**Information for Sabbatical Enquirers**

The Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology is an academic institution that works within the Roman Catholic Church and its principle of human flourishing through God’s grace. We set out to offer transforming experiences for women, the community and the Church through theological education, professional pastoral practice and personal formation, assisting women to discern God’s call and preparing them for lay ministries and Christian discipleship in today’s world.

We are unique because we offer:

* Courses in theology for ministry that integrate theory and practice, and value relationships in the learning process;
* A space for Catholic women to discern their Christian vocation with like-minded others from diverse backgrounds;
* A community for liturgy and prayer as well as enquiry and debate;
* Engagement with the global Catholic Church through an international student body;
* Access to the intellectual riches of Cambridge;
* Learning from other traditions of inquiry in encounters over issues that matter.

**Context for sabbatical time**

The wider teaching and learning environment here is the Cambridge Theological Federation, an ecumenical arrangement of shared teaching including the Anglican, Methodist, Reformed and Orthodox traditions. This allows relationships both to Cambridge University and Anglia Ruskin University.

Within this context the Margaret Beaufort Institute of Theology has a focus on lay ministry training and wider theological learning in the Roman Catholic tradition and we have a particular emphasis on improving access to such higher education courses. This means that we have both full and part-time students, with a small number resident in the house but more from the local area, building up a lively community which learns and prays together.

For short-term sabbaticals we tend to suggest Oct–Dec because this places you squarely in the Cambridge University term and Anglia Ruskin University semester. This tends to mean that there are more events and classes with which you can engage, and you’re not the only one arriving in the town for the first time, which can be some pleasant solidarity in a new place!

**Libraries and other resources**

Sabbatical students can arrange access to:

* Reading and Borrowing Access – University Library
* Reading Access - Cambridge Divinity Faculty Library
* Borrowing Access - Cambridge Theological Federation Libraries

The latter of these is in multiple locations, including here in MBIT and focuses more on ecclesiological, lay theology and practical theology, in contrast to the more traditionally academic focus of the Faculty, but we also have excellent range and depth in all theological disciplines.

**Taught Learning: Catholic Thought and Practice**

Catholic Thought and Practice is our in-house teaching to which all our students come and is an option that many of our sabbatical visitors take up. Students who participate include those doing full degrees (DTM, BTh, and MA), but it also includes those who come just for this afternoon as a way of engaging with theology alongside their other work. The courses are a kind of taught reading group, with short readings in advance and an emphasis on discussion in the classroom. All teaching is followed by prayer. Sabbatical visitors, as part of the learning and research community, are invited to this.

The courses for 2021/22 include: Jesus through the Centuries (Autumn 2021); The Nameless Women of the Bible: From Potiphar’s Wife to the Samaritan Woman (Autumn 2021); Sacramental Theology (Spring 2022); Women who Changed the Church (Spring 2022); Love and Desire: Mystical, Monastic and Beguine Spirituality (Summer 2022)

**Study Days**

We run a range of study days throughout the academic year. Details can be found in our [short course brochure](mailto:https://www.mbit.cam.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Short-courses-of-MBIT-Brochure-2022xs-1.pdf).

**Taught Learning: Auditing a Masters Module**

Margaret Beaufort Institute students can pay a standard fee to undertake module on our Masters programmes. Courses can be joined as an auditor (no assessment) for £230. Courses involve weekly lectures and discussions about readings, shared in advance. Modules that are running in 2021/22 include:

Human Condition (Autumn 2021)

Spiritual Direction in the Ignatian Tradition (Autumn 2021)

Mystery of Love (Autumn 2021)

Models of Chaplaincy (Autumn 2021)

Interfaith Relations from Theory to Encounter (Autumn 2021)

Theology and Practice of Mission (Autumn 2021)

Themes in Pastoral Theology and Pastoral Care (Autumn 2021–Spring 2022)

Christian Spirituality in Context (Spring 2022)

Secularisation in the Christian World (Spring 2022)

Moral Development, Reasoning and Decision-Making (Spring 2022)

Wesleyan Theology and Spirituality (Summer 2022)

Philosophical Theology (Summer 2022)

Christianity and Ecology (Summer 2022)  
Orthodox Spirituality: Life in Liturgy (Summer 2022)

Further details about the modules can be found in our [higher education brochure](mailto:https://www.mbit.cam.ac.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/08/Higher-education-MBIT-Brochure-2021-2022-v1_compressed.pdf)

**Research Supervision**

For those coming for a sabbatical for research, supervision and conversation is an important aspect, though not all sabbatical visitors wish to take this up. Here at MBIT we have four academic staff who are available for this kind of support:

* Dr Anna Abram, whose interests include: Virtue Ethics; Ecclesial Ethics; Moral development; Moral imagination; Professional Ethics
* Dr Louise Nelstrop, whose interests lie in spirituality, particularly mysticism; medieval theology; medieval spirituality; deification; English Mystics
* Dr Sue Price, whose interests include: Children’s spirituality (particularly the silent spirituality of severely disabled children); the use of Godly Play; outreach work into parishes; chaplaincy in healthcare
* Dr Férdia Stone-Davis, whose interests lie in theological and philosophical aesthetics; ethics; philosophical theology; theology and the arts (particularly music)

As well as a wider community of research fellows and associates

As you will see from the example fee structure below, we would charge per hour for supervision work. The example suggests 1 hour per week, but this can be discussed to suit your programme of research, if that’s what you’re doing. The idea of such meetings is to design a reading programme for you, perhaps with written work, which would allow you to find your own course of study, outside what we provide in classrooms. You can use this as much or as little as you choose.

**Costs**

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| --- | --- |
| Charges for an **example** sabbatical of three months,  e.g. mid Sept-mid-December | Amount 2021/22 |
|  |  |
| Library fees | £75 |
| Spiritual Direction | £25 per one hour session |
| Tuition (@£50 per hour, e.g. 1 hour per 2 weeks) | £50 per session |
| MA Class (no assignment or accreditation) | £230 per module |
| Catholic Teaching and Practice on Thursday afternoons | £180 per four-week module |
| MBIT Study Days | Up to three study days for free when registered for one CTP module |
| \*Administration Fees | £300 |
| \*Room Rental (3 months x £738) ensuite bathroom  *Includes weekly cleaning of bathroom, use of kitchen and all common areas, and high speed wifi. This is a typical room suitable for a sabbatical visitor and exact room/rent depends on room availability.* | £2214 |

\*Items marked with an asterisk are required costs, but you can pick and mix from the others!