**Completed version as of 1 October 2019**

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

### § 1 Qualification profile and programme objectives

(1) The Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology serves the purpose of ensuring a philosophical education that builds on the Bachelor's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology in consideration of the basic religious questions of the human person.

(2) The Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology provides students with a highly specialized knowledge of orientation with regard to an overall view of philosophical disciplines, to philosophy's interdisciplinary dialogue with other sciences and with special regard to the aim that philosophical thinking forms the basis of well-founded and scientifically reflected beliefs and enables to take a critically reflected position.

(3) In accordance with these tasks and objectives the Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology provides a specialized education in philosophy that takes into account the most important traditional strands of philosophy as well as representative contemporary positions; thus it can be viewed as the basis for innovative intellectual approaches. Emphasis is laid on the core subjects of Theoretical and Practical Philosophy, on a thorough analysis of the history of philosophy and on the analysis of the peculiarity of the rationality of world views and dialogue on world views.

(4) These contents and structures of the Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology also define its fields of application and the professional qualifications achieved. A combination with a theological programme, in particular with the Diploma of Catholic Theology, presents itself as an enriching possibility. Moreover the Master's Degree also provides its own professional qualification in the sense of § 51 Para 2 No 4 UA 2002 for occupations that require leadership and coordination of complex and unforeseen concepts of work or learning. Special emphasis is placed on key qualifications, such as highly specialized orientation knowledge, the special ability analyse critically, and to argue in a plausible and academically responsible way, also in the areas of society and culture, the media and politics. The graduates are able to pursue tasks requiring higher and specialized qualifications in education, publishing and administration, in particular in ecclesiastical organizations. The Master's Programme provides opportunities for contributing to interdisciplinary projects, for example in projects dealing with the fundamentals of particular sciences.

## § 2 Classification

The Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology is assigned to the group of theological study programmes.

## § 3 Scope and Duration

The Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology amounts to 120 ECTS-credits, which equals a duration of four semesters.

## § 4 Admission

(1) To be admitted to the Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology the completion of a relevant Bachelor's programme at a university or a university of applied sciences or an equivalent study programme at an acknowledged university or post-secondary educational institution home or abroad is required. If equivalency is given in principle, and only a few elements are missing for full equivalency, the rector's office is entitled to combine the equivalency with the obligation to pass certain examinations during the course of the master's programme.

(2) The Bachelor's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology at the University of Innsbruck is in any case a relevant study programme in the sense of paragraph 1.

## § 5 Types of courses and maximum 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. Maximum number of participants: 126

(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

## §6 Admission procedures for the admission to courses with a limited number of participants

Students, the study time of whom would be prolonged without admission to the course, are given priority for admission.

## §7 Compulsory and Elective Modules

(1) Compulsory modules

The following 11 compulsory modules covering altogether 77.5 ECTS-credits must be passed:

| 1. | Compulsory Module: Theoretical Philosophy I | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **VO Systematic and Fundamental Questions in Theoretical Philosophy (Transdisciplinary)** <br> Interdisciplinary elaboration of important topics and problems of theoretical philosophy | 2 | 4 |
| b. | **SE Key Texts in Theoretical Philosophy** <br> Reading of texts for discussing basic problems of theoretical philosophy in an interdisciplinary way | 2 | 4 |
| c. | **VU Theoretical Philosophy – Basics and Application** <br> Discussion on the applications of the basics of theoretical philosophy | 1 | 2 |
| | **Total** | **5** | **10** |

| | **Learning Outcomes:** |
|---|---|
| | Specialised problem solving skills in the area of theoretical philosophy for gaining new insights, especially for integrating current research approaches from different disciplines of theoretical philosophy. |
| | **Prerequisites:** none |

| 2. | **Compulsory Module: Practical Philosophy I** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **VO Systematic and Fundamental Questions in Practical Philosophy (Transdisciplinary)**<br>Interdisciplinary elaboration of important topics and problems of practical philosophy | 2 | 4 |
| b. | **SE Key Texts in Practical Philosophy**<br>Reading of texts for discussing basic problems of practical philosophy in an interdisciplinary way | 2 | 4 |
| c. | **VU Practical Philosophy - Basics and Application**<br>Discussion on the applications of the basics of practical philosophy | 1 | 2 |
| | **Total** | **5** | **10** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Specialised problem solving skills in the area of theoretical philosophy for gaining new insights, especially for integrating current research approaches from different disciplines of practical philosophy | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 3. | **Compulsory Module: History of Philosophical Problems I** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **VU Special Topics in History of Philosophy (Transdisciplinary)**<br>Presentation of topics from the history of philosophy that are relevant for several philosophical disciplines, in conjunction with independent contributions by the students | 2 | 3.5 |
| b. | **SE Key Texts in History of Philosophy**<br>Readings of original historical texts with special emphasis on their relevance for current philosophical discussions | 2 | 4 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Students are able to deal in-depth with the leading topics and approaches of the history of philosophy with view of current systematic discussions | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 4. | **Compulsory Module: Weltanschauung and Dialogue: Philosophical and Theological Issues in Interdisciplinary Dialogue** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **VO The Rationality of Religious Ideas**<br>Analysis of the peculiarity of the rationality of religious world views if compared to and distinguished from rationality in other areas, e.g. the natural sciences | 2 | 4 |

| b. | **VU The Praxis of Dialogue about Systems of Ideas** Presentation of the structural elements of dialogue on world views with special consideration of dialogue with persons having different views of the world; practicing of critical dialogue on world views | 2 | 3.5 |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:** Ability to participate in a critical dialogue on world views in special consideration of the understanding of the peculiarity of rationality in world views in general and religious world views in particular | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 5. | **Compulsory Module: Gender-Specific Aspects** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **PS Gender-specific Aspects in Philosophical and Theological Disciplines** General introduction to theories of gender; insights into gender research and feminist research in philosophical and theological disciplines with the example of alternating selected subjects | 2 | 2.5 |
| | **Total** | **2** | **2.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:** Awareness of and reflection on gender-specific aspects in the philosophical and theological disciplines | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 6. | **Compulsory Module: Theoretical Philosophy II** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **SE Master Seminar: Metaphysics - Theology - Philosophy of Religion** This seminar elaborates on central topics of metaphysics, philosophical theology and the philosophy of religion; these are presented and discussed with regard to the current state of philosophical research and analysed by the students themselves under the supervision of the teacher; special interest is placed on current questions (e.g. criticism of religion). | 3 | 7.5 |
| | **Total** | **3** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:** Ability to academically analyse questions of metaphysics, philosophical theology and the philosophy of religion with special regard to the development of a critical awareness of contemporary problems within these disciplines, as well as at their intersections. | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 7. | **Compulsory Module: Theoretical Philosophy III** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **SE Master Seminar: Philosophical Anthropology** Central topics of philosophical anthropology (classical and current) are elaborated, presented with regards to the current state of research, discussed and analysed by the students under the supervision of the lecturer; Special focus is on the current naturalism debates. | 3 | 7.5 |
| | **Total** | **3** | **7.5** |

| | **Learning Outcomes:** Ability to academically analyse problems of philosophical anthropology in special consideration of the development of a critical awareness of current problems within this discipline, but also in the overlapping areas to other disciplines, e.g. empirical psychology. |
| --- | --- |
| | **Prerequisites:** none |

| 8. | **Compulsory Module: Theoretical Philosophy IV** | h | ECTS-Credits |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | **SE Master Seminar: Philosophy of Knowledge and Cognition** Central themes of epistemology, the theory of science and logic are elaborated, presented with regards to the current state of research, discussed and analysed by the students under the supervision of the lecturer; special focus is placed on interdisciplinary applications. | 3 | 7.5 |
| | **Total** | **3** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:** Ability to academically analyse problems of epistemology, the theory of science and logic in consideration of the development of a critical awareness of current problems within these disciplines, as well as their overlapping areas. | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 9. | **Compulsory Module: Practical Philosophy II** | h | ECTS-Credits |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| | **SE Master Seminar: Ethics - Social Philosophy - Political Philosophy** Central themes of the key areas of practical philosophy (e.g. ethics, social, cultural and political philosophy) are elaborated, presented with regards to the current state of philosophical research, discussed and analysed by the students under the supervision of the lecturer; main focus is on practical application. | 3 | 7.5 |
| | **Total** | **3** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:** Ability to academically analyse problems of ethics, social and political philosophy in special consideration of the development of a critical awareness of current problems within these disciplines as well as their overlapping areas. | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 10. | **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 | | |
|---|---|---|---|

| 11. | **Compulsory Module: Master's Thesis Defence** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
|---|---|---|---|
| | **Master's Thesis Defence** | - | 2.5 |
| | **Total** | **-** | **2.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Ability to present one's Master's Thesis, to defend it and to respond to questions arising in discussion | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** positive evaluation of the compulsory modules 1 to 9, the elective modules and the Master's Thesis | | |

(2)   Elective modules
Elective modules covering 22.5 ECTS-Credits must be passed. Depending on the subject of the Master's Thesis one of the elective modules 1 to 3 must be selected (see §8 para. 2). Additionally the following elective modules must be chosen from: elective modules 3a and 3b, elective module 4, elective modules 5 and 6 or elective module 7

| 1. | **Elective Module: History of Philosophical Problems II** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **SE History of Philosophy - Special Topics I**<br>Analysis and discussion of selected topics in the history of philosophy in consideration of the participants' first research results | 2 | 4 |
| b. | **VU History of Philosophy - Special Topics II**<br>Presentation of the current state of research with regards to selected topics of the history of philosophy, integrating the participants' own contributions | 3 | 3.5 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Ability to academically discuss selected topics of the history of philosophy, utilizing the results of most recent research with regards to developing a Master's Thesis | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 2. | **Elective Module: Theoretical Philosophy V** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **SE Theoretical Philosophy - Special Topics I**<br>Analysis and discussion of selected topics of theoretical philosophy in consideration of participants' first research results | 2 | 4 |
| b. | **VU Theoretical Philosophy - Special Topics II**<br>Presentation of the current state of research with respect to selected topics of theoretical philosophy integrating participants' own contributions | 2 | 3.5 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Ability to academically discuss selected topics of theoretical philosophy, utilizing the results of most recent research with regards to developing a Master's Thesis | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 3. | **Elective Module: Practical Philosophy III** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **SE Practical Philosophy - Special Topics I**<br>Analysis and discussion of selected topics of practical philosophy in consideration of participants' first research results | 2 | 4 |
| b. | **VU Practical Philosophy - Special Topics II**<br>Presentation of the current state of research with respect to selected topics of practical philosophy integrating participants' own contributions | 2 | 3.5 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Ability to academically discuss selected topics of practical philosophy, utilizing the results of most recent research with regards to developing a Master's Thesis | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 3a. | **Elective Module: Special Questions in Contemporary Philosophy** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **VO Contemporary Philosophy**<br>In-depth presentation of selected themes and theories of contemporary philosophy | 2 | 3.5 |
| b. | **SE Contemporary Philosophy**<br>In-depth discussion of some essential questions and theories of contemporary philosophy. Discussions, presentations and written papers and possibly excursions are part of this seminar. | 2 | 4 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Advancing and widening of knowledge of selected themes and theories of contemporary philosophy; Students are able to relate selected problems and theories of contemporary philosophy to each other with the help of presentations and texts, to analyse them in the context of current debates in research, question them independently and further develop them in the historic context. | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| 3b. | **Elective Module: Intercultural Philosophy** | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|
| a. | **VO Intercultural Philosophy**<br>In-depth presentation of selected problems and theories of intercultural philosophy regarding philosophical-historical and/or systematic aspects | 2 | 3.5 |
| b. | **SE Intercultural Philosophy**<br>In-depth discussion of selected problems and theories of intercultural philosophy regarding philosophy-historical and/or systematic aspects. Discussions, presentations, written papers and possibly excursions are part of this seminar. | 2 | 4 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |

| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Advancing and widening of knowledge of selected problems and theories of intercultural philosophy; creating of an awareness of the problems relating to intercultural philosophy; hermeneutic and comparative competence; ability to analyse selected problems and theories of intercultural philosophy, question them independently and related them to current social problems; |
| --- | --- |
| | **Prerequisites:** none |

| **4.** | **Elective Module: Biblical Languages** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **a.** | **VO Biblical Greek I**<br>The most important fundamentals (vocabulary, grammatical phenomena) for translating easy to intermediately difficult texts from Greek into German; important historical, literary and cultural facts conveyed by texts | 4 | 5 |
| **b.** | **VO Biblical Greek II**<br>Advancing and widening the knowledge in Greek vocabulary and grammar; translation of exemplary biblical texts and selected historical, literary and philosophical ancient texts | 4 | 5 |
| **c.** | **VO Biblical Hebrew I**<br>Fundamentals of the script of the Hebrew Bible; reading and writing words and texts in Hebrew in the Masoretic script (consonant-based text with vocalizations, basic knowledge of accentuation); theoretical and practical elements of Hebrew (frequent biblical words and idioms) | 1 | 2 |
| **d.** | **VO Biblical Hebrew II**<br>Overview of Hebrew grammar: syntax, basic paradigm of the forms of verbs and nouns (irregular verb in all principal forms, overview of the most frequent regular forms, nouns, personal pronouns, particles); problems of translation | 2 | 3 |
| | **Total** | **11** | **15** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Knowledge of the linguistic fundamentals (vocabulary and grammar) for translating biblical texts of low and medium difficulty, or historical, literary and philosophical ancient texts from Greek to German resp. basic knowledge of important historical, literary and cultural facts conveyed by texts; basic knowledge of Hebrew script and language; the ability to translate a simple biblical text with appropriate aids into German | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| **5.** | **Elective Module: Methods of Guiding** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **a.** | **VO Guiding in an Ecclesial Context**<br>Leadership in an ecclesiastical context and its similarities and differences to other forms of leadership concepts; critical theological and gender-sensitive foundation of ecclesiastical leadership | 1 | 1 |
| **b.** | **SE Leadership in Educational and Pastoral Processes**<br>Leadership theory and practice in actual educational and/or pastoral contexts from the perspective of a theologically grounded criteriology | 2 | 3.5 |
| **c.** | **SE Methods and Media in Processes of Education and Pastoral Care**<br>Introduction to important methods and media; gaining the competence to apply methods and use media; criteriology for an appropriate and purposeful usage of methods and media | 2 | 3 |

| | Total | **5** | **7.5** |
|---|---|---|---|

| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Basic insights and abilities for leadership in pastoral contexts (leadership, participation, vision, motivation, roles, charisms, office/appointment) and for coherent methodical action in this respect |
|---|---|

| | **Prerequisites:** none |
|---|---|

| **6.** | **Elective Module: Didactics of Religion: Special Issues** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **a.** | **SE Cooperative Didactics of Religion**<br>Thematic fundamental and criteria for acting in a didactically responsible way in theological contexts, conducted in cooperation with a second theological or philosophical discipline | 2 | 3.5 |
| **b.** | **SE Project Development**<br>Application of the thematic fundamentals and criteria for acting in a didactically responsible way in the context of religious education, parish catechesis, counselling, adult education, and development of an independent project | 2 | 4 |
| | **Total** | **4** | **7.5** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Introduction to the relation of practical-theological thinking and acting and the theories of other theological and philosophical disciplines with regards to planning and managing of educational processes | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

| **7.** | **Elective Module: Systematic Theology** | **h** | **ECTS-Credits** |
|---|---|---|---|
| **a.** | **VO Dogmatic Theology I: Christ in Dispute on Salvation and Truth**<br>History of the dogmatic development of Christology and Soteriology, as well as the Doctrine of the Trinity; development of a paradigm for a Christian approach towards contemporary pluralistic culture; In addition to the lecture, students are required to independently study important doctrines and selected "Christological classics". | 2 | 4 |
| **b.** | **VU Fundamental Theology I (Religion): Humanity Before the Mystery of God**<br>Definition of the subject; centre of the Christian faith; contexts and *loci* of theology; basic concepts of a theological analysis of the present times; religion in science and in its relation to theology; humans before the question of God: typology and epistemology of experiencing God; humans as hearers of the word; the idea of a universal saviour in the face of suffering and evil | 1 | 2 |
| **c.** | **VO Moral Theology: Foundations of Moral Theology**<br>Knowledge of the transcendence of man in relation to God; Jesus' words and deeds as basis of moral acting in the context of a pluralistic society; development of a Christian anthropology in consideration of the results of the positive sciences | 2 | 4 |
| **d.** | **VO Fundamental Theology III: Theology of Religions**<br>Development of the doctrines since the second Vatican Council; religions as a topic of the Holy Scripture; approaches to the theology of religions and | 1 | 2 |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| | their models; dialogue of the religions and missionary activity | | |
| e. | **SE Moral Theology: Applied Moral Theology (Ethics of Life)**<br>Integral theology of life based on its dignity, as understood by the second Vatican Council in *Gaudium et Spes*: protection of emerging life, acceptance of life with handicaps, suffering, and illness; divine promise of salvation and the questions of the meaning of life; dying as an integral part of life | 2 | 3 |
| | **Total** | **8** | **15** |
| | **Learning Outcomes:**<br>Knowledge of the soteriological significance of the person of Jesus Christ, of human transcendence as destined by god and its cultural and social forms as a basis for redeemed living and acting in the discipleship of Christ | | |
| | **Prerequisites:** none | | |

## § 8 Master's Thesis

(1) The Master Thesis is to document the ability to independently work on a philosophical 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 compulsory modules 1 to 9. When registering the Master's Thesis, the choice of the elective module 1, 2 or 3 must be announced.

(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 writing and in an electronic form to be determined by the Dean of Studies.

## § 9 Examination Regulations

(1) Each module is completed by the positive evaluation of the individual courses by course examinations.

(2) In the case of course examinations for lectures the lecturer has to determine and announce the examination method (oral and/or written) before the start of the course.

(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 lecturer 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 abstract. Positive evaluation reads "successfully completed", negative evaluation "unsuccessfully completed".

(5) The final Defence of the Master's Thesis takes approximately 30 minutes per student. It is an oral examination to be graded by the reviewer of the Master's Thesis.

## § 10 Academic Degree

The graduates of the Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties of Catholic Theology receive the degree "Master of Philosophy", abbreviated „M.phil.".

## § 11 Coming into force

(1) This curriculum comes into force on October 1, 2009.

(2)   The modification of the curriculum as published in the University of Innsbruck Bulleting of 31 May 2012, Issue 29, No. 311 comes into force on 1 October 2012 and is valid for all students.

(3)   The changes of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 7 May 2015, Issue 35, No. 399 are effective as of 1 October 2015 and are to be applied to all students.

(4)   The changes of the curriculum acc. to the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulletin of 28 June 2019, Issue 67, No. 599  come into effect on 1 October 2019 and are to be applied to all students.

**§12   Transitional Provisions**

Course examinations of the curriculum for the Master's Programme Philosophy at Faculties for Catholic Theology in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulleting of 30 September 2009, issue 113, no. 432 correspond to the course examinations of the curriculum in the version of the University of Innsbruck Bulleting of 31 May 2012, issue 29, no. 311 as follows:

| Curriculum in the version of the Bulletin of 30 September 2009, issue 113, no. 432 | h | ECTS-Credits | Curriculum in the version of 31 May 2012, issue 29, no. 311 | h | ECTS-Credits |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VO Fundamental Theology I (Religion): Humanity Before the Mystery of God | 1 | 2 | VU Fundamental Theology I (Religion): Humanity Before the Mystery of God | 1 | 2 |