

Spiritual Accompaniment Course 2024-25 Information Sheet

Spiritual accompaniment in the Ignatian tradition is based on the assumption that God is present and active in our lives and that through reflection and prayer we can become more sensitive to this presence. Through discernment and sometimes with the accompaniment of another person, we are invited to 'find God in all things', to notice how God is drawing us in our everyday, concrete experiences and to respond to God's invitation.

Purpose of the course

This course is intended for people who wish to explore the skills and gifts of accompanying others on their spiritual journey. It draws its inspiration from the Spiritual Exercises of Ignatius of Loyola and as such is founded in the Ignatian tradition. As a broad-based course it is expected that participants will find different uses for what they learn – for example, informal spiritual conversation, prayer guiding, general use in ministry/life, beginning to offer spiritual accompaniment and retreats. A significant part of the course will involve ongoing discernment for each person about whether, and in what ways, they are called to accompany others in faith.

Topics covered in the course

Module 1: Developing a Beneficial Relationship (Supervision)

Module 2: The Transforming Work of the Spirit (Discernment)

Module 3: Standards of Practice (Codes of Behaviour)

Module 4: Spiritual Pastoral Applications.

Methods of Learning

- Input from the team
- Listening and observation in small groups (triads)
- Personal prayer and reflection
- Group and individual exercises related to accompaniment
- Small group sharing
- Reflective written work
- Guided reading
- Ongoing self-assessment and discernment with a course tutor

Spiritual Accompaniment / Direction

Participants are expected to be receiving ongoing personal spiritual accompaniment during the course and preferably to have experience of making an individually guided retreat. In addition an experiential knowledge of the process of the Spiritual Exercises will be helpful. We encourage those who have not made the Full Exercises to consider this before beginning the course.

Times and Attendance:

Saturdays 09.30 - 14.30

Sundays 14.00 – 17.30

Given the nature of the course, which includes group work and experiential training, a high degree of attendance is expected. If for any good reason a participant is prevented from attending a session, course material will be forwarded, the participant will also be helped by a meeting with other course members to discuss the material.

Further Commitment:

In addition to the Group Sessions and monthly Tutorial participants are asked to set aside about 8 hours for **Preparation and Homework** (reflection, reading, verbatims and regular conversation meetings with two or three people outside the course). This does not include time to write essays (one per module) or for general reading from the recommended reading list, extra time should be factored in for this work. Since going online Study Bubbles have become a further, voluntary feature of the course, small groups meeting each month to discuss homework and practice skills.

Financial Information

The suggested donation for this course is on our website. (A non refundable deposit is payable on acceptance). The course can be paid in stages.

ISC Bursary funding may be available or a third party grant *may* be available to participants from UK & Europe - *early application is recommended*

For further information please contact the ISC on 0141 354 0077, or 07434 657176 or admin@iscglasgow.co.uk

Dates

2024

Sept 28 & 29

Oct 19 & 20

Nov 16 & 17

Dec 7 & 8

2025

Jan 18 & 19

Feb 15 & 16

March 15 & 16

April 5 & 6

May 3 & 4 & 11



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