

Note:

The following curriculum is a consolidated version. It is legally non-binding and for informational purposes only.

The legally binding versions are found in the University of Innsbruck Bulletins (in German).

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Completed version as of 1 October 2019

Curriculum for the

Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education

at the Faculty of Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

§ 1 Qualification profile

- (1) The Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education offers an extensive education in theology and the pedagogy of religion with special emphasis on religious education of adolescents or adults, counselling and pastoral care. It is marked by a theological and multi-perspective view of education and pastoral care, didactics and guidance and it enhances the communicative and interdisciplinary skills of its graduates. Thus it prepares for professions within the church, but also in society at large that demand a complete theological academic training in connection with an education in the pedagogy of religion or in pastoral care. Education studies, subject-didactics and pedagogical-practical studies in connection with school practice complete the subject-scientific training.
- (2) The graduates in particular will have gained the following qualifications:
 - They will be able to perceive and independently attend to questions of theology with respect to religious education.
 - They will be able to explain questions of religion and systems of religious ideas that are relevant for society in the venues of secondary adolescent and of adult education.
 - They will be able to relate different religious doctrines to the centre of faith and to see their inner coherence; thus they will be able to assess church and society from the perspective of the Christian faith.
 - They will be able to independently utilize the appropriate sources and literature for their professional tasks.
 - They will be able to integrate their theological knowledge into their own personality.
- (3) The Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education prepares in particular for the following professions:
 - building on the Bachelor's Programme Catholic Religious Education for teaching religious education in all school types
 - for executive positions in non-school education, counselling and pastoral care, in psychological social services and similar professions,
 - academic occupations.

§ 2 Classification of the study programme

The Master's Programme of Catholic Religious Education is assigned to the group of theological study programmes.

§ 3 Scope and duration

The Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education amounts to 120 ECTS-Credits, which equals a duration of four semesters.

§ 4 Admission

- (1) Admission to the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education requires the completion of a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme or a subject-specific Bachelor's Programme at a University of Applied Sciences or another comparable study programme at an approved post-secondary educational institution home or abroad. The rectorate decides which of these examinations are requirements for passing the examinations specified in the curriculum of the Master's Programme.
- (2) In any case, the Bachelor's Programme Catholic Religious Education at the University of Innsbruck is considered a relevant study programme.

§ 5 Types of courses and number of participants

- (1) Courses without continuous performance assessment:
Lectures (VO) are courses held in lecture format. They introduce the research areas, methods and schools of thought for a given subject. No maximum number of participants.
- (2) Courses with continuous performance assessment:
 1. **Lectures with practical elements (VU)** focus on the practical treatment of concrete scientific tasks that are discussed during the lecture parts of the course. Maximum number of participants: 126
 2. **Seminars (SE)** provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20
 3. **Practical training courses (PR)** provide practical experience with concrete scientific tasks, complementing occupational and academic training. Maximum number of participants: 20

§ 6 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.

§ 7 Compulsory Modules

The following compulsory modules corresponding to altogether 100 ECTS-Credits must be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Ethics and Social Ethics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VU Applied Ethics The concept of applied ethics; discussion of issues of bio-ethics, animal ethics; discussion of exercises on these texts	2	3.5
b.	VO Special Issues of Christian Social Ethics Alternating discussion of topics from the fields of political ethics, business ethics and social anthropology	2	4
	Total	4	7.5

	<p>Learning Outcomes: Graduates have an awareness for ethically relevant problems in various areas of individual and social life and have the competence to critically form opinions from a philosophical and theological perspective.</p>
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>

2.	Compulsory Module: Exegesis Old Testament	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p>VO Exegesis Old Testament Detailed interpretation of selected passages from the Old Testament, applying the appropriate exegetical methods</p>	2	3.5
b.	<p>SE Exegetical Seminar Old Testament Selected passages on a common topic or from a specific author are exegetically analysed and discussed.</p>	2	4
	Total	4	7.5
	<p>Learning Outcomes: Graduates advance and expand their fundamental knowledge in biblical sciences and history of theology for Old Testament exegesis. They have the ability to independently work on Old Testament texts by applying pertinent methodology and by using appropriate commentaries and secondary literature.</p>		
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>		

3.	Compulsory Module: Exegesis New Testament	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	<p>VO Exegesis New Testament Translation of selected passages of the New Testament from the original Greek and interpretation according to established methodical procedures</p>	2	3.5
b.	<p>SE Exegetical Seminar New Testament Selected passages or motifs from single books, groups of testament books or topics in bible theology</p>	2	4
	Total	4	7.5
	<p>Learning Outcomes: Graduates advance and expand their fundamental knowledge in New Testament exegetical working acquired in the Introduction and Fundamental Exegesis of the New Testament as well as in the introductory seminar in bible studies and history of theology. They have the ability to independently work on New Testament texts by applying pertinent methodology and by using appropriate commentaries and secondary literature.</p>		
	<p>Prerequisites: none</p>		

4.	Compulsory Module: Systematic Theology	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Ecumenical Theology: Ecumenical Dialogue Today Overview of documents of increasing correspondence (bi- and multilateral)	1	2.5
b.	VO Dogmatic Theology III: The Faith of the Church with Regard to the Drama of the World Dogmatic view of the community of faith “ad extra” (creation and original sin doctrine as well as eschatology) with regard to the cultural climate between technical progress optimism and apocalyptic doomsday mood; Beyond the lecture, the independent study of selected contemporary literature in this area is required.	2	4
c.	SE Moral Theology: Gender Ethics Ethical relevance of the order category sex/gender in social, theological and ecclesial contexts are dealt with on the basis of changing thematic foci: gender-specific experiences and constructions of value and sin; lifestyle; work processes; family; generations; violence	2	3
d.	VO Fundamental Theology IV: Reflection on Fundamental Theology Selected issues and their importance for the current challenges for the Christian faith from the following topics: analysis of belief and credibility realisation; history of theological forms of argumentation; Christianity and culture; theological hermeneutics (in particular feminist theology); contribution of Christianity to a more human world; theodicy; current topics in apologetics	1	3
	Total	6	12.5
Learning Outcomes: Graduates have advanced fundamental knowledge in the context of individual issues of the canon of the respective specialist discipline or current issues.			
Prerequisites: none			

5.	Compulsory Module: Life and Teachings of the Church	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Dogmatic Theology: Thematic Focus on the Basis of Pertinent Academic Literature Selected topics from the field of dogmatic theology	2	4
b.	VO Overarching Topics in Dogmatic Theology Alternating discussion of thematic foci overlapping the dogmatic tracts: man in the field of tension of sin and grace; freedom of God and freedom of man; trinity as basic model of Christian understanding of reality; representation and judgment; “sacrifice” as basic theological category; “person” as basic theological category	2	2.5
c.	VO Liturgics and Theology of the Sacraments II: Celebrations according to the Rhythm of Time Alternating overview of the development and theological significance (a) of the Easter celebration as central liturgical celebration in the church year and (b) the liturgy of the hours as the order of daily prayers of the church	2	3
d.	VO Patrology: Christology and Trinitarian Theology Overview of patristic literature based on the development of trinitarian and Christological dogmas	2	3
	Total	8	12.5

	Learning Outcomes: Graduates have advanced fundamental knowledge of exemplary areas of the teaching of the Church, its historical development and the liturgical celebrations during the day and the year.
	Prerequisites: none

6.	Compulsory Module: Ministry of the Word and Pastoral Care	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Homiletics Preconditions of preaching today; introduction to different kinds of sermons; practical introduction to biblical preaching	2	3
b.	SE Canon Law: Ministry of the Word and Pastoral Care Canonical norms of different forms of the ministry of the word and the magisterium of the church	1	2
	Total	3	5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates possess competences with regard to preaching and canonical foundations of preaching and pastoral care.		
	Prerequisites: none		

7.	Compulsory Module: Canon Law and School Education	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Canon Law: The People of God Legal structure of the church as <i>communio</i> ; the responsibilities of all Christian believers, the pope, the bishops, priests, deacons, and the synodal and conciliar bodies on the different levels of the church	2	2.5
b.	VO Canon Law: Marriage Law Norms of ecclesial marriage law	2	3
c.	VO Canonical Fundamentals of Education, Counselling and Pastoral Care Fundamental legal framework of ecclesial education and pastoral care as well as of religious education	1	2
	Total	5	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates are fundamentally familiar with the ecclesial or religious-legal norms of the church's constitutional structure, of marriage and education, school, counselling and pastoral care. They acquire the ability to recognise and evaluate the relevance of these norms for current practical challenges.		
	Prerequisites: none		

8.	Compulsory Module: Interreligious Religious Pedagogy	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Interreligious Research-Oriented Religious Pedagogy Science-theoretical and methodological fundamentals for the conceptualisation of interreligious education in the context of school and non-school educational fields; discussion of current research results on interreligious discourses; concepts of interreligious educational processes	2	2

b.	SE Interreligious Research-Oriented Religious Pedagogy Discussion of religious-pedagogical and didactical issues from the perspective of different religions; plurality and difference taking into account inclusive approaches; critical perspectives on common concepts of interreligious professionalization and competence	2	3
	Total	4	5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates are able to conceptualise research in school and non-school educational fields. They are competent in dealing with models of interreligious education. They are able to integrate current research results in their teaching and learning concepts. Graduates are competent in dealing with differences and in interreligious discourses.		
	Prerequisites: none		

9.	Compulsory Module: Subject Didactics and Pedagogical Practical Studies I	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Subject Didactics I Introduction to basic conditions and basic didactical skills for religious education at schools (age group 10 – 15 years); relevant curricula of the subject and religious school books; designing of annual plans and competence-based teaching units; conception of gender-sensitive and age-appropriate teaching and learning process with particular consideration of the interreligious perspective; performance evaluation in religious education, basic issues of pastoral care at schools	2	2
b.	PR Practical Training I Practical experience by observation of, planning of, holding of and reflecting on religious education classes for 10 to 15-year old pupils.	2	3
	Total	4	5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates know the framework of religious education at secondary level I schools. They have subject-didactical competences in competence-oriented planning, guidance and evaluation of religious teaching and learning processes.		
	Prerequisites: none		

10.	Compulsory Module: Subject Didactics and Pedagogical Practical Studies II	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Subject Didactics for Secondary Schools Social and ecclesial context of religious education at AHS and BMHS-type schools; relevant curricula; planning over the period of a year and of concrete lessons; diverse ways of learning and teaching; evaluation and grading in religious education; special issues of pastoral care at schools	2	3
b.	PR Practical Training II Sitting in on classes for 14 to 19-year old pupils	2	4.5
	Total	4	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates know the framework conditions for teaching religious education at secondary schools II (among other things with view of disability, cultural aspects, gender, social inequality, interreligious aspects). They acquire the basic subject-didactical skills for competence-based planning, implementing and evaluation teaching and learning processes at school.		

Prerequisites: none

11.	Compulsory Module: Theology and Subject-Specific-Education	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	SE Didactics of Non-School Education Different concepts of non-school education in particular in the field of parish catechesis; criteria for non-school educational action and implementation to practice	2	4
b.	SE Cooperative Religious Didactics II Fundamentals and criteria for religious-didactic action in cooperation with another specialist discipline; discussion of religious-didactic topics from an interreligious perspective	2	3.5
c.	VU Didactics of Religion – Advanced Level Differentiated insight into religious-didactic and subject-didactic concepts with their respective background theories; exemplary advanced study of individual approaches in their theoretical/practical contexts	2	3
d.	SE Concluding Seminar Reflection on one's own theological, religious-didactical and personal study biography with regards to one's own professional practice; development of own religious-pedagogical or pastoral perspectives	2	2
	Total	8	12.5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates are able to evaluate the religious-pedagogical and didactic quality of non-school educational processes, in particular with regards to parish catechesis. They are able to conceptualise topics from an interreligious perspective. They have the competence to reflect on and further develop their own professionalisation. They acquire fundamental skills for interdisciplinary working in educational and pastoral care processes.		
	Prerequisites: for compulsory module 11 lit. d positive completion of compulsory modules 9 and 10		

12.	Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis	h	ECTS-Credits
	Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a brief summary of the contents (abstract) as well as agreement on the work processes and the study progress. Planning of an appropriate time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis.	-	7.5
	Total	-	7.5
	Learning Outcomes: After successful completion of this module, the students will be able to write a brief summary of the content of the planned Master's Thesis (abstract), to outline an anticipated schedule and to conclude a written Master's Thesis agreement.		
	Prerequisites: none		

13.	Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence	h	ECTS-Credits
	Master's Thesis Defence		2.5
	Total		2.5
	Learning Outcomes: Graduates are able to present their Master's Thesis, to defend the results and to answer questions arising in the discussion.		
	Prerequisites: positive completion of compulsory modules 1 – 11 as well as the Master's Thesis		

§ 8 Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's Thesis is to document the ability to independently work on a theological topic in a methodologically and thematically responsible way.
- (2) The topic of the Master's Thesis has to be thematically connected to one of the modules of the master programme.
- (3) The Master's Thesis corresponds to a workload of 20 ECTS-Credits. To enable the students to complete writing the Master's Thesis within 6 months (corresponds to 30 ECTS-Credits) acc. to §81 (2) Universities Act, the students must pass the "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" (corresponding to 7.5 ECTS-Credits) prior to working on their Master's Thesis (20 ECTS-Credits). The study programme is completed with the Master's Thesis Defence (corresponding to 2.5 ECTS-Credits).
- (4) The Master's Thesis has to be submitted in written form and in an electronic form to be determined by the Dean of Studies.

§ 9 Examination regulations

- (1) Compulsory modules 1 to 11 are completed by the positive grading of each of the courses within the module.
- (2) In the case of exams of lectures, the teacher has to determine and announce the method of the examination (oral or written) before the start of the lecture series.
- (3) In courses with continuous performance assessment, the criteria of examination, which have to include a written paper, have to be determined and announced by the teacher before the start of the course.
- (4) The compulsory module "Preparation of the Master's Thesis" is evaluated by the supervisor of the Master's Thesis based on an exposé. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluation "unsuccessfully completed".
- (5) The Master's Thesis Defence concluding the study programme has a duration of approximately 30 minutes per candidate. The examination method is oral, evaluation is made by an examiner which is consulted by the Director of Studies for examinations according to the valid study law regulations.
- (6) For examinations the regulations of the Universities' Act 2002 of the statutes of the University of Innsbruck apply.

§ 10 Academic Degree

The graduates of the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education receive the degree „Master of Arts“, abbreviated „MA“.

§ 11 Coming into force

- (1) This curriculum comes into force on October 1, 2009.
- (2) Modification of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 31 May 2012, Issue 29, No 310, is effective as of 1 October 2012 and applies to all students.
- (3) Modification of the curriculum published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 7 May 2015, Issue 35, No 398, is effective as of 1 October 2015 and applies to all students.
- (4) The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 May 2018, Issue 46, No. 408 come into force on October 1 2018 and are to be applied to all students.
- (5) The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 67, No. 598 come into effect on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.

§ 12 Transition Regulations

- (1) Ordinary students who began the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education prior to October 1, 2009, are entitled to complete that programme within a maximum period of five semesters.
- (2) If the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education is not completed within that period, the students are subject to this new curriculum of the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education.
- (3) Students are entitled to voluntarily transfer to the new Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education at any time.
- (4) The rules for the recognition of examination results is laid out in the appendix to this curriculum, according to § 78 Abs. 1 UG 2002
- (5) The course examinations according to the curriculum for the Master's Programme Catholic Religious Education in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 13 February 2009, issue 23, no. 129, correspond to the respective course examinations of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin from 31 May 2012, issue 29, no. 310, as follows:

Curriculum from 13 February 2009, issue 23, No 129	h	ECTS Credits	Curriculum from 31 May 2012, issue 29, No 310	h	ECTS Credits
PR Special Practical Training: Secondary Schools and	3	3	PR Special Practical Training and Student Teaching Supervision: Secondary Schools	4	4
PR Supervision of the Teaching Practice in Secondary Schools	1	1			
KU Project Development: Communicative Education, Counseling and Pastoral Care	2	5	SE Project Development: Communicative Education, Counseling and Pastoral Care	2	5

- (6) An equivalence list will be separately published.