

Masters in Myth, Cosmology and the Sacred

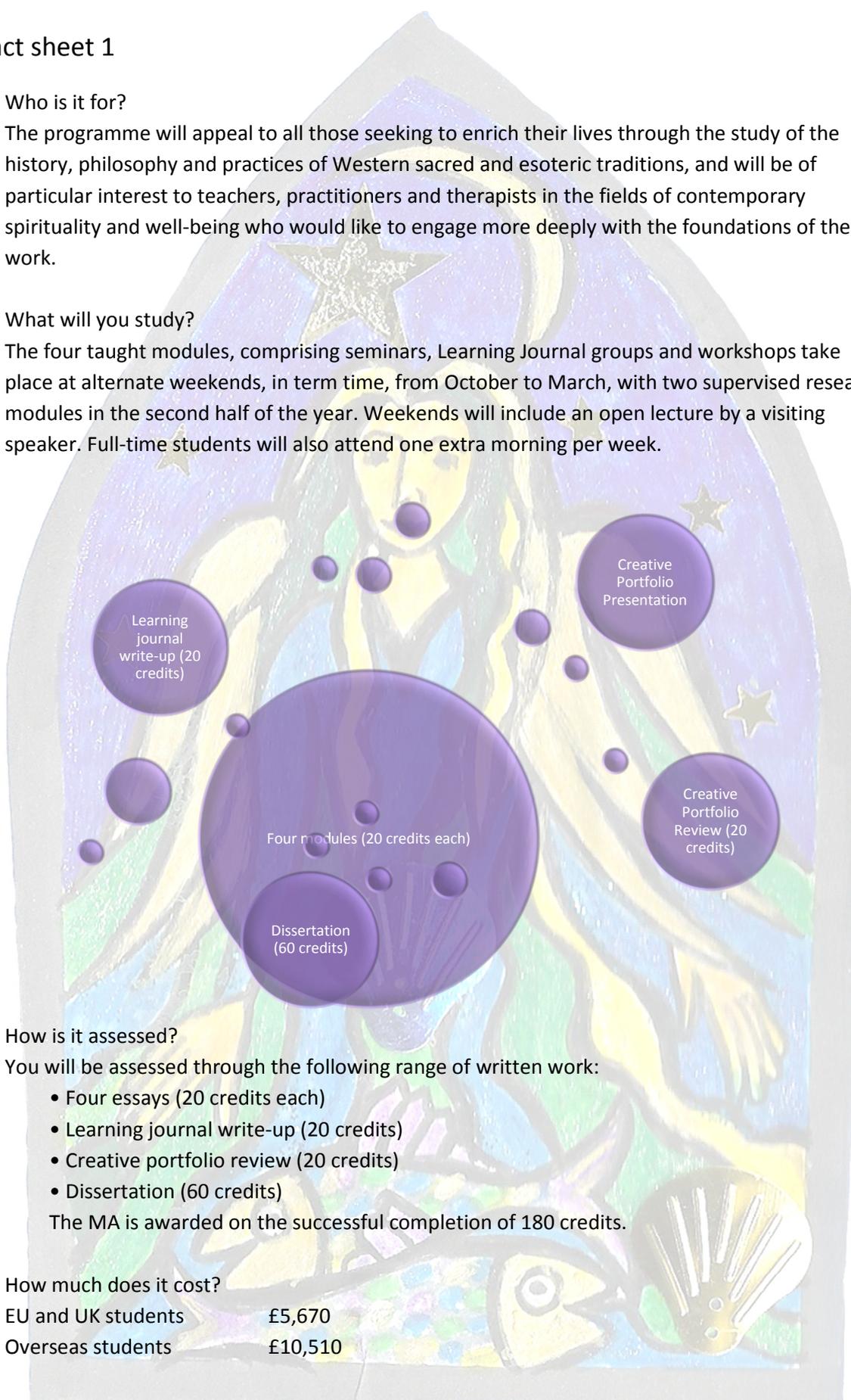
Fact sheet 1

1. Who is it for?

The programme will appeal to all those seeking to enrich their lives through the study of the history, philosophy and practices of Western sacred and esoteric traditions, and will be of particular interest to teachers, practitioners and therapists in the fields of contemporary spirituality and well-being who would like to engage more deeply with the foundations of their work.

2. What will you study?

The four taught modules, comprising seminars, Learning Journal groups and workshops take place at alternate weekends, in term time, from October to March, with two supervised research modules in the second half of the year. Weekends will include an open lecture by a visiting speaker. Full-time students will also attend one extra morning per week.



3. How is it assessed?

You will be assessed through the following range of written work:

- Four essays (20 credits each)
- Learning journal write-up (20 credits)
- Creative portfolio review (20 credits)
- Dissertation (60 credits)

The MA is awarded on the successful completion of 180 credits.

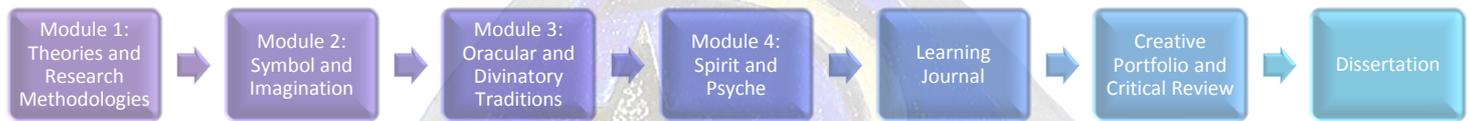
4. How much does it cost?

EU and UK students	£5,670
Overseas students	£10,510

To speak to somebody about this course or to apply, call Michelle Childs on 01227 863458 or email post.compulsory.education@canterbury.ac.uk

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Fact sheet 2: Module content



MODULE ONE Theories and Research Methodologies

Module Aims

The aim of this module is to broaden academic discourse and understanding of the fields of mythopoeic imagination, sacred experience and imaginal cosmology. It will investigate appropriate theories and methods for the analysis and understanding of sacred and symbolic texts, practices and philosophical commentaries in both historical and contemporary contexts. It will draw on and integrate approaches from a variety of disciplines, including anthropology, classics, history, consciousness studies, psychology, religious studies and cultural studies.

MODULE TWO Symbol and Imagination

Module Aims

The aim of this module is to investigate the role of the imagination in the broad area of the Western esoteric traditions, focussing on the key themes of neoplatonism, theurgic ritual, Renaissance astrology, art and music. We will engage with images and music both theoretically and experientially, and focus specifically on the techniques of natural magic in the work of the Renaissance philosopher Marsilio Ficino. Taking as examples Botticelli's painting *Primavera* and the songs of John Dowland and Claudio Monteverdi, we will consider the role of both melancholy and eros as archetypal structures for the engagement and unification of the soul.

MODULE THREE Oracular and Divinatory Traditions

Module Aims

This module seeks to explore the nature of "divinatory intelligence" (Vernant, 1991). While the focus is on ancient near-Eastern and European traditions, comparisons will be made with divination systems in African and Chinese culture. In addition the module addresses cosmological implications of divination, most fully exemplified in traditional astrology. Of equal historical significance is the theological dimension of the debate, redolent in Christianity and Islam and still potent as a matter of religious controversy. This leads finally to a consideration of the survival of astrology and divination in contemporary and popular spirituality.

MODULE FOUR Spirit and Psyche

Module Aims

The aim of this module is to explore contemporary understandings of spirit and soul, introducing the student to the question of transpersonal or spiritual reality. It aims to clarify the interrelationship between discourses concerned with spirituality and psychology, raising the question of the nature of deity, and human interaction with divine reality. From ancient mystery techniques, the reality of what we call paranormal events and experiences is articulated in a variety of ways, and this module will survey and critique key discourses. Finally, the module will consider the possibility of a

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revitalised view of the sacred as a means of cultivating a deeper sense of ecological wisdom to the world.

LEARNING JOURNAL AND SUBMISSION

The Learning Journal consists of ongoing personal reflections on the course material by each student. Students will meet as a group for a total of 20 hours at the weekend intensives during the Lent and Trinity terms to discuss and present elements of their journals. They will submit a 4,000 word extract for assessment.

CREATIVE PORTFOLIO AND CRITICAL REVIEW

The Creative Portfolio may take the form of a play, musical composition, video, artwork, personal narrative, case-study or other approved item closely relating to the course material. It will not be formally assessed but will be presented to the student's peers at a research day and will be required for successful completion of the module. Students will present a 4,000 word critical review of their project for assessment.

DISSERTATION

This module represents the culmination of the programme for those who have completed and passed all previous modules. The emphasis at this stage of the MA is on guided independent study and the writing of the dissertation. Students will develop their original research plans and implement these in the context of the broad methodological issues and particular data/evidence gathering methods appropriate to the programme.

What choices are available?



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