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Curriculum for the  
**Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion**  
at the Faculty for Catholic Theology of the University of Innsbruck

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## **§ 1 Allocation of the study programme**

The Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion is allocated to the group of theological study programmes.

## **§ 2 Qualification profile and programme objectives**

- (1) The Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion is an in-depth philosophical education for the examination of fundamental issues relating to questions of people relating to worldview and religion. It provides the competence to examine the phenomenon of religion in its various aspects at the highest theoretical level from the perspective of the individual philosophical disciplines and in dialogue with other sciences.
- (2) The Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion imparts the competence to connect important religious and philosophical traditions with representative contemporary positions and can thus be the basis for innovative approaches. It aims at an independent and factually sound ability to judge in the "big questions" of philosophy of religion in history and the present, which takes into account the peculiarity of the rationality of worldviews as well as worldview-related and interreligious dialogue. Graduates acquire the competence to elaborate and present the relevance of theoretical issues both for their own life design and with regard to social responsibility.
- (3) The contents and structures of the Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion also determine its fields of application and professional qualifications. The combination of the Master's Programme in Philosophy of Religion at the Faculty of Catholic Theology with a theological study programme is an ideal option. The teaching of key qualifications, such as specialised orientation knowledge in an intercultural context, the special ability to analyse critically, to take a stand that is comprehensible in terms of argumentation and scientifically justified, also in the socio-cultural and political field, is to be emphasised. For it is precisely there that competence and sensitivity with regard to religious plurality and interreligious dialogue play an increasingly important role. Graduates can take on higher-level tasks requiring special qualifications in the fields of education, media, publishing and administration. The Master's programme also qualifies students to work in interdisciplinary projects.
- (4) The master's programme also imparts knowledge and skills that enable students to carry out highly qualified and independent research work within the framework of the PhD programme of the Faculty of Catholic Theology or another subject-related doctoral programme.

## **§ 3 Scope and duration of the study programme**

The Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion covers 120 ECTS-Credits. This corresponds to a duration of the study programme of four semesters. One ECTS-Credit corresponds to a workload of 25 hours.

## **§ 4 Language**

The Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion is offered in English.

## **§ 5 Admission**

- (1) The admission to the Master's Programme Philosophy of Religion requires the completion of a subject-specific bachelor's or diploma programme or a subject-relevant bachelor's programme passed at a university of applied sciences or another equivalent degree programme at a recognised post-secondary educational institution home or abroad acc. to §64 par. 3 of the Universities Act 2002, BGB I, No. 120 in the currently valid version.
- (2) The Bachelor's Programmes Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology and at the Faculty of Language, Literature and Culture, the Diploma Programme Catholic Theology, the Bachelor's Programme Catholic Religious Education as well as the Secondary School Teacher Programme (General Education) if at least one of the subjects of Ethics, Islamic Religion or Catholic Religion was selected, are in any case relevant study programmes.

## § 6 Types of courses and maximum number of students per course

(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:

**Seminars** (SE) provide in-depth treatment of scientific topics through students' presentations and discussion thereof. Maximum number of participants: 20.

## § 7 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

In courses with a limited number of participants, the places are allocated as follows:

1. Students for whom the study duration would be extended due to the postponement are to be given priority.
2. If the criterium in no. 1 does not suffice, then first students who take this course as part of a compulsory module and secondly students for whom this course is part of an elective module are given a place.
3. If the criteria in no. 1 and no. 2 do not suffice to regulate the admission, then the available places are drawn at random.

## § 8 Compulsory and elective modules

(1) The following compulsory modules covering altogether 67.5 ECTS-Credits are to be passed:

1.	Compulsory Module: Foundations of Philosophy of Religion	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO The Big Questions in Philosophy of Religion	2	5
b.	SE Classical Texts in the Philosophy of Religion	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have acquired specialised knowledge of the main questions in the philosophy of religion, among other things, the logical-epistemological status of religious beliefs, the justifiability of statements about the existence and attributes of God, the structure of arguments critical of religion. They have the competence to interpret classical texts in philosophy of religion independently, appropriately and methodically, to analyse them in terms of content and argumentation structures and to show the connections to their metaphysical, anthropological and other background conditions.</p>			
<p><b>Prerequisites:</b> none</p>			

2.	Compulsory Module: Faith and Reason	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Epistemology and Religion	2	5
b.	SE Science and Religion	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have the competence to correctly classify and appropriately present questions from the current epistemological and scientific-theoretical discussions about the contents, structures and justifications of religious convictions. They are able to analyse similarities and differences between religious and other forms of discourse at a high theoretical level and are able to justifiably criticise problematic claims to validity, especially in the border area between natural science and religion.</p>			

	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none
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<b>3.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Critical Analysis of Worldviews</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language and Religion</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Classical and Contemporary Criticism of Religion</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have the competence to recognise, logically analyse and present the connections between religious beliefs, their linguistic forms of expression and the metaphysical assumptions that shape different worldviews at a high level of analysis. They know the main lines of criticism of religion and its argumentative structures, can work out analogous structures in today's discussions and develop their own well-founded positions on these issues.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

<b>4.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Contemporary Philosophy of Religion</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Detailed Aspects of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Texts of Contemporary Philosophy of Religion</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have specialised knowledge in selected sub-topics of the current philosophy of religion. They have the competence to critically analyse representative texts from these areas and to relate their contents appropriately to each other, but also to relevant other philosophical areas (such as logic, ontology, philosophy of mind).			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

<b>5.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: The Philosophy of Religious Traditions</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Jewish and Islamic Philosophy</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Philosophy of the Religions</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have the competence to present the main directions of Jewish and Islamic philosophy as well as their relations to Western philosophy and their development in an appropriate manner. They are able to examine representative texts from other religious traditions (e.g. Buddhism, Hinduism, Daoism, Confucianism) for their philosophical background assumptions and to make methodologically correct intercultural comparisons.			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

<b>6.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Religion, Culture and Society</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
<b>a.</b>	<b>VO Religion, Culture and Society</b>	2	5
<b>b.</b>	<b>SE Philosophical Approaches to Inclusion and Diversity</b>	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have the competence for an in-depth philosophical analysis of the mutual relations between religious beliefs and practices, cultural and socio-political contexts as well as gender relations. They are able to include normative aspects of social responsibility, sustainability, gender and sensitivity for inclusion in this analysis. They have specialised knowledge of past and current important philosophical attempts to do justice to different forms of gender and other kinds of diversity.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>7.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Preparation of the Master's Thesis</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>Preparation of the Master's Thesis</b> Agreement on the topic, the scope and the form of the Master's Thesis on the basis of a short description of the content (synopsis) as well as agreement on the work process and the progress in the study programme; planning of an appropriate time frame for the completion of the Master's Thesis		5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able of structuring their research project provisionally in terms of content and method.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

<b>8.</b>	<b>Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence</b>	<b>h</b>	<b>ECTS-Credits</b>
	<b>Master's Thesis Defence</b>		2.5
	<b>Total</b>		<b>2.5</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students are able to present the main results of their Master's Thesis and to defend the thesis in a scientific discussion.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> positive evaluation of compulsory modules 1 to 7, the elective modules as well as the Master's Thesis		

(2) Elective modules covering altogether 30 ECTS-Credits are to be passed.

1.	Elective Module: Philosophy of the Good Life	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Conceptions of the Good Life	2	5
b.	SE Philosophy, Religion, Spirituality	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have the competence to analyse in-depth important ancient, medieval and modern answers to the philosophical core question of what characterises a good life. They can recognise the cross-connections of these answers to philosophical questions e.g. in anthropology, ontology, ethics and social philosophy and present them at a high theoretical level. They are able to analyse the relevance of different ways to understand spirituality for a good life.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

2.	Elective Module: Religion and Ethics	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Religion and Ethics	2	5
b.	SE Religion and Ethics	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students have the competence to identify possible connections of religious and non-religious worldviews with questions of general and applied ethics and to analyse them on a high theoretical level. They are able to work out patterns of argumentation and present them in an appropriate manner, as well as independently develop reasoned opinions in these areas.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

3.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Aspects of Philosophy of Religion	h	ECTS-Credits
a.	VO Interdisciplinary Aspects of Philosophy of Religion	2	5
b.	SE Interdisciplinary Aspects of Philosophy of Religion	2	5
	<b>Total</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>10</b>
<p><b>Learning Outcomes:</b> The students are able to analyse problems and suggestions for solutions in border areas between philosophy of religion and selected other sciences, such as biology, physics, sociology of religion, educational studies, ethnology, psychology of religion or cognition studies in-depth and in a scientifically sound manner. They are able to present the different methodologies of the relevant sciences in an appropriate manner. They can explain the limits of their respective claims to validity and thus arrive at independent, differentiating opinions on complex interdisciplinary questions in the field of religion.</p>			
<b>Prerequisites:</b> none			

4.	Elective Module: Individual Choice of Specialisation	h	ECTS-Credits
	Freely selected courses and/or modules with a recognisable thematic connection corresponding to altogether 10 ECTS-Credits are to be passed from the curricula of the master's and diploma programmes offered acc. to §54 par. 1 Universities Act at the University of Innsbruck. The registration prerequisites specified by the respective curricula must be met.	-	10
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>10</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have acquired complementary competences of their own choice.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

5.	Elective Module: Interdisciplinary Skills	h	ECTS-Credits
	Freely selected courses and/or modules covering altogether 20 ECTS-Credits are to be passed from the curricula of the master's or diploma programmes offered at the University of Innsbruck or from curricula from post-secondary educational institutions home or abroad. The registration prerequisites specified by the respective curricula must be met.	-	20
	<b>Total</b>	-	<b>20</b>
	<b>Learning Outcomes:</b> Students have acquired complementary competences of their own choice.		
	<b>Prerequisites:</b> none		

- (3) Within the scope of the “Individual Choice of Specialisation” (elective module 4) and “Interdisciplinary Skills (elective module 5), a Minor for master's programmes may be passed, providing the availability of places. Minors are fixed modules from other disciplines covering 30 ECTS-Credits. They are announced in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin.
- (4) For study achievements in “Individual Choice of Specialisation” (elective module 4) and “Interdisciplinary Skills” (elective module 5) it is recommended to include courses and/or modules in which knowledge from gender studies, women or gender research is dealt with if possible.

## § 9 Master's Thesis

- (1) The Master's Thesis is a scientific piece of work which serves to prove the student's ability work on a scientific topic independently and competently with regards to content and methodology.
- (2) The topic of the Master's Thesis must be related to one of the compulsory modules of the master's programme.
- (3) The Master's Thesis covers a workload of 22.5 ECTS-Credits. To enable the students to work on the task of the Master's Thesis within six months (corresponds to 30 ECTS-Credits) according to §81 par. 2 Universities Act, the scientific paper is in any case to be preceded by the “Preparation of the Master's Thesis” (corresponding to 5 ECTS-Credits)
- (4) The completed Master's Thesis must be handed in in electronic form and in the written form specified by the Director of Studies.

## **§ 10 Examination regulations**

- (1) Compulsory modules 1 to 6 as well as the elective modules 1 to 3 are completed by the positive evaluation of its individual courses in the form of course examinations. The grades for these modules are calculated based on §6 par. 5 of the Study Law Regulations part of the statutes of the University of Innsbruck.
- (2) In the case of course examinations for lectures (VO), the course instructor has to determine and announce the examination method (written and/or oral) before the start of the lectures.
- (3) In the case of seminars (SE), the evaluation criteria are determined and announced by the course instructor before the start of the course.
- (4) The performance evaluation for the courses of elective modules 4 and 5 or the modules resp. depends on the regulations of the resp. curriculum.
- (5) The performance of compulsory module 7 is evaluated by the supervisor based on the synopsis. Positive evaluation reads “successfully completed”, negative evaluation reads “unsuccessfully completed”.
- (6) The final Master’s Thesis Defence takes 30 minutes per candidate and is an individual examination. The examination method is oral.

## **§ 11 Academic degree**

The graduates of the Master’s Programme Philosophy of Religion receive the academic degree “Master of Philosophy”, abbreviated “M.phil”.

## **§ 12 Coming into force**

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2022.

## **§ 13 Transitional provisions**

- (1) This curriculum applies to all students commencing the Master’s Programme Philosophy of Religion at the Faculty for Catholic Theology as of the 2022/23 winter semester.
- (2) Regular degree students, who have started the Master’s Programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Innsbruck based on the curriculum of 2009, published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 13 February 2009, Issue 24, No. 130, last changed as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 67, No. 599, are entitled to finish this study programme within a maximum of six semesters.
- (3) If the Master’s Programme Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology acc. to the curriculum of 2009 is not finished in time, the students are subject to the curriculum for the Master’s Programme Philosophy of Religion at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, published in the University of Innsbruck Bulletin on 10 June 2022, Issue 53, No. 572. Also, the students are entitled to subject to the curriculum of the Master’s Programme Philosophy of Religion at the Faculty of Catholic Theology on a voluntary basis any time.