



Carmelite Institute of Britain & Ireland

Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies)

Accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth



Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies)

BTh (CS)

Key details

Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies) BTh (CS) is:

- ✓ An Honours Bachelor Degree - Level 8
- ✓ Designed for students who wish to explore and deepen their knowledge of the Carmelite tradition
- ✓ Delivered through the CIBI Website
- ✓ As a part-time or full-time degree programme
- ✓ A modular system combining obligatory modules and individually selected modules
- ✓ Accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth

Programme Overview

The Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies) is a level eight, honours, undergraduate degree programme offered by the CIBI. The programme is aimed at those who wish to broaden and deepen their knowledge of the Carmelite tradition, guided by experts in the field who can bring the riches of this lived tradition to people from all walks of life.

The programme makes the heritage of the Carmelite family available at Baccalaureate in Theology level across the English-speaking world and enables Carmelite Friars, Nuns, Sisters and Lay Carmelites to deepen their engagement with, and academic understanding of, the Carmelite charism.

The degree is informed by the normative disciplines of Roman Catholic Theology and is a means to study the Carmelite tradition at a formal academic level and to achieve a proficient level of competence in theology, history and spirituality.

The BTh (CS) is designed for individuals:

- who wish to study the Carmelite tradition for the first time
- who have already completed the CIBI Diploma in Carmelite Studies and wish to continue their academic engagement in the field of Carmelite Studies and to bring their studies to Baccalaureate-level.
- who wish to acquire Baccalaureate-level qualification as entry to the Master's Degree in the specialised field of Carmelite Studies
- who might not have a Baccalaureate-level qualification

The programme is designed for those who want to continue working while studying, or for someone who may not have easy access to one of the traditional education providers, or who may not have the time to commute to and from lectures daily. We also welcome students who want to study the programme full-time, which allows students to complete the programme in a much shorter time-frame.

The programme offers students the opportunity to read and study individual modules at their own pace in a structured yet flexible approach on a part-time or full-time basis. The range of subject areas on offer will provide the background for candidates to engage critically in the ongoing dialogue between the Carmelite tradition and the contemporary world. Students who successfully complete this programme will be able to describe, present and critically engage with the principal elements of the Carmelite tradition.

Programme Structure

The degree is structured to enable students to study the essentials of a theological approach to the Christian life and become familiar with the history and traditions of Carmel, its Saints and Blesseds, and their approach to prayer and Christian living.

In addition, the programme is designed for students to develop important skills in academic research, practical writing and presentation at undergraduate level. Academic guidance is provided through individual assessment(s) feedback and formal training in the writing of academic essays. On-line support is available to students from the CIBI office

The academic year is measured in two twelve week semesters:

- Semester 1: September – December
- Semester 2: January – April.

The programme offers students the opportunity to read and study individual modules which are made available during semester periods only and, normally students register for more than one module in a semester. It generally takes twelve weeks to complete a module. There are two entry points to the programme aligned with each semester: early September and early December.

The programme is delivered in the form of a phased release of reading material made available through the CIBI website.

To complete the BTh (CS) programme, students must

- Read and study 24 taught modules, completing all the necessary assignments, and
- Write four long essays

The Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies) is assessed as follows:

- **Questionnaire and Essays**

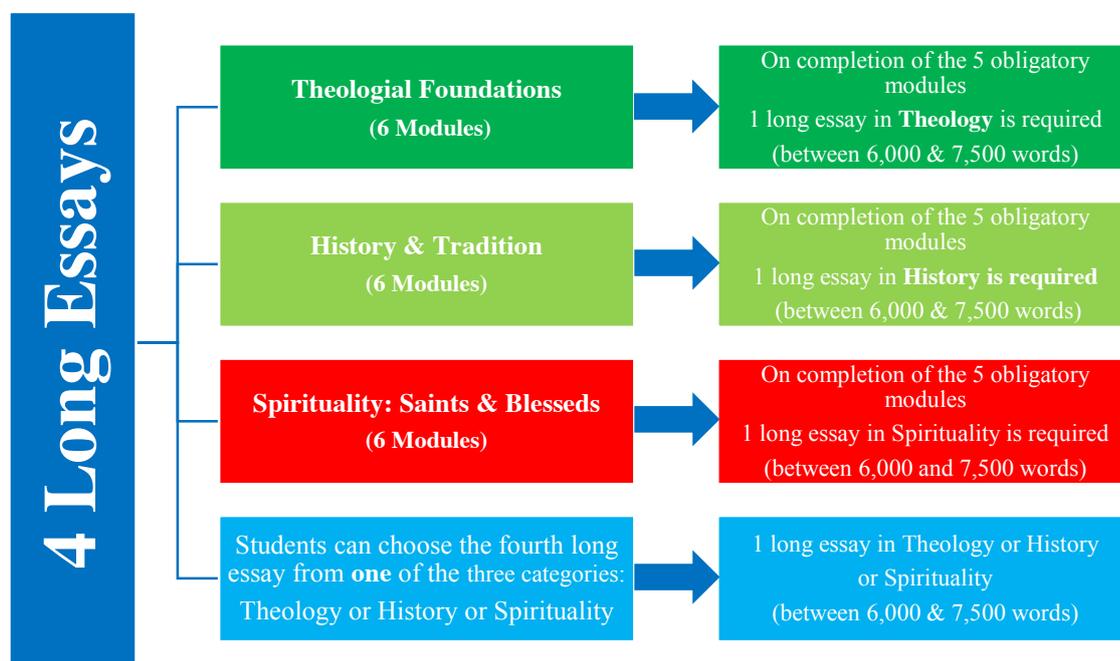
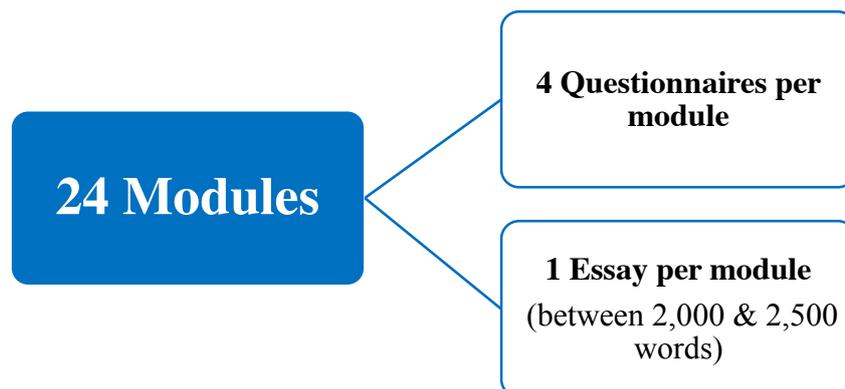
Each taught module is assessed by four ten-question questionnaires and an essay. Each questionnaire is awarded 10% of the overall marks (4 x 10 = 40%).

The final essay for each taught module is on an assigned topic and between 2,000-2,500 words long. The final essay in each module is awarded 60%

- **Long Essay**

Four long essays of between 6,000-7,500 words are required for the programme. The four long essays are based on the 5 obligatory modules in each of the three categories: Theological Foundation, History and Tradition and Spirituality: Saints and Blesseds.

- 1 long essay in Theological Foundations
- 1 long essay in History and Tradition
- 1 long essay in Spirituality: Saints and Blesseds
- 1 further long essay in any of the three categories above



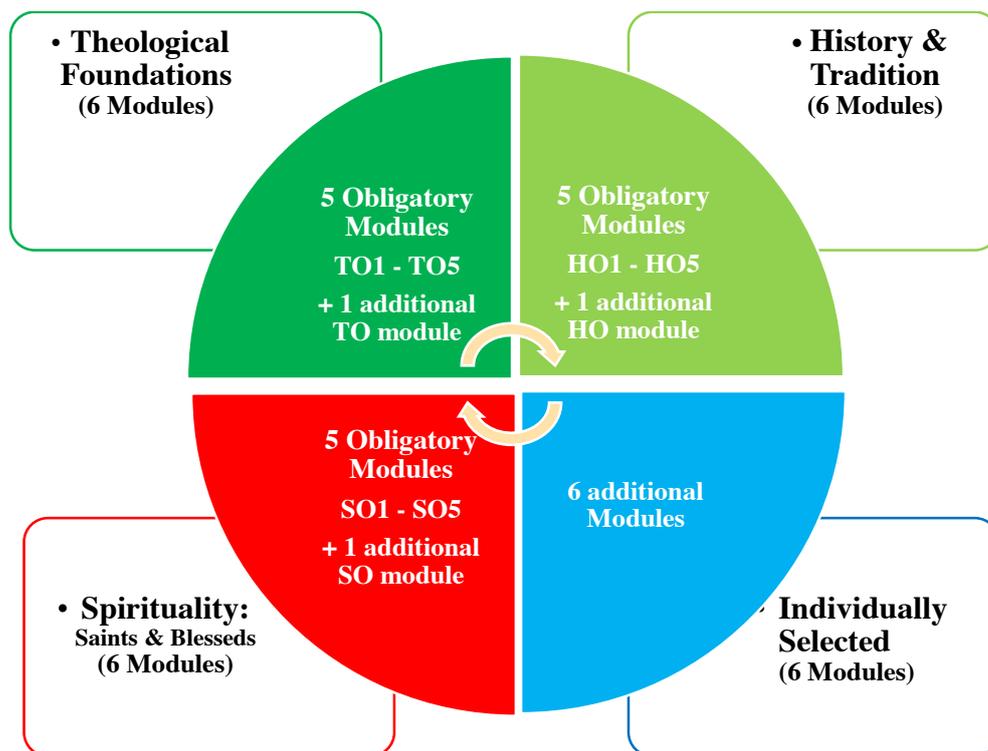
Programme Details

Modules

Modules are divided into three categories:

- Theological Foundations
- History and Tradition
- Spirituality: Saints and Blesseds

Students must complete six modules in each of the four categories making 24 modules in all. On completion of the five core modules in Theology, or in History, or in Spirituality, students write a long essay. When the three long essays are completed, one further long essay (in either of the three categories) is also required. In addition to the five core modules, one further module in each of the three sections is required. The remaining six modules may be chosen from any of the modules not already completed.



Module Titles

Theological Foundations

- TO1 - T05 Obligatory Modules

- TO1 An Introduction to the Old Testament
TO2 An Introduction to the New Testament
TO3 Sacramental Basis of Christian Living
TO4 Faith and Revelation
TO5 Carmel and the People of God

History and Tradition

- HO1 - HO5 Obligatory Modules

- HO1 Carmel: Development of the Tradition
HO2 The Origins of the Carmelite Tradition
HO3 Figures of Inspiration: Mary & Elijah
HO4 The Carmelite Charism: Exploring the Biblical Roots
HO5 Carmelite Reform and Renewal in the 16th Century
HO7 The History of Female Contemplative Life & Recent Developments
HO9 The History of Carmelite Devotion

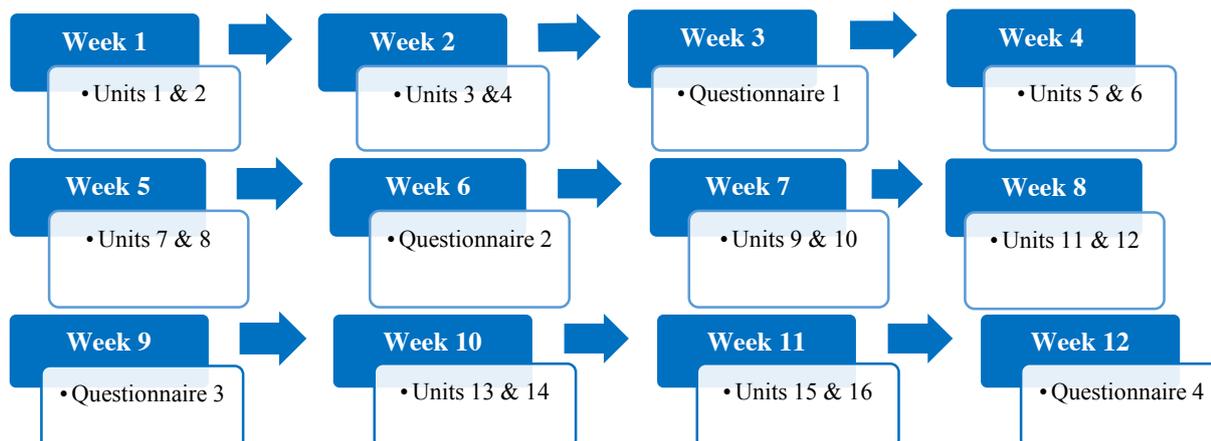
Spirituality: Saints and Blesseds

- SO1 - SO5 Obligatory Modules

- SO1 St Teresa of Avila
SO2 St John of the Cross: Carmelite, Mystic, Poet
SO3 Mary Magdalene de Pazzi
SO4 St Thérèse of Lisieux
SO5 Blessed Titus Brandsma
SO6 Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity
SO7 St Edith Stein
S10 St Thérèse of the Child Jesus as Revealed in Her Letters

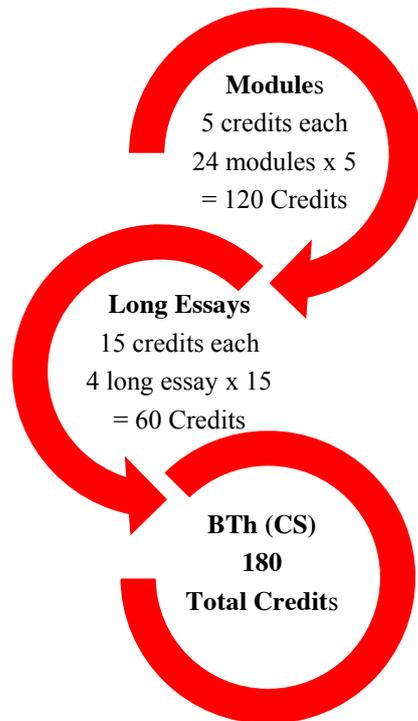
Units

A module is delivered in the form of 16 units to be read and studied. The content of one unit is equivalent to approximately that delivered in a 45 minute lecture. Students will need to dedicate twice this amount of time to private reading beyond the material provided in the module.



Credits

The Honours BTh (CS) programme requires a total of 180 credits.



Exemptions may be granted for up to three taught modules on equivalent modules completed elsewhere, subject to the approval of the Director of Studies.

Duration

Students normally complete two modules per semester (4 modules per academic year), so that the programme is complete in seven and half years (15 semesters). Students who want to study the programme full-time can complete the programme in a shorter time-frame.

Existing the Programme

Students registered for the BTh (CS) and who choose to exit the programme prior to the final award, and who have completed the requirements of either of the two Exit Awards, may request the CIBI Academic Board to be conferred with either a **Certificate in Theology (Carmelite Studies)** or a **Diploma in Theology (Carmelite Studies)**.

Progression

It is expected that students who achieve an overall second class honours grade in the BTh (CS) programme, together with a mark of at least 65% in all four of the long essays, will be eligible to proceed to the MTh (CS). Students who receive at least 65% in two of the four long essays may be eligible to proceed to the MTh (CS) upon approval Academic Board.

Admission Criteria

Applicants will normally have completed second-level education (equivalent to the National University of Ireland Matriculation). Applicants 23 years of age and over on 1st January of the year of registration for the BTh (CS) and who do not fulfil the normal matriculation requirements may apply for matriculation on the basis of mature years

Accreditation

The Baccalaureate in Theology (Carmelite Studies) is accredited by St Patrick's College, Maynooth.

Student Testimonials

At first, I was intimidated by the idea of an online course, but I can confidently say this was an amazing learning experience (Canada).

There were times when I found it a real struggle to find the time to engage with the assignments due to the, at times, heavy demands of full time job and supporting a young family. However, due to the way the distance learning course is structured, with very supportive tutors – flexible in their approach, I managed to complete the course. (United Kingdom).

The course modules fulfilled both academic and formative expectations. I have found in them depth and substance, reflective of the scholarly effort of the module authors and tutors. I found the delivery of and the content of the modules to be very well structured and user-friendly. While awaiting the clock-work release of the module reading and questionnaires, my anticipation heightened with tackling each block of units and questionnaire. (Malaysia).

Application Details

Application is made through the CIBI website: www.cibi.ie

You can download an application form here (link) for on-line completion and submission.

The current fees structure is as follow:

- Application fee €30
- Module fee €115 per module
- Long Essay fee €295 per long essay