



INSTITUTE OF  
**SACRED  
MUSIC**  
ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE  
OXFORD



# Graduate qualifications in Worship and Liturgical Studies

Common Awards Postgraduate Diploma and MA  
Hybrid – online and residential in Oxford



**Institute of Sacred Music,  
St Stephen's House, Oxford**



# Diploma

Postgraduate Diploma in  
Worship and Liturgical Studies

1 year full time; 2 years part time

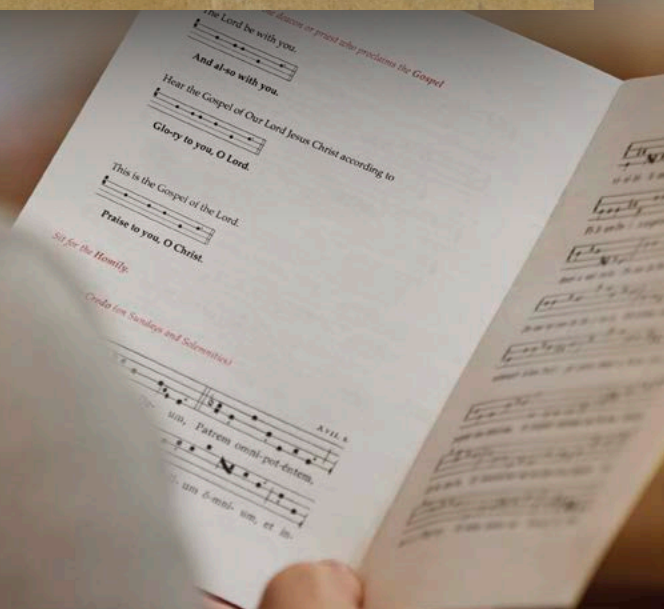




MA

MA in Worship and  
Liturgical Studies

2 years full time; 3-4 years part time







## About our programmes

These academic programmes are offered by St Stephen's House, Oxford, under the Common Awards framework validated by Durham University. St Stephen's House is an Anglican Theological College in the catholic tradition, and many of its own customs and traditions are borne from these roots. These qualifications, however, are open to any candidate who meets the admissions criteria without regard to Christian denominational affiliation or training.

Teaching is in hybrid format delivered over three terms. Michaelmas Term (October–December) is delivered online while Hilary Term (January–March) is taught in person, requiring residency in Oxford. Trinity Term (April–June) can be taken either online or in Oxford according to the student's dissertation topic or academic preferences, although residency in Oxford is recommended.



All candidates take five mandatory modules in addition to an Independent Learning Project.

## Structure of the programmes

### 1. Research and Reflection: Resources and Methods

An introduction to required and recommended resources and to methodology.

Assessment comes in the form of two 3000-word written assignments, one of which is reflective upon seminar presentations.

### 2. Reflective Practice: Christian Worship

A practice-based study of plainchant (in English and Latin) and liturgical polyphony, with self-reflective analysis. Learning methods will incorporate worship generated within St Stephen's House by the student cohort based on the service of Matins.

The module is assessed on a 6000-word Portfolio based on supervised placement.

### 3. Words and Music in Worship

A study of the ways in which music interacts with words to influence



meaning, understanding and spirituality. Learning methods will incorporate directed observational work of choral worship, especially of Choral Evensong.

This module is assessed on a 3000-word reflective journal and a thirty-minute oral presentation.

#### **4. Christian Worship and Human Community**

A study of music's power to enrich diverse human communities, embracing worship with adults and with children. This module is delivered in partnership with the Royal School of Church Music in the form of ten, two-hour lecture-seminars ('The RSCM Lectures').

Assessment is via a 5000-word essay.

#### **5. Specialist Themes in Christian Worship**

A history and introduction to liturgical theology and liturgical movements, with topics including 'Liturgy and Architecture' and 'Liturgy and Music'.

The module is assessed through a 5000-word essay.



All candidates must also elect to undertake an Independent Learning Project on an agreed subject or, exceptionally, will take an additional module in moral or sacramental theology.

Candidates for the MA will additionally write a 12,000-word dissertation on a title and abstract developed by the candidate in conjunction with college tutors and agreed by the board of examiners.

# Admissions

**E**nrolment onto courses offered by the Institute of Sacred Music, Oxford, is subject to competitive entry requirements following our admissions policy in line with guidance of the University of Durham, the awarding body for both the Diploma and the Masters degree. Candidates must hold a degree at Upper Second Class or above or at equivalent level from international universities, in line with the CA NARCIC licence. Students will also provide a recording of their singing as part of an online audition.

St Stephen's House, Oxford, was founded in 1876 as a vocational training college for graduates of Oxford and Cambridge universities. It continues to offer vocational training at graduate level but now embraces graduates from many universities within the UK and internationally.

*In partnership with the*

**RS M**  
THE ROYAL SCHOOL OF CHURCH MUSIC



INSTITUTE OF  
**SACRED  
MUSIC**  
ST STEPHEN'S HOUSE  
OXFORD



---

For more details of the courses, accommodation and costs please contact [ismo@ssho.ac.uk](mailto:ismo@ssho.ac.uk) or visit [www.ismo.ssho.org.uk](http://www.ismo.ssho.org.uk)

---