



**UNIVERSITÄT
ERFURT**

Philosophische
Fakultät

MASTER (M.A.)

Religious Studies

OBJECTIVES OF THE PROGRAMME

The Master's degree in Religious Studies offers an in-depth study of the history of religion in Europe and adjacent areas of the world, past and present. The programme combines historical, cultural, and sociological approaches to analyze the role of religion in various aspects of social and personal life, and it focuses particularly on the phenomenon of religious plurality. In addition, the programme provides students with a basic knowledge of the theoretical development of the subject of religious studies.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

The Master's degree in Religious Studies with its numerous research projects provides an intensive preparation for an academic career. It will equip the students with the necessary skills to apply for a doctoral programme and pursue a teaching and research career at university. Also, many cultural and political institutions hire experts in religious studies to create and manage multicultural societies. This includes fields in public areas in which religion is a topic: (inter)national governmental and non-governmental organizations, development aid organizations, adult education, as well as in the areas of media, culture, and tourism.

FOUR MAJORS TO CHOOSE FROM

The programme offers students four areas of concentration and specialization:

- General Religious Studies
- Islamic Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Cultural History of Orthodox Christianity

DURATION

4 semesters

DEGREE

Master of Arts (M.A.)

FORM OF STUDY

full-time or part-time

START OF STUDIES

winter semester



Each has its own main professor and supporting faculty. Although MA students will select a major in one of these areas, they will also attend seminars in religious pluralism. From this they gain complete understanding of the different faith-based traditions and their interactions.

GENERAL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

This major concentrates on the question of how religion is theorized and constructed, described, and reflected upon in various contemporary as well as historical cultures. It also focuses on the cultural and social practices in which knowledge about religion(s) both in history and the present is produced in various media and deals with cases of intersectionality as for example religion and gender or religion and esotericism.

ISLAMIC STUDIES

This focus includes the cultural history of Muslim societies from the beginning of Islamic history until the present. The different forms of articulation of these societies are documented, contextualized, and examined for better understanding of the interrelations with non-Muslim cultures. The history of reception of Islam in the west before and during colonialism as well as the current processes of modernization and the potential for action are covered in this major. Finally, theoretical and methodological questions of Islamic Studies are also raised.

JEWISH STUDIES

This major field of study comprises the cultural history of Judaism from antiquity to the present day in its different cultural traditions, their own developments, and its interaction with and differentiation from the other respective cultural environments. Development of Jewish religious law and philosophy as well as current topics of Jewish ethics are also covered in this area of study.

CULTURAL HISTORY OF ORTHODOX CHRISTIANITY

The focus of Orthodox Christianity covers the period from Late Antiquity to the present day in its Byzantine-Greek and Slavic (esp. Russian), as well as in its diasporic manifestations in different socio-cultural contexts. The subjects being offered are concerned with their diverse and mutual relationships and interactions, the conditions and the peculiarity of their historical, structural and cultural development, as well as their theologizing and systematizing achievements, ritual practice, individual and collective obligations, social consequences and organizational schemes.



ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS AND DOCUMENTS

- BA degree with a grade of at least 2.3 (according to the German grading system) in one of the following subjects: Religious Studies, History, Theology, Cultural Studies, Literature or Humanities in general.
- Appropriate language skills (see language requirements)

More information on the application requirements can be found on the following links:

www.uni-erfurt.de/en/studies/course-offerings/master/religious-studies

www2.daad.de/deutschland/studienangebote/international-programmes/en/detail/7166

LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- English language at C1 level.
- Knowledge of at least one relevant language in the chosen major at B1 level. For example, Hebrew for Jewish Studies or Arabic for Islamic Studies.

APPLICATION PERIOD

Students may only begin their studies in the winter semester.



The application deadline for applicants from outside the EU is from January 1 until July 15, and for applicants from EU member states from January 1 until September 1.

REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

- Completed application form, through the University portal: hio.uni-erfurt.de
- One-page letter of motivation
- Tabular curriculum vitae
- Copies of University and High School certificates and transcripts
- Proof of language(s)

FIVE REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS MASTER

Become an expert in the Religious History, which has shaped today's Europe. Religious History has shaped today's Europe profoundly – from state borders to cultural and political differences.

You can choose the specialization that best suits your interests and goals! As part of your studies, you have the exciting opportunity to choose between specializing in one of these majors: General Religious Studies, Islamic Studies, Jewish Studies, or Orthodox Christianity.

Prepare yourself for a career in Religious/Historical Education and beyond. This programme offers many potential paths in terms of starting or continuing your career, everything from a Ph.D., to educating future educators, to museum curation, to NGO work – all are open to you!

Gain extensive experience in independent research. This programme qualifies students to use different theories and methodological tools in studying religious traditions within their global perimeters.

Study in the Historic Erfurt. The city of Erfurt, located in the central German state of Thuringia, teems with history and culture. It was one of the most important places in the Protestant Reformation. Martin Luther studied theology at the University of Erfurt. The city is also famous for one of the most ancient Jewish synagogues in Europe.

STUDENT ADVISORY SERVICE

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University of Erfurt

Faculty of Philosophy

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