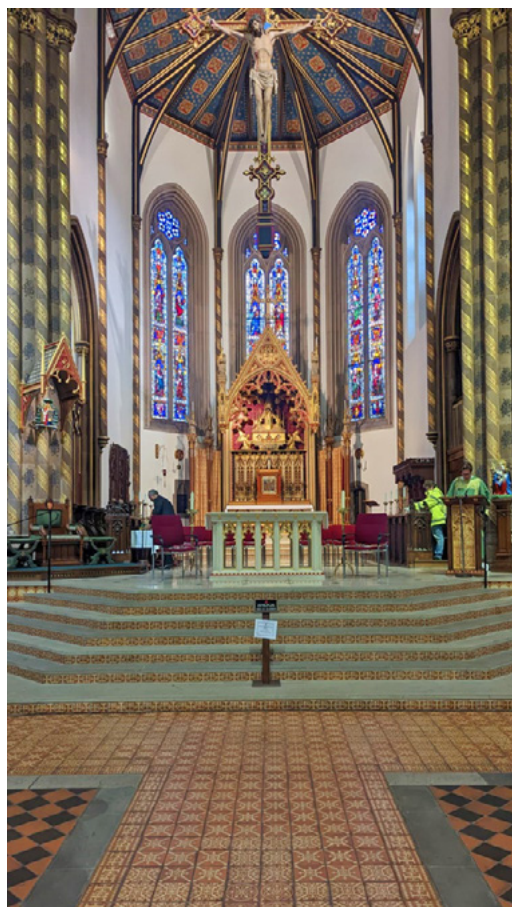
The Director and Staff of the Programme

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, Revd Dr Michael Cullinan is responsible for establishing and developing all aspects of the programme. The Academic Administrator is Mrs Viktoria Meszaros. There is a large Associate Staff comprising Academic Tutors, Lecturers, Examiners, Moderators and Advisers.

Regulations and Complaints

The Institute Regulations and the Complaints policy and procedures can be found on the Maryvale website, www.maryvale.ac.uk



Annual programme cycle for students

The charts that follow summarise the learning cycle process.

The HIRS has three terms, each punctuated by a teaching period, two virtual and one in person.

2024-2025 terms

Michaelmas Term	16 September to 13 December 2024
Lent Term	7 January to 11 April 2025
Easter Term	28 April to 30 June 2025

Teaching periods

Michaelmas Term (Online)	27-28 September 2024
Michaelmas Term Residential at Oscott College	19 October 2024
Lent Term (Online)	21-22 February 2025
In addition, first year students can join students in years 2-5 at Oscott if they wish	28-29 June 2025

Year 1: Pre-study period

Read Acceptance Pack, sign and return

Programme acceptance, ID Card Application and photos. Pay your programme fees.

Study period

Online introductory meetings

Introduction to Programme, meet the Programme Staff and Fellow students, the provision of Programme Materials, ID card and Resources information.

Residential at Oscott College, Michaelmas Term

Access is given for the: Oscott and St Mary's Libraries, Turnitin (Electronic Submissions) & the VLE – SMILE (Canvas), lectures are provided on the core modules, Tutorial support is given, and Study Skills are provided. Participation in spiritual and academic community.

Independent learning of programme materials

Distance learning support; Programme Director, Administrators, via Zoom, Skype, Email, Telephone etc.

Online Class

Students meet with Subject Tutor to ask questions about the current module.

Completion of assessments, Marker(s) assessment feedback and guidance

Independent learning of programme materials

Distance learning support; Programme Director, Administrators, via Zoom, Skype, Email, Telephone etc.

Second Teaching period (Online) Lent Term

Lectures on the core modules, guidance for after the first submission, library time participation in spiritual and academic community. Tutorials, guidance on study skills and peer/student support.

Online Class

Students meet with Subject Tutor to ask questions about the current module.

Completion of assessments, Marker(s) assessment feedback and guidance

Release online of learning materials of the Easter Term

Lectures on the core modules, Examination prep and Excursion (if applicable) tutorials, guidance on study skills and peer/student support. Participation in spiritual and academic community.

Completion of examinations, Marker(s) assessment feedback and guidance

Examination Board (July each year)

Confirmation of previous year result



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