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Gesä Thiessen, M Phil (Ecum), Dip Hist Europ Painting, PhD.

PROGRAMME DIRECTOR

Dr. Denis Robinson CSSp worked as a missionary priest in Ghana, West Africa from 1980 to 1984 and later taught at the Institute of Formative Spirituality at Duquesne University, Pittsburgh (1988-1996) and in Holy Ghost Preparatory School, Philadelphia (1996-1999). Returning to Ireland in 2000, he was appointed as lecturer and Academic Dean at the Kimmage Mission Institute. Since 2003 he has worked as a Senior Lecturer in the Department of Spirituality and as a Programme Director from 2003-2006 for two Postgraduate spirituality programmes. He is currently the Programme Director for the BA (honours) in Theology, Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry. His academic interests and research cover such areas as Prayer; the Mystics; Spiritual Growth and Human Development; the History of Spirituality; the Spirituality of the Sacraments, the Spirituality of Care; and the Phenomenology of Spiritual Experience.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT



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Awarding Body:
Duration:
Delivery:

National University of Ireland (NUI)
Three years
Full-time



BA (HONS) IN THEOLOGY, SPIRITUALITY AND PASTORAL MINISTRY. (PT018)

AIMS OF PROGRAMME

The BA in Theology, Spirituality and Pastoral Ministry is the leading undergraduate degree programme within the Milltown Institute for mature students (anyone over the age of 23). Its primary distinguishing feature is that adult learners are given the support necessary to return to education after what can sometimes be a long gap.



The programme is designed to incrementally challenge the adult learner in the disciplines of theology, spirituality and pastoral ministry. Ample support is given for the personal exploration of religious horizons within the context of the adult learner's life experience and their theological, spiritual, personal and professional development.

In support of these outcomes the programme features:

- the development of modules and materials with relevance to the experience of adult learners
- guidance and academic tutoring support for students
- support in learning and writing skills.

DURATION

This is a three year full-time undergraduate degree programme.

Year One: Theology and Spirituality

Year Two: Pastoral Studies (Supervised placement is part of this year).

Year Three: Each student has the option of specialising in one of the following areas:

Adult Religious Education

Christian Spirituality

Applied Christian Spirituality

Mission Theology

Supervisory Practice for Ministry

Biblical Studies.

ACCESS, TRANSFER AND PROGRESSION ROUTES

Applicants to this course must be mature students (over the age of 23 on the 1st January in the year of application). There is no upper age limit. There will be an initial interview as part of the application process. Mature applicants are not required to meet either the minimum academic (matriculation) requirements or the competitive academic entry level points (Leaving Certificate). Upon successful completion of this programme students will be eligible to proceed to MA studies.

MODULES IN THE PROGRAMME

The modules of this programme are offered over four days a week – Tuesday to Friday. Monday is considered a reading day or a day in which placements take place. In the first year the emphasis is on Theology and Spirituality; in second year the emphasis is on Pastoral Ministry and the continuing study of scripture and theology. In third year students have the option of specialising in a particular area – these areas of specialisation are listed, in the third year option, above. Typical modules throughout the programme include:

Theology

Church: Community of Salvation

Grace and Redemption: The Theology of Christian relationships

Fundamental Moral Theology

Morality of Life and death

Theological Integration Seminar

Old Testament Studies

New Testament Studies

Pastoral Ministry

Church and Ministry

Pastoral Leadership

Communication Skills

Human Development

Grief and Bereavement Work

Sexuality, Intimacy and Conflict Resolution

Theology of Suffering

Christian Celebration



Spirituality

St. Augustine's Spiritual Teaching

Christian Mystics

Spirituality of the Trinity

Spiritual Direction

Discernment

Contemporary Spirituality

Formative Spirituality

Prayer: Forms and Methods

MODE OF DELIVERY

The learning in this programme takes place in different ways, such as lectures, class discussion; class presentations, field trips, participation in cultural events, liturgies, public seminars, workshops and groups integration.

MODES OF ASSESSMENT

Assessment procedures will provide a flexible, learning-centred framework that incorporates various forms of assessment consistent with the goals and outcomes of the programme. These include including writing reports, short essays, journals and other relevant learning exercises. The focus of this assessment is the transformational learning of the student.

TAX RELIEF

This programme is covered by the **Higher Education Free Fees Initiative and Grants Scheme**. The Government Free Fees Initiative means that tuition is free for all full-time, non-repeat students from Ireland and EU countries. The County Council or Local Authority Higher Education Grant is the primary maintenance grant available to Mature Students. It is means tested. Contact your local County Council office for further details.

Mature Students who wish to apply for this course must apply through the Central Applications Office (CAO) and by way of Vacant Places. The CAO code for this undergraduate degree is PT018. The Milltown Admissions office will be happy to assist students with the application process. This programme is eligible for tax relief under Section 437A, Taxes Consolidation Act, 1997 by the Department of Education and Science

APPLICATION DATE

Applications are accepted up until early September.

CORE TEACHING STAFF

Finbarr Clancy SJ, BA (Mod), H Dip Ed, Ph D, Bacc Phil, BD, D Phil.

Thomas Cooney OSA, BD, MA, Dip Cat, Dip Communications, MA Clinical Pastoral Counselling, Dip CPE, Dip Spir Dir.