



Franciscan International Study Centre Prospectus 2011 - 2012



The Franciscan International Study Centre

Giles Lane, Canterbury CT2 7NA

www.franciscans.ac.uk

Contents

Welcome	Page 3
BAC Accreditation	Page 4
Canterbury Christ Church University.....	Page 4
Franciscan Spiritual Direction	Page 5
Franciscan Certificate Courses	Page 6
Philosophy.....	Page 8
BA Catholic Theology.....	Page 10
MA Programmes.....	Page 12
MA Theology	Page 12
.....	
MA Theology (Franciscan Studies)	Page 12
.....	
Research Degrees	Page 15
Sabbatical Programme	Page 17
Semester Abroad Programme	Page 17
Summer Programmes	Page 18
General Information.....	Page 20
Term dates.....	Page 20
Occasional Study	Page 20
Library	Page 21
Computing	Page 21
Liturgy.....	Page 22
Pastoral Care	Page 22
Social Life.....	Page 22
Accommodation.....	Page 23
FISC Staff	Page 24

Welcome to:

The Franciscan International Study Centre which is a unique place for study, a sabbatical and formation. Founded in 1973 it continues a long tradition of Franciscan education in England that was started with the friars' school at Oxford in 1230. St Francis exhorted his followers to study in such a way that the spirit of prayer and devotion was not extinguished and the Centre continues that tradition by enabling students to keep a healthy balance of prayer, community life and study.

The Study Centre has established itself as the most popular and international destination in the English speaking world for Franciscan Studies and theology taught from within the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition. In partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University, the FISC provides a strong ecumenical context for theological study and research.

Our combination of academic excellence, thoughtful orthodoxy and strong community life has supported hundreds of lay Christians, friars and sisters over the years and our spiritual direction programme has been a beacon of spiritual direction training in the Franciscan tradition.

We can offer students a level that meets their needs. Whether you are coming for certificate level studies or doctoral research our academic staff are committed to the highest levels of both scholarship and student care.

Sabbatical students will find an unrivalled variety of subjects from which to choose to nourish your minds and a team ready to support you to make the most of your stay here. All of our students will find here a spiritual and social life that nourishes the soul and the heart as well as the mind. And for the health of the body there is a medical centre next door, a fully equipped gym a stone's throw away and the beautiful countryside of the "Garden of England" all around us.

I look forward to greeting you at the Franciscan International Study Centre.

Yours fraternally,

Br Philippe Yates OFM Principal



If you have any questions email info@franciscans.ac.uk
or call us on +44 (0)1227 769349

BAC Accreditation

The British Accreditation Council (BAC) is an independent body, established in 1984 to be the national accrediting body for private post-16 education in the UK. The primary objective of the Council's founding members was "to improve and enhance the standards of independent further and higher educational institutions by the establishment of a system of accreditation".

Following their recent inspection they reported that :

The Franciscan International Study Centre was first inspected by the British Accreditation Council for Independent Further and Higher Education in March 2009.

BAC's inspectors reported on an overall excellent level of provision in the College. They considered in particular that the College was very effectively managed, with a very high standard of quality management and excellent teaching and learning standards. Inspectors considered that teaching at the College was well organised and conducted in a stimulating way that encouraged interaction and participation from students. The students expressed considerable satisfaction and happiness with all aspects of life at the College, from academic quality and support to living arrangements.

The Franciscan International Study Centre was awarded accreditation in April 2009.



Canterbury Christ Church University

Programmes at the FISC leading to the qualifications, Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education, BA, MA, MPhil and PhD are all taught in partnership with Canterbury Christ Church University (CCCU). Students successfully completing these programmes are granted an award from CCCU.

CCCU is a Church of England (Anglican) Foundation. The Chancellor of the university is the Archbishop of Canterbury. As a university with a Christian foundation CCCU is an ideal institution for the FISC to partner with. The partnership enables considerable ecumenical collaboration in theology and religious studies as well as a wider collaboration in promoting a Christian witness in higher education in England. Owing to the collaboration of FISC, CCCU and the South East Institute for Theological Education, Canterbury is rapidly gaining a reputation as a centre of excellence for theological studies and ministerial training.



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Franciscan Spiritual Direction

Sunday 3 July – Thursday 8 September 2011

Sunday 8 July – Sunday 16 September 2012



The Spiritual Direction Programme which has been held at the Study Centre for the last eleven years during the Lent term, is now to be held during the Summer months.

We invite applications for this life-enhancing experience which has drawn both lay and religious from all over the world to take part in it. It is an opportunity to live and study in beautiful surroundings and to live the Franciscan spiritual life to the full. A committed and experienced team, with support from the wider Franciscan family, will accompany you throughout the Programme. The Programme is open to all.

The Programme is based on St Bonaventure's *Major Life of St Francis* which is a theology of the spiritual life based on the life of St Francis of Assisi. The guiding principles we discover in the *Major Life of St Francis* can be followed in our own living out of the Gospel Way of life for our own direction and for the direction of others.

The Programme runs for some 10 weeks and is divided into different parts including:

Introduction / Personal Retreat / Core weeks which take the participants through the Purgative, Illuminative and Unitive ways as seen in the life of St Francis / Supervised Directed Retreat / Personal spiritual direction: participants meet privately with one of the team Directors to look at their own spiritual progress. It is expected that the Programme will end with the Participants giving a Directed Retreat which will be supervised by the Team. At all times confidentiality is maintained between the new Directors and their Directees.

For more information and an application form please e mail:
margaret.m@franciscansccs.org or mail Sr Margaret McGrath FMSJ.



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Franciscan Certificate Courses

Initiated by the Second Vatican Council and subsequently supported by various ecclesial and pastoral documents up to the present day, Catholic Institutes of Religious Life have been rediscovering their particular spiritual heritages and making them available to the wider Church. The Franciscan family, which includes secular and regular members, both men and women, has responded to this call by retrieving its distinctive intellectual tradition and its unique interpretation of the evangelical or gospel-focussed lifestyle. The Franciscan International Study Centre has been a pioneer in teaching the fullness of this tradition at undergraduate level through two distinct pathways:

Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies

Through the Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies (CHE Franciscan Studies), the Franciscan family passes on its spiritual heritage to its religious and secular members from around the world. It provides the opportunity to deepen understanding of the rich tradition of St. Francis of Assisi, either as an introduction to Franciscanism or for those Franciscans who are looking for a renewal of a life they have already lived for many years. Completion of the programme takes one year.

Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies (Formation)

The Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies (Formation) (CHE Franciscan Studies (Formation)) is a specialised certificate that is the only one of its kind offered in the English speaking world. It provides a unique combination of Franciscan theory and practical skills training for those persons endowed with the specific responsibility of being a Franciscan formator. The *Theory* dimension includes basic components of Franciscan theology, spirituality, history and the Consecrated Life. The *Practical* dimension balances the key theoretical elements with modules that include the necessary development of skills essential for the role of a Franciscan formator. Completion of the programme takes one year.

Aims of the Programme

Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies

The programme aims:

1. to give an introduction to the essential elements of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.
2. to enable students to reflect on how to live out the implications of this tradition today and communicate effectively to others their insights.
3. to fulfil the requirements of a year spent in exploring this Franciscan tradition as required by English Province of the Order of Friars Minor and other Franciscan provinces and Institutes



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Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies (Formation)

The programme aims:

1. to give an introduction to the essential elements of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition.
2. to enable students to reflect on how to live out the implications of this tradition today and communicate effectively to others their insights.
3. to give the student the skills to be an effective formator of religious brothers and sisters in the Franciscan Tradition.

The ***Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies*** and the ***Certificate of Higher Education Franciscan Studies (Formation)*** offer a broad set of modules leading to the award of the Certificate of Higher Education.

The programme is generally taught in 20 credit modules; 2 modules are followed each term, giving 6 modules in the year. However, because of the uniqueness of this programme, some of the theoretical and practical modules in the *Formation Pathway* are given a 10 credit value and are taught in tandem with a 10 credit theoretical module.

In the Franciscan Studies Pathway a core module is followed each term. In addition students discuss their options with the Programme Director and, where applicable, their formators, to ensure that their study supplements rather than duplicates previous study.

In the Franciscan Studies (Formation) Pathway the modules are core. Where the timetable allows, in order to seize the opportunities afforded by participation in the programme, students may also audit modules from the Franciscan Studies Pathway with the agreement of the Programme Director.

The First Order Franciscan Formators' Course

The General Curias of the Order of Friars Minor and the Order of Friars Minor Conventual sponsor a formators' course that comprises the Certificate in Franciscan Formation together with some extra formation elements required for formators in the First Order. In addition to the modules offered on the Certificate in Franciscan Formation the students follow classes on the current formation legislation of the First Order and its practical application. These classes are available to all the Certificate in Franciscan Formation programme but are required for First Order Formators. The First Order Formators live together and are facilitated in weekly sharing on their future role as formators.



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Philosophy

The **Diploma of Higher Education Philosophy (DHEP)** is designed to introduce students to philosophy, philosophical schools and philosophical thinking.

It meets the desire of the sponsoring provinces of the Franciscan International Study Centre (FISC) for a two year introductory philosophy programme to precede four years of theology as envisaged in the *Programme for Priestly Formation* and the Code of Canon Law (c. 250) of the Catholic Church. However, although designed with this in mind, the overview of philosophy will be valuable for all who wish to deepen their capacity to reflect upon our world. A particular aspect of this diploma is an attention to the contribution of Franciscan philosophers to the debates of the middle ages which will help to illustrate the crucial role that English thought played in the development of scholasticism.

This Diploma is designed to give the student, both ordination students and others with an interest, a balanced, stimulating and well-grounded education in philosophy. The programme teaches philosophy in an incremental way so that the students in early modules learn the “language” of philosophy, its “syntax” and “grammar” in order to be able in later modules to practise the ability to converse, think and understand using the skills learned.

The programme represents a progressive development of the students' understanding of philosophical concepts and ability to reason. In the first year six 20 credit modules are taken, giving 120 credits at level 4. A student exiting the programming at this stage having successfully completed 120 credits at level 4, is eligible for a Certificate of Higher Education Philosophy. In the second year students also take six 20 credit modules, giving a total of 120 credits at level 5. Successful completion of both years leads to the award of a Diploma of Higher Education Philosophy.

Aims of the Programme

The Diploma will explore:

1. The emergence of Philosophy as a way of looking at the world and the human condition, the historical development of Western philosophy especially from the Ionians to the Middle Ages: the Pre-Socratics, Plato, Aristotle, Neoplatonism, the rise of Medieval Scholasticism, the great thinkers of the Middle Ages.
2. Modern Philosophy, engaging in an exploration of the following topics: the mind, functionalism, rationalism, dualism, perception, logic, what constitutes knowledge and ways of knowing and understanding.
3. Philosophical Underpinnings of Christian faith: the issues of existence, including the existence of God are examined and explored through the work of great thinkers in the area.



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This is an exciting, challenging programme from the beginnings of philosophy up to the present day. It prepares ordination candidates for their theological studies and provides a balanced, stimulating and well-grounded education in philosophy relevant to an understanding of Christianity.

Diploma of Higher Education Philosophy

By the end of the programme students should be able to:

- demonstrate an understanding of the well-established concepts, principles and knowledge of philosophy, and of the ways in which those principles and that knowledge have developed
- demonstrate knowledge and application of the main methods of enquiry in philosophy
- select appropriate approaches to solving problems in philosophy
- develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with the theories and concepts of philosophy
- evaluate and interpret concepts and principles in philosophy and to apply these beyond the context in which they were first studied
- present, evaluate, and interpret a variety of evidence or data using defined techniques

Certificate of Higher Education Philosophy

Students should be able to:

- demonstrate knowledge of the essential concepts, principles and assumptions developed in the history of philosophy from earliest times to the modern era
- develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of philosophy
- evaluate and interpret concepts and principles in philosophy
- present, evaluate, and interpret a variety of evidence or data using defined techniques



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BA Catholic Theology

The BA Catholic Theology offers an extensive, three year series of modules leading to the award of the honours degree. The course is taught in 20 credit modules; usually 2 modules are followed each term, giving 6 modules at each of levels 4, 5 and 6, in a year and 18 over the 3 years.

A broad range of course material is arranged in a way that enables the student to obtain a thorough knowledge of all the major theological disciplines, building on an introductory foundation in level 4, through intermediate and advanced studies in levels 5 and 6. Throughout, the various disciplines are related to each other, resulting in a broad articulation of the Western Theological Tradition. The degree also looks at theological questions from within the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition, while being open to other orthodox theologies within the Catholic tradition.

Within the programme, each year represents a different level of exposure to a wide range of academic theological disciplines including: scripture, both Old and New Testaments, church history from antiquity through to modern times, patristic studies, fundamental theology as introduction and pertaining to faith and reason, ecclesiology with special reference to the documents of the Second Vatican Council, christology, moral theology, the Trinity, sacramental theology, ecumenism, mariology and eschatology.

The programme enables the Franciscan family to educate its members in an approach to theology that is consistent with its intellectual tradition. The theological tradition of the Franciscans also offers to the broader church and society an alternative way of approaching theological issues to those of other schools of theology.

The Certificate of Higher Education Catholic Theology and the Diploma of Higher Education Catholic Theology offer flexibility to non-traditional students. They also give the religious orders who send students to the FISC, the flexibility needed to integrate academic studies within a wider programme of religious formation for students from a variety of academic backgrounds.

Aims of the Programme

BA Hons

1. The degree is designed to meet in part the requirements for the education of men for ordination to the priesthood in the Catholic Church.
2. It provides a firm theological foundation to lay religious brothers and sisters to engage in their own lay pastoral ministry.
3. The degree provides lay men and women who desire a broad but comprehensive knowledge of theology from a Catholic perspective the opportunity for further study and a deepening of their theological understanding.



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4. It provides a firm theological foundation for lay people to enter the field of religious education or lay pastoral ministry.

The ***Diploma of Higher Education Catholic Theology*** will allow a broader intake of non-traditional students, including students who could not commit to a 3 year BA programme and those who are seeking to build upon the introduction to theology in the Catholic tradition in a 2 year programme of study.

The ***Certificate of Higher Education Catholic Theology*** will allow a broader intake of non-traditional students, including students who could not commit to a 3 year BA programme and those who are seeking a broad, foundational introduction to theology in the Catholic tradition in a 1 year programme of study.



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MA Programmes

MA Theology

The MA Theology offers a unique opportunity in this country to undertake the study of Theology. The programme takes a broad look at Theology and, while stressing the contribution of Franciscan thinkers to each subject, is not exclusive, and draws on the wealth and diversity of Catholic approaches to each topic, allowing the student to situate any Franciscan contribution within the broader context of Theology.

This pathway is designed to offer a thorough academic overview of fundamental disciplines within Catholic-Christian theology on an advanced level. As such, it is well suited to the student who may wish to engage in both specific areas of research and a wide range of study. Throughout, the ethos of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition informs and is informed by the larger context of theology as it has evolved in the long history of the Church. The programme offers those who work in ministry (ordained or lay) an opportunity to deepen and develop an understanding of theology, to enhance ministerial skills and to reflect theologically on the experience of ministry. The interdisciplinary emphasis augments the integration of theology and practice.

The ***Postgraduate Diploma Theology*** enables a student to study a broad range of topics in Theology at postgraduate level without the need to submit a dissertation. It thus broadens the potential intake to the programme.

MA Theology (Franciscan Studies)

The Franciscan Studies pathway concentrates on the historical and intellectual development of the Franciscan tradition and the study of Franciscan theology, spirituality and history. The Franciscan Studies pathway thus allows students in Britain access to the considerable scholarship in Franciscan Studies that has developed since the pioneering work of Paul Sabatier and the *British Society of Franciscan Studies*, which is continued in the *Società Internazionale degli Studi Francescani* and groups of scholars at the Franciscan International Study Centre and other universities.

The pathway presents a unique opportunity for anyone interested in Franciscanism either historically, theologically, or contemporaneously, to study with Franciscan scholars and to engage in serious academic research on Franciscan Topics. Franciscan Studies is an academic discipline that has made considerable progress over the last century and the Franciscan International Study Centre is the only academic institution in the country with an expertise in this subject area.

The ***Postgraduate Diploma Theology (Franciscan Studies)*** enables a student to study Franciscan Studies at postgraduate level without the need to submit a dissertation. It thus broadens the potential intake to the programme.



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Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

1. offer to students the opportunity to explore and reflect critically upon theological studies with a particular regard to the richness of Catholic Christian practice and expression.
2. develop an informed awareness of the dynamic nature of the Catholic Christian tradition and a developed facility in the theological task of subjecting this tradition to a process of testing and renewal
3. draw on a variety of academic disciplines and discourses to enable students to reflect critically on Christian faith and practice.
4. foster in students an ability to relate areas of Theology to broader areas of human understanding and life.
5. use the research interests of staff to inform and enhance the students' learning experience.
6. promote the development of key transferable skills.
7. equip students to undertake original research at doctoral level.

Within the Franciscan Studies pathway the aims are to:

1. offer to students the opportunity to explore and reflect critically upon Franciscan studies
2. develop an informed awareness of the dynamic nature of the Franciscan Intellectual Tradition and a developed facility in the theological task of subjecting this tradition to a process of testing and renewal
3. draw on a variety of academic disciplines and discourses to enable students to reflect critically on faith and praxis within the Franciscan tradition
4. foster in students an ability to relate areas of Franciscan Studies to broader areas of human understanding and life
5. use the research interests of staff to inform and enhance the students' learning experience.
6. promote the development of key transferable skills.
7. equip students to undertake original research at doctoral level.



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Post Graduate Diploma Theology

By the end of this programme, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a critical understanding, competence and awareness of current research in the areas of biblical and theological studies, with an ability critically to evaluate the research of others and pursue their own ideas and insights in academic research
- demonstrate a critical understanding and competence in other academic disciplines relevant to Christian history and practice
- demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the techniques of research in their chosen areas of Christian Theology together with an ability to learn and apply new research techniques including the ability to read and use primary texts both critically and empathetically

Post Graduate Diploma Theology (Franciscan Studies)

By the end of this programme, students should be able to:

- demonstrate a critical understanding, competence and awareness of current research in Franciscan Studies, with an ability critically to evaluate the research of others and pursue their own ideas and insights in academic research
- demonstrate a critical understanding and competence in other academic disciplines relevant to praxis and thought in Franciscan Studies
- demonstrate a comprehensive understanding of the techniques of research in Franciscan Studies together with an ability to learn and apply new research techniques including the ability to read and use primary texts both critically and empathetically.

MA Theology and MA Theology (Franciscan Studies)

The students will demonstrate the above learning outcomes in the writing of an extended dissertation. In addition the students will:

- deal with a complex issue in the study of theology both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, recognise the limits of such judgements, and communicate their methods and conclusions clearly in written form and verbally in discussion with the tutor;
- direct their own research and plan their timetable so as to achieve a psychologically and spiritually healthy balance, integrating their work with other aspects of their life
- demonstrate an ability to use initiative and creativity in approaching questions, the answers to which are not straightforward



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Research Degrees

The Study Centre offers supervision of research degrees in the areas of biblical studies, canon law, Franciscan studies, philosophy and theology. The research degrees are granted by Canterbury Christ Church University.

We are committed to providing the appropriate support and guidance to enable research students to complete their programmes of study, and helping students, supervisors, examiners and other staff involved in degree programmes to fulfil their responsibilities.

The degrees of Master of Philosophy (MPhil) and Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) are awarded solely on the basis of the examination of a thesis, following a period of sustained research which can be full-time or part-time. It is recognised that non-resident research students may have only limited contact with the postgraduate community at the Study Centre. Whatever the pace at which work is conducted, all postgraduate students are engaged in scholarly activities and require a high level of attention and advice from supervisors.

Master of Philosophy (MPhil)

Candidates will be registered for one year full-time or two years part-time and then submit a dissertation of 50,000 to 60,000 words for examination. Those who have made obvious progress with their research are eligible to apply to upgrade to the degree of PhD and will be required to register for a further appropriate period if their application is successful. The dissertation may not be submitted until six months before the end of the period of registration and must be submitted before a fixed time limit.

Time limits for MPhil : Students must submit no later than the number of calendar years shown below from the official beginning of period of study.

- Full-time 1 year fee-paying + 2 years 'writing up'= 3 years
- Part-time 2 years fee-paying + 3 years 'writing up' = 5 years

Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

The degree of PhD is awarded purely for research. There are no taught elements. Candidates are required to undertake a piece of original research on a topic of their choice, under the direction of an allocated supervisor, and to submit a thesis of 80,000 - 100,000 words for examination within a set time limit. All candidates will be required to defend their thesis at a viva voce (oral) examination once the thesis has been examined by an internal and external examiner.

Theses may not be submitted until six months before the end of the period of registration and must be submitted by a fixed time limit.

Time limits for PhD: Scheme of Study



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Full-time students will register and pay fees for a period of three years or, if they have a Masters degree from an approved university, for two years. Part-time students must register and pay fees for six years or, with a Masters degree from an approved institution, for four years. The dissertation may not be submitted until six months before the end of the period of registration and must be submitted before a fixed time limit (see below)

Full-time: 3 years fee paying + 2 years 'writing up'= 5 years

2 years fee paying + 2 years writing up'= 4 years

Part-time : 6 years fee paying + 3 years 'writing up'= 9 years

4 years fee paying + 3 years 'writing up'= 7 years

Sabbatical Programme

The Sabbatical Programme has been in existence since 1976 and through the years has adapted to the various needs of students. This is an excellent programme for our brothers and sisters, both Religious and Lay who:

- after years of service wish to deepen their own relationship with the Lord
- have come to a crossroads in their lives and are seeking to discern, in a Franciscan environment, the way ahead for them
- have the desire to update themselves in theology and Franciscan spirituality
- wish to have time and space for their own quiet reflection and study

Whatever the intention of anyone taking a Sabbatical, the Study Centre will endeavour to meet their needs. The Programme is flexible and students make their own plan, with the help of the Director of Sabbatical Programmes, in order to make the best use of their time at the Study Centre.

There are no pressures and so there is more time for personal relaxation and spiritual renewal. Sabbatical Students are welcome to join a number of modules available from the Franciscan Spiritual and Theological disciplines. In addition various days and events are arranged specifically for the Sabbatical students. There is a pilgrimage to Assisi between the Lent and Trinity terms.

A number of Spiritual Directors are available at the Study Centre for those seeking Spiritual Direction. Sabbatical students may join the programme at the beginning of any term.

Please note that owing to visa regulations, students from outside the European Union and European Economic Area may only apply for up to six months sabbatical study in the United Kingdom at this time.



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Semester Abroad Programme

We offer a wide-ranging Semester abroad for students from the USA . Our students can chose to attend courses at either of our two programme partners in Canterbury : the University of Kent and Canterbury Christ Church University. This offers students on the semester abroad programme access to a vast range of courses and options for study with students from Britain, Europe and all over the world.

We offer a semester abroad to cover two of our terms from mid-January to the end of June – twenty weeks of tuition, with a month in the middle to explore the rest of Britain and Europe, take part in our Assisi pilgrimage, go on retreat, or return home to visit family and friends.

Summer Programmes

Franciscan Immersion Rekindling Experience

What is FIRE?

A programme that is first and foremost for all members of the Franciscan Family:

- First Order
- Second Order
- Third Order Regular
- Secular Franciscan Order

It's Focus:

- Franciscan leaders and formators
- Those in the Franciscan family interested in updating themselves,
- Men and women who are interested in the Franciscan Intellectual and Spiritual Tradition

Programme Design

The programme is designed as a short but intense immersion for a rekindling of the spirit of Francis into one's life and work. Participants may choose to come daily as commuters, or select one or more weeks as residents.

Four Week Format

Each of the four weeks will have a Franciscan theme with topics focused on or related to



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that theme. The first three weeks open with a Sunday evening social and faculty introductions. The seminar weeks run four days Monday to Thursday morning and include an enrichment excursion Thursday afternoon with concluding barbecue. Those attending the seminars may choose up to four different sessions daily for the week.

Week IV: A Franciscan Eremitical Retreat

The retreat opens on the Sunday and concludes on the Saturday morning with Mass. Daily Eucharistic Liturgy provided as well as opportunities for Reconciliation. This is a silent retreat.



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Franciscan Formators / Leaders Seminar

This three week intensive programme offers Franciscan Formators and leaders and all others in leadership/formative roles a unique opportunity to refresh and or engage in topics pertinent to this particular service. This seminar is for both Franciscan leaders and formators who have training for their particular role, are seeking to add a Franciscan dimension, or who are needing training to prepare for a future in these areas.

Training sessions on Franciscan leadership and the Franciscan process of formation at every level will be offered with an emphasis on the particular Franciscan Order being addressed. Modules will run from Monday to Friday each week.

First and Third Order Regular members will find courses that lead to a deeper understanding of either the Rule of 1223 or the 1982 Rule and Way of Life of the Brothers and Sisters of the TOR of St Francis, as well as a training practicum underpinned by a theology of transformation and leadership.



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General Information

2011-2012

Michaelmas Term	3 October – 16 December 2011
Lent Term	16 January – 23 March 2012
Trinity Term	23 April – 29 June 2012
Spiritual Direction Programme	8 July – 16 September 2012
Spiritual Direction Retreat	10 September – 16 September 2012
Franciscan Formators / Leaders Seminar	9 -27 July 2012
The Evangelical Life Retreat	2-7 September 2012

Occasional Study

Occasional students are welcome at the Study Centre on the BA Catholic Theology and Franciscan Certificate Courses. Occasional students are also welcome if they wish to attend programmes and not undertake assignments/essays. Attendance on this basis is limited to three modules per term. Occasional students are invited to take a full and active part in the life of the Study Centre.

Student Support and Guidance

All students will be assigned a personal tutor when joining a FISC/CCCU programme. Following an initial meeting the personal tutor will be available for consultation on matters of concern not relating to specific modules or aspects of the programme. While encouraging mature students on a part-time programme serving a wide geographical area to ensure they have appropriate networks of support and advising on this if necessary, the staff also recognize that participation in the programme may be the context within which pastoral needs arise or become manifest and will seek to respond to them in a professional and compassionate way. All students will have full access to the extensive range of services at Canterbury Christ Church University.

The appropriate FISC tutor will give advice to students regarding any general issues relating to their learning experience and to ensure that these are followed up if necessary e.g. with other staff or supervisors. In addition, a member of the FISC staff will be appointed as Learning Support Tutor to offer sessions in study skills during the first semester each year and to be available for consultation with individual students.



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Library

The library at FISC holds around 60,000 volumes, most of which are on open access. There are nearly 200 journal runs, including over 120 current subscriptions, in the fields of Franciscan Studies, Theology, Biblical Studies, Church History and Ethics, among others.

The library's Franciscan Studies collection includes over 6,000 volumes specifically related to the various fields of Franciscanism, and is believed to be the largest such collection in northern Europe. The earliest volumes include manuscripts from the late Middle Ages and incunabula (books from the very earliest days of printing) and there is a vigorous on-going purchasing programme to support learning and research at all levels.

Electronic resources

All our students have access to the electronic journals in the EBSCO Religion and Philosophy Collection, which comprises around 300 titles. Those students enrolled on programmes leading to Canterbury Christ Church University qualifications have access to a vast range of further online resources.

Other libraries

Reciprocal arrangements are in place to allow our students to make use of the books and journals on the shelves of the Templeman Library at the University of Kent, the library of the Canterbury Christ Church University including St Augustine's Library, based upon the collection of the former St Augustine Theological College), the South-East Institute of Theological Education, and of the University of the Creative Arts (Canterbury campus), all on approximately the same terms as those institutions' own students have. Use of electronic or computing resources is not included in the reciprocal arrangements.

Arrangements can also be made to allow access to other libraries affiliated to the Canterbury Circle of Libraries, including Canterbury Cathedral Library.

Computing

The Study Centre has an ample number of student workstations in the Library, with network-wide security and authentication of users. Resilient and secure file storage and backup is achieved using a distributed network of servers and storage devices. The Study Centre operates a thin-client Linux system, building on and expanding the inherent security and efficiency which that offers, and using OpenOffice for text, presentation, spreadsheets and database applications. The default file formats used are standard and Windows-compatible, ensuring easy transfer of data from Study Centre systems to students' systems.

Access to the Internet is available from all workstations, both for study related research on the large number of excellent Web-based resources available, and also for general communication. Wireless networks have been installed in all student accommodation. If students bring their own laptops they will have access from their room to the Internet, though not (at present) to the Study Centre internal networks.



If you have any questions email info@franciscans.ac.uk

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Since the level of security on the wi-fi network is gradually being increased, students are recommended to enquire in advance (email networkadmin@franciscans.ac.uk) about the likely compatibility of their equipment.

On joining, students are provided with a unique access code which enables them to use the Study Centre's computer facilities. Training is also available for those students who have had limited experience of computing.

Liturgy

The Study Centre has its own chapel and every weekday at noon the Centre celebrates Mass together. The chapel is also a venue for a Sunday Mass which is attended by students, staff and local people.

Students are encouraged to become involved in the planning and preparation of the celebration of the Liturgies. There is the opportunity to take part in the Prayer of the Church and time and space for private prayer and meditation. Individual Spiritual Direction is also available.

Pastoral Care

The Study Centre is committed to care for its students and provides spiritual and practical support in settling *into student life in England and making the most of the experience of studying here*. In addition, those students enrolled on programmes leading to Canterbury Christ Church University qualifications have available to them the full range of student support granted to students of that university.

Social life

Social Life at the Study Centre is important and there are regular social gatherings. Canterbury has a wide range of shops, restaurants and traditional English pubs, the Marlowe Theatre and a Leisure Centre with swimming pool. The city has many historic sites, including the World Heritage Sites of St Augustine's Abbey and Canterbury Cathedral, the Mother Church of the Anglican Communion. For many students the Cathedral is a special place whether for Evensong, which is sung every day, or simply for visiting.



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Accommodation

At the Study Centre there are three residential blocks where students live during term time in single study bedrooms with shared kitchens, living areas and facilities. In addition there is comfortable rented accommodation situated a short walk away from the Campus.

Bedding

Duvets, sheets and towels are provided. Students are responsible for maintaining their own rooms and laundry during term time. Each residential block has washing and drying facilities. Meals - A two-course meal is provided from Monday-Friday at lunch time in the Study Centre refectory, otherwise students cook at their own expense within the communities in which they are living.

Personal Spending

Students can purchase any food or other provisions they may need in Canterbury. The City is a 10 minute bus ride from the Study Centre. Students organise food shopping trips to the City's supermarkets on a regular basis. Stamps and postal items can be purchased from the local Post Office which is a 10 minute walk from the Study Centre. Students usually budget between £20 and £30 per week to cover their additional needs. Books can be ordered from the Study Centre bookshop.



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FISC Staff

Permanent Lecturers

- Br Philippe Yates OFM Principal, Director of Research Degrees
- Sr Margaret McGrath FMSJ Vice-Principal, Leader of Training Programme in Spiritual Direction.
- Fr David Blowey OFM Conv Lecturer
- Sr Kathleen Anne Copp OSF Director of Franciscan Formation & Certificate Courses
- Br Tom Herbst OFM Director of BA & MA Theology
- Sr Crispin Jose SCSC Lecturer
- Fr Stephen King OFM Conv Lecturer
- Fr John McCluskey MHM Lecturer
- Br Seamus Mulholland OFM Director of MA (Franciscan Studies)
- Fr J O'Hanlon Lecturer
- Fr Edward Ondrako OFM Conv Scholar in Residence
- Monica Tobon Lecturer

Visiting Lecturers

- Br Andre Cirino OFM
- Br Antonio Eiguren OFM
- Sr Mary Celestine Giertych CSSF
- Br Don Miller OFM
- Br Damian Novello OSF
- Fr Chris Shorrock OFM Conv
- Fr Jude Winkler OFM Conv

Centre Staff

- Kathleen Bishop SFO Senior Management Team
- Sr Beatrice Garnett OSU Administrative Assistant
- Pauline Marks Academic Administrator
- Sr Elizabeth Morris FMSL Personal Assistant to the Principal
- Dave Palmer Estates Manager
- Tom Robertson Team Leader
- Shirley Spratt Housekeeper & Kitchen Assistant
- Br Donald Thielson OFM Conv Chef
- Sam Wilson Gardener



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If you have any questions of a general nature, please consult our website
www.franciscans.ac.uk or email our admissions department
admissions@franciscans.ac.uk

We believe that the information contained within this publication is accurate as at February 2011. The Study Centre reserves the right to make corrections and additions.

Franciscan International Study Centre, Giles Lane, Canterbury, Kent, United Kingdom
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