



THE PRIORY INSTITUTE

A Dominican Centre for Theological Studies 

RESPONSE TO EXTERNAL VALIDATION REPORT FOR

Master of Arts in Aquinas Studies (Taught) with the embedded award of Graduate Diploma in Arts in Aquinas Studies

LEVEL 9

PRIORY INSTITUTE RESPONSE TO PART II RECOMMENDATION/COMMENT

Conditions

1. Ensure the indicative content is completed for all modules.
Response: *The indicative content was completed for all modules and entered on Module builder.*

Recommendations

1. Review and revise how 'study weekends' are described on page 35 and page 63 of the documentation to ensure consistency in both descriptions.
Response: *The descriptions of the 'study weekends' were altered on page 35 and page 63 of the documentation to ensure consistency in both descriptions. The name has been changed in both to 'onsite weekends.'*

2. Consider revising the elective module descriptors in the context that potentially not all may be offered.

Response: On page 79 it is clearly stated that not all the elective modules will be offered so that students know that this is the case before they register. In the event that the elective Metaphysics is not offered, Philosophical Anthropology will include some of this content and this has been changed in the module descriptor as suggested by the external examiners (See page 7 of this document under Programme Schedules)

3. Regarding subject description of Latin – it is suggested that a more nuanced description is used.

Response: Some of the terminology was changed in the Latin module for the continual assessments. The syllabus content was also added which makes for a more nuanced approach.

The new module descriptor for *Introduction to Latin in the work of St Thomas Aquinas*, reads as follows:

The purpose of this module is to introduce students to the study of Latin in the writings of St Thomas with a particular focus on the Summa Theologiae. Students will be given a familiarity with basic Latin vocabulary, verbs and syntax in order to read and refer to the original latin translations of passages from St Thomas' works to give a fuller interpretation of his theological and philosophical ideas.

4. De-capitalise words throughout and address various typos as described during the review of modules.

Response: Words which were capitalized throughout the document were changed to lower case and some minor typos were corrected as described during the review of modules. These include changing to lower case, the description of various branches of theology, eg moral, systematic and philosophical theology as well as words such as 'diploma' and 'certificate.'

Words in the module content of Metaphysics were also decapitalized as suggested eg form, matter, causality, potentiality.

PART III: PROGRAMME SCHEDULES

Proposed Programme Schedules MA (Aquinas studies): Stage 1 and 2

7.0 Total Modules, Credits and Marks Allocation

Module Title	Year & Semester	Marks Allocation				Credits		
		Module No.	CA	Exam	Major Essay	Credits	Level	Mandatory/ Group Elective
Research Methods for Aquinas studies	1.1	1	30%	0	70%	5	9	M
Introduction to Latin	1.1	2	50%	50%	0	10	9	M
Introduction to Thomas Aquinas	1.1	3	30%	0	70%	10	9	M
Thinking and Talking about God	1.2	4	30%	0	70%	10	9	M
Happiness and the Virtuous Life	1.2	5	30%	0	70%	10	9	GE
Metaphysics	2.1	6	30%	0	70%	10	9	GE
Philosophical Anthropology in Aquinas	2.1	7	30%	0	70%	10	9	GE
Trinity and Creation	2.1	8	30%	0	70%	10	9	GE
Christ and the Sacraments	2.1	9	30%	0	70%	10	9	GE
Dissertation	2.2		10%		90%	30	9	M

7.1 Stage 1

NAME OF INSTITUTION		: Institute of Technology Tallaght/The Priory Institute								
TITLE OF AWARD		: MA (Aquinas studies) [including Single Subject Certification]								
AREA OF SPECIALISATION		: Theology								
LEARNING MODES OFFERED		: Blended Learning								
STAGE		: 1								
LEVEL		: 9								
SEMESTER (IF APPLICABLE)		: SEMESTER 1 AND 2								
DATE EFFECTIVE FROM										
SUBJECT OR MODULE NUMBER	TITLE OF EXAMINATION SUBJECT OR MODULE	SUBJECT OR MODULE STATUS	CREDITS		CONTACT HOURS (per semester)*	ALLOCATION OF MARKS				
			NUMBER	STAGE /SEM		CONT ASS	Essay	PRACT	FINAL	TOTAL
1	Research Methods for Aquinas studies	M	5	1.1	20	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
2	Introduction to Latin in the work of St Thomas Aquinas	M	5	1.1	20	50	-/-	-/-	50	100

3	Introduction to Thomas Aquinas: Life, Thought and Historical Context	M	10	1.1	20	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
4	Thinking and Talking about God	M	10	1.2	20	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
5	Happiness and the Virtuous Life	M	10	1.2	20	30	70	-/-	-/-	100

*** Please also see Student Effort Matrix (7.5).**

Note: Under normal circumstances, each student is required to complete all modules within a particular stage before progressing to the next stage of the programme.

7.2 Stage 2

NAME OF INSTITUTION	:	Institute of Technology Tallaght/The Priory Institute
TITLE OF AWARD	:	MA (Aquinas studies)
AREA OF SPECIALISATION	:	Aquinas studies
LEARNING MODES OFFERED	:	Distance Learning
STAGE	:	2
LEVEL	:	9
SEMESTER (IF APPLICABLE)	:	SEMESTER 3 and 4
DATE EFFECTIVE FROM	:	October 2018

SUBJECT OR MODULE NUMBER	TITLE OF EXAMINATION SUBJECT OR MODULE	SUBJECT OR MODULE STATUS	CREDITS		CONTACT HOURS (per semester)*	ALLOCATION OF MARKS				
			NUMBER	STAGE /SEM		CONT ASS	ESSAY	PRACT	FINAL	TOTAL
6a €	Metaphysics	E	10	2.1	10	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
6b (E)	Philosophical Anthropology in Aquinas									

		E	10	2.1	10	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
6c (E)	Trinity and Creation	E	10	2.1	10	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
6 d (E)	Christ and the Sacraments	E	10	2.1	10	30	70	-/-	-/-	100
7	Dissertation	M	30	2.2	5	10	90	-/-	-/-	100

Note: Students who complete Stages 1 and 2, (without having completed a dissertation) will be eligible to receive an embedded award, i.e. Graduate Diploma in Aquinas studies.

At Stage 2, semester 3, students will choose two electives from the four listed 6a, b, c, d. They can if all the electives run, choose a more philosophical or theological emphasis. Each of the four electives will only run subject to student numbers and interest.

**Should the module Metaphysics not run, then some of this content will be included in the module on Philosophical Anthropology as outlined in the module descriptor as suggested at the external panel.

Note: The Master's degree award classifications shall be in accordance with the system currently operated by IT Tallaght. To be eligible for this award, the student must achieve the learning outcomes prescribed for the **entire** curriculum. The award shall be made at Level 9 on the NFQ.