

Masters Programme (STL) in Ignatian Spirituality



The Centre Sèvres, the home of the Jesuit faculties of Paris, has a particular commitment to the study of Ignatian spirituality. It continues the rich heritage of French scholarship in this field, as exemplified by the *Dictionnaire de Spiritualité* and the two major reviews, *Christus* and the *Revue d'Ascétique et Mystique*. The recent appointment to the staff of a British Jesuit complements will bring this heritage into dialogue with perspectives developed in other parts of the world.

In September 2014 the Centre will take a new step. It will offer an advanced Masters degree (serving also as a canonical STL) in Ignatian spirituality.

The programme will involve 2 years of full-time study (or the equivalent). Students will follow a set of specialist courses and seminars, under the direction of professors who are recognised authorities in this field.



The programme will enable students to develop knowledge and skills of various kinds :

◆ Textual

The study of the Ignatian writings and the history of their interpretation (texts, hermeneutics, major commentators)

◆ Historical

A knowledge of Jesuit and Ignatian traditions of spirituality as lived in different times, places and cultures

◆ Systematic

A reflection on the interactions between theology (fundamental, dogmatic, moral) and Ignatian spirituality, notably the question of a distinctively Ignatian approach to theological questions

◆ Practical

The enhancement of competence in Ignatian ministry, particularly the giving of the Spiritual Exercises, through academic study.

The teaching will take a variety of forms, including small-group seminars and lecture courses. There will be opportunity for private or group study of particular texts, as well as sessions held for all Masters students at the Centre Sèvres. In keeping with the Centre's traditional emphasis on personal appropriation of the material studied, students will be guided individually to make an appropriate and coherent set of choices from the Centre's rich range of offerings, finding their own balance between specifically Ignatian material and a broader theological formation. In the second year, all students will write a Masters level dissertation on a topic connected to Ignatian spirituality.



The core faculty for the programme are: Philip Endean sj, Patrick Goujon sj, Sylvie Robert sa.

As the programme develops, the Centre Sèvres hopes to draw on the exchange relationships, both of students and of staff, that it has begun with the Pontifical University of Comillas in Madrid, and with Heythrop College (University of London).

Instruction will be given principally through French but with some elements in English. The minimum language requirement for students is as follows :

- ◆ **to write easily in French or English or Spanish**
- ◆ **to speak fluently in French or English**
- ◆ **to understand easily both French and English.**

In borderline cases, a formal language test may be required. A reading knowledge of the main languages of the Ignatian sources (especially Spanish and Latin) is desirable.

Though the programme is designed principally for students in religious formation, the Centre Sèvres also welcomes more experienced members of the Ignatian family for sabbatical study or for ongoing formation. Anyone already engaged in Ignatian ministry, or proposing to move into this field, may draw on this Masters programme as they seek to meet their own formational needs. Those interested in exploring such a possibility are invited to make contact with one of the core faculty.

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