



**Durham**  
University

Centre for Catholic Studies

Inspiring the extraordinary

# MA in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning



# MA in Catholic Theology by Distance Learning

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This exciting new venture led by the Centre for Catholic Studies (CCS) and the Department of Theology and Religion is designed so that participants can work through material at their own pace, studying equally well in any time zone and in many different life situations, alongside work, ministry, family or caring obligations.

## What are the aims of the MA?

We are committed to making the highest quality academic study of Catholic Theology accessible to people in a whole range of situations and in different parts of the world. We expect some of our students to be exploring the possibility of doctoral study, while others may be pursuing long-held interests in theology for personal or professional reasons or for ongoing formation in Religious life. We aim to provide an interesting and academically serious programme which is also friendly and supportive.

## Who is the MA intended for?

This MA is designed both for those who have studied Theology before and for those who have a background in a variety of other academic backgrounds.

## How and what will I study?

Teaching will be through a combination of written and recorded material, together with tutorials which we will fit around your schedule, and optional online seminars. You will work through modules at your own pace, completing the core module, 3 other modules of your choice, and a dissertation.

The modules:

- Catholic Theology: A Preliminary Tour (Core module);
- Conceiving Change in Contemporary Catholicism;
- Twentieth Century Catholic Theology;
- Catholic Social Thought;
- The Thought of Thomas Aquinas in Context;
- High Medieval Franciscan Theology;
- Faith and Reason.

You can enrol for a PG Certificate (2 modules), PG Diploma (4 modules), or the full MA (4 modules and a dissertation); study full or part time. *(Some modules may not run every year.)*



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How will I meet my module convenors?

All modules will have tutorials and optional online seminars. Teachers will also be available to be contacted online in office hours, and to answer questions as they arise by email or in online discussion spaces. They will give feedback on pieces of writing that do not “count” for the final marks as well as on those that do. The annual 2-3 day Residential in Durham (not required but we really recommend you come if you can) will combine a range of stimulating lectures with a chance to meet teachers and fellow students in person.

How will I meet other students on the MA?

Interaction amongst students will be facilitated in various ways, including through the optional online seminars, through discussion boards and attendance at the Residential in Durham. We will encourage students to form a cohort, and seek ways to enable online social spaces.

Why Durham?

Durham University is a globally outstanding centre of teaching and research excellence. Durham’s Department of Theology and Religion has been ranked between 3rd and 7th in the last few years’ QS World University Subject rankings. The CCS, established in October 2007, is a major research and teaching centre explicitly focussed on the study of Catholic Theology and Catholic Studies with world leading scholars.

Charlotte Bray, MA student 2017-18, PhD student 2018-22 says “It was a joy to explore diverse thinkers within the Catholic tradition that I wouldn’t otherwise have encountered. Studying the MA enabled me to think critically about contemporary issues within both the Catholic Church and wider society through a theological lens. It also gave me the skills, knowledge and confidence necessary to enable me to progress to a PhD.”



Gareth Rowe, CAFOD-Durham Research Fellow, MA student 2019-21 says “Studying for the MA at Durham has been a real privilege. I completed the course over two years part-time whilst working and studying to be a deacon in the Catholic church. The course has added a real theological depth to my diaconal formation and given me the confidence to talk about my faith and the church. The support from tutors has been outstanding and I have really enjoyed the range of expertise.”





## Contact

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If you have any questions about this exciting opportunity please contact the CCS Administrator  
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### Apply

Apply online at [durham.ac.uk](http://durham.ac.uk)

Recruitment and Admissions Office  
Mountjoy Centre  
Holly Wing - Ground Floor  
Stockton Road  
Durham  
DH1 3LE  
E: [study@durham.ac.uk](mailto:study@durham.ac.uk)

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[\*\*durham.ac.uk\*\*](http://durham.ac.uk)

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## Further Information

For full details and a video about the programme please visit:  
[\*\*durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/theology-religion/postgraduate-study/ma-in-catholic-theology-distance-learning/\*\*](http://durham.ac.uk/departments/academic/theology-religion/postgraduate-study/ma-in-catholic-theology-distance-learning/)

For details about the Centre for Catholic Studies visit:  
[\*\*centreforcatholicstudies.co.uk\*\*](http://centreforcatholicstudies.co.uk)