

Curriculum for the master's programme in Religion in Europe

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§ 1 Objectives and qualification profile

(1) The English-language master's programme in Religion in Europe at the University of Vienna targets graduates of a bachelor's programme who are dealing with the topic of religion:

- in professional contexts (for example in social organisations such as Caritas or Diakonie, commercial enterprises, international organisations such as the UN, OSCE, cultural institutions and museums, media and journalism, public authorities and political institutions, in the management of religious communities, in [adult] education);
- in voluntary social work (for example in non-profit organisations, in human rights work);
- based on a personal interest in religious and spiritual issues.

This master's programme expands religion-related competences in the aforementioned professional fields and in any personal contexts of life or personal commitments.

(2) The aim of the master's programme in Religion in Europe at the University of Vienna is to impart sound knowledge as well as academic reflection and discourse competence in religion-related issues:

- knowledge about the religions that are historically and currently practised in Europe (Christianity, Judaism, Islam and other religions), which have shaped and are currently shaping a Europe that has gone through political and intellectual upheavals since the Enlightenment. -reflection competence in the field of religion, i.e. with regard to the ethical, aesthetic and meaning-finding potential of religious communities and the conflictual developments within and outside religious communities as well as the social reactions to religion in the area of value development, political attitudes as well as social cohesion and living together. -action-orientated discourse competence in dealing with social issues related to religion.

In the courses of the master's programme in Religion in Europe, students address contents and methods meeting the current state of research in the relevant discipline. The focus is on academically sound content and the reflection on it, corresponding with the current state of academic research and current academic discourse. The master's programme in Religion in Europe serves the further consolidation of the knowledge acquired in the bachelor's programme and the acquisition of new (also basic) competences if not already acquired in the bachelor's programme or extension curricula. By using digital formats, students of the degree programme develop their digital competences and a critical awareness of religion-related topics on the Internet and in generative AI.

(3) Graduates of the master's programme in Religion in Europe at the University of Vienna are able to recognise the relevance and influence of religious phenomena, especially with a focus on Europe and their potential for conflict and problem-solving. They address undesirable developments of tensions between religious communities and human rights-based democracies in globalised European contexts. They are competent in addressing the complex phenomenon of *religion* in pluralistic societies. They develop solutions to make use of the potential of academic reflection on religions in organisations that address religious issues.

§ 2 Duration and scope

(1) The workload for the master's programme in Religion in Europe comprises 120 ECTS credits. This is equivalent to a degree programme duration of four semesters.

(2) The programme is deemed completed if 59 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on compulsory modules, 22 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the master's thesis and 3 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the public defence as well as 36 ECTS credits as defined in the provisions on the elective modules have been obtained.

§ 3 Entry requirements

(1) To be admitted to the master's programme in Religion in Europe students must have completed an eligible bachelor's programme or an eligible degree programme at the same level of university education at a recognised Austrian or foreign post-secondary educational institution.

(2) All bachelor's programmes in any disciplines at the University of Vienna are certainly eligible. Students are selected as part of an admission procedure at the University of Vienna. Further regulations about the selection procedure will be specified in provisions by the Rectorate of the University of Vienna published in the University Gazette.

(3) The master's programme in Religion in Europe is held in English. Students must have English language proficiency corresponding to level B2 (Common European Framework of Reference for Languages).

§ 4 Academic degree

Graduates of the master's programme in Religion in Europe are awarded the degree "*Master of Arts*", abbreviated as MA. Where the academic degree is stated this must be after the name.

§ 5 Structure – Modules with allocated ECTS credits

(1) Overview

Module code	Module title	ECTS credits
Compulsory modules (4 compulsory modules comprising 59 ECTS credits in total)		
PM01	Compulsory module: Religion and Society in Europe	16
PM02	Compulsory module: Religions in Europe in Past and Present	16
PM03	Compulsory module: Individual Focus	22
PM04	Compulsory module: Proposal for the Master's Thesis	5
Elective modules (3 elective module comprising 36 ECTS credits in total)		
WM05	Elective module: Religion and Text	12
WM06	Elective module: Religion, Ethics and Politics	12
WM07	Elective module: Religion and Society	12
WM08	Elective module: Religion and Culture	12
	Master's Thesis	22
	Master's Examination	3
IN TOTAL		120

(2) Module descriptions

2.1. Compulsory modules

PM 01	Compulsory module: Religion and Society in Europe	16 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Students address the phenomenon of socio-religious transformation processes in Europe and the fundamental questions of European law on religion. Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge and competences in these subject areas and will be able to analyse and reflect on them in an academically sound manner.</p> <p>The lectures are designed to impart knowledge. The exercises serve to link this knowledge in an interdisciplinary way, to further elaborate on individual questions and to allow for exchange between students.</p>	
Module structure	<p>VO: Sociology of Religion (2 SSt., 5 ECTS credits, np)</p> <p>UE: Interdisciplinary Reflection 1 (2 SSt., 3 ECTS credits, pi)</p> <p>VO: Law and Religion in Europe (2 SSt., 5 ECTS credits, np)</p> <p>UE: Interdisciplinary Reflection 2 (2 SSt., 3 ECTS credits, pi)</p>	
Proof of performance	<p>Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 16 ECTS credits in total.</p>	
Language	English	

PM 02	Compulsory module: Religions in Europe in Past and Present	16 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	<p>Students address the most important epochs in the history of religions in Europe (especially Christianity, Judaism and Islam). Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge and competences in these subject areas and are able to analyse and reflect on them in an academically sound manner while taking contemporary socio-religious developments into account.</p> <p>The lectures are designed to impart knowledge. The exercises serve to link this knowledge in an interdisciplinary way, to further elaborate on individual questions and to allow for exchange between students.</p>	
Module structure	<p>VO: History of Christianity in Europe (2 SSt., 5 ECTS credits, np)</p> <p>UE: Interdisciplinary Reflection 3 (2 SSt., 3 ECTS credits, pi)</p> <p>VO: History of Religions in Europe (2 SSt., 5 ECTS credits, np)</p> <p>UE: Interdisciplinary Reflection 4 (2 SSt., 3 ECTS credits, pi)</p>	
Proof of performance	<p>Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 16 ECTS credits in total.</p>	
Language	English	

PM 03	Compulsory module: Individual Focus	22 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	

Module outcomes	Students address theoretical and practical issues relating to religious phenomena in Europe. Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge in the areas of religion and text, religion, ethics and politics, religion and society and/or religion and culture, which are the subject of this degree programme. They have also acquired competences to analyse and reflect on past and current issues in an academically sound manner.
Module structure	Students select courses from the elective modules WM 05, WM 06, WM 07 and/or WM 08, which have not yet been completed, comprising 22 ECTS credits in total, but at least one course with continuous assessment. The courses eligible for this module are listed in the course directory.
Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 22 ECTS credits in total.
Language	English

PM 04	Compulsory module: Proposal for the Master's Thesis	5 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students develop a clearly defined, feasible master's thesis project. Upon completion of this module, they have formulated a research question, reflected on academic methods, written a first draft of a research proposal (exposé) and obtained initial feedback from (potential) supervisors so that students can begin to write their thesis immediately afterwards.	
Module structure	SE: Proposal Seminar for the Master's Thesis (2 SSt., 5 ECTS credits, pi)	
Proof of performance	Passing of the continuous assessment (pi) course specified in the module comprising 5 ECTS credits in total.	
Language	English	

2.2. Elective modules

From the following 4 modules, students must complete 3 modules (comprising 12 ECTS credits each) comprising 36 ECTS credits in total:

WM 05	Elective module: Religion and Text	12 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students address central religious text documents (such as the Torah, Bible, Koran, etc.). Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge and competences to hermeneutically and critically assess the understanding of 'holy scriptures' and to reflect on texts that are of significance to theology and the study of religions. Their knowledge and competences enable them to analyse and reflect on the historical genesis and current relevance of these text documents in an academically sound manner.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 12 ECTS credits in total, including at least one course with continuous assessment. The courses eligible for this module are listed in the course directory.	

Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 12 ECTS credits in total.
Language	English

WM 06	Elective module: Religion, Ethics and Politics	12 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students address selected topics and issues in the field of tension between religion, ethics and politics (such as religion and democracy, religion and values, religious fundamentalism, religious minorities in a society, or medical ethics topics such as euthanasia, etc.). Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge and competences to critically address and reflect on these complex topics and issues and to analyse their historical and current relevance in an academically sound manner.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 12 ECTS credits in total, including at least one course with continuous assessment.	
	The courses eligible for this module are listed in the course directory.	
Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 12 ECTS credits in total.	
Language	English	

WM 07	Elective module: Religion and Society	12 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	
Module outcomes	Students address selected topics and issues in the field of tension between religion and society (such as the theory and practice of interreligious dialogue, religion and economics, religion and law, religion and migration, etc.). Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge and competences to address contemporary social discourses in an academically sound manner and to analyse arguments related to religion.	
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 12 ECTS credits in total, including at least one course with continuous assessment. The courses eligible for this module are listed in the course directory.	
Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 12 ECTS credits in total.	
Language	English	

WM 08	Elective module: Religion and Culture	12 ECTS credits
Prerequisites	none	

Module outcomes	Students address selected topics and issues in the field of tension between religion and culture. Upon completion of this module, they have in-depth or extended knowledge of cultural and historical developments (such as festivals in religions, music and liturgy, religion-related art, burial and cemetery culture, etc.) as well as the competences to analyse and reflect on social developments and controversies in an academically sound manner and to understand arguments related to religion.
Module structure	Subject to availability, students choose courses comprising 12 ECTS credits in total, including at least one course with continuous assessment. The courses eligible for this module are listed in the course directory.
Proof of performance	Passing of all course examinations (non-continuous assessment, np) and continuous assessment courses (pi) specified in the module comprising 12 ECTS credits in total.
Language	English

§ 6 Master's thesis

- (1) The master's thesis serves to demonstrate the student's ability to achieve adequate standards of content and methodology when independently addressing academic topics. The assignment for the master's thesis must be so chosen that the student can reasonably be expected to complete it within six months.
- (2) The topic of the master's thesis must be selected from one of the compulsory modules or elective modules. If a different topic is selected or if there is uncertainty regarding the allocation of the selected topic, the competent body responsible for study matters decides on whether or not it is admissible.
- (3) The master's thesis comprises 22 ECTS credits.

§ 7 Master's examination

- (1) To be admitted to a master's examination the student must have successfully passed all required modules and examinations and the master's thesis must have been positively assessed.
- (2) The master's examination is a public defence and consists of a defence and an examination on the academic disciplines related to the master's thesis. Grading will be conducted as stipulated in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.
- (3) The master's examination is conducted before an examination committee in accordance with the section of the Statutes of the University of Vienna governing university studies.
- (4) The master's examination comprises 3 ECTS credits.

§ 8 Mobility during the master's programme

Courses from the elective modules (WM 05 - 08) may be completed during a stay abroad (e.g. Erasmus). The competent body responsible for study matters is responsible for the recognition of academic achievements completed abroad.

§ 9 Course classification

(1) All courses with non-continuous assessment (npi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Lecture (*Vorlesung, VO*):

Lectures serve the purpose of presenting topics, subjects and methods of the master's programme in Religion in Europe while critically taking different academic opinions into account. Lectures are recorded if possible and made available for self-study. Lectures are completed with an oral or written examination.

(2) All courses with continuous assessment (pi) have to be offered as one of the following types of courses:

Exercise (*Übung, UE*):

Exercises are courses with continuous assessment. They serve to jointly work on selected problems and topics. Students are continuously and actively working on the subject matter and regularly provide proof of their performance. Depending on the needs, the teaching methods can vary between lectures and work in small groups. Exercises are offered either in the early morning or evening whenever possible.

Seminar (SE):

In seminars, continuous assessment is applied. Seminars serve as a setting for academic discussions. Participants are expected to independently work on a topic and present the insights gained in the form of independent oral or written contributions as presentations. Particular attention is paid to independent literature search and the development of an appealing presentation style. Seminars are offered at either in the early morning or evening whenever possible.

§ 10 Courses with a limited number of participants and registration procedure

(1) The following general limits on the number of students apply in the different courses:

Exercise (<i>Übung, UE</i>):	25
Seminar (SE):	25

(2) Courses with continuous assessment from other curricula that students attend as part of this Curriculum are subject to the limited number of participants as specified in the related curriculum.

(3) Modalities concerning the registration for courses and examinations as well as the allocation of places in courses are governed by the stipulations in the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

§ 11 Examination regulations

(1) Proof of performance in courses

The lecturer of a course is responsible for making the necessary announcements according to the stipulations in the Statutes.

(2) Examination content

The examination content relevant to preparing and holding examinations must be in line with the required number of ECTS credits. This also applies to module examinations.

(3) Examination procedure

The examination procedure is subject to the stipulations of the Statutes of the University of Vienna.

(4) No double recognition and no dual use

Courses taken and examinations passed in the degree programme, which constitute entry requirements for the master's programme, can only be recognised in the master's programme if there is no significant difference between the learning outcomes of the master's programme and the learning outcomes of the

bachelor's programme. Courses taken and examinations passed that are used, in particular, for qualitative entry requirements and on which the master's programme is based, cannot be recognised due to significant differences in the acquired competences. Courses taken and examinations passed from another compulsory or elective module of the degree programme cannot be recognised within another module in the same degree programme. This also applies to recognition procedures.

- (5) Examination results must be allocated to the relevant module by the stated ECTS figure and must not be allocated to different proofs of performance.

§ 12 Entry into force

This Curriculum will enter into force upon announcement in the University Gazette of the University of Vienna as of 1 October 2025.

§ 13 Transitional provisions

- (1) This Curriculum applies to all students who commence their degree programme as of the winter semester of 2025/2026.

- (2) If, at a later stage of the degree programme, courses are no longer offered which were compulsory under the original curricula, the competent body responsible for study matters decides ex officio (equivalence regulation) or at the request of the participant which courses and examinations have to be completed instead.

Appendix

Recommended path through the programme:

Semester	Module	Course	ECTS credits	Total ECTS credits
1.	PM 01	VO Sociology of Religion	5	
	PM 01	UE Interdisciplinary Reflection 1	3	
	WM 05	Course in Religion and Text	8	
	WM 06	Course in Religion, Ethics and Politics	8	
	WM 07	Course in Religion and Society	6	
or				
	WM 08	Course in Religion and Culture	6	
				30
2.	PM 01	VO Religious Law in Europe	5	
	PM 01	UE Interdisciplinary Reflection 2	3	
	PM 03	Course in Individual Focus	8	
	WM 05	Course in Religion and Text	4	
	WM 06	Course in Religion, Ethics and Politics	4	
	WM 07	Course in Religion and Society	6	
or				
	WM 08	Course in Religion and Culture	6	
				30
3.	PM 02	VO History of Christianity in Europe	5	

	PM 02	UE Interdisciplinary Reflection 3	3	
	PM 03	Course in Individual Focus	14	
	PM 04	SE Proposal Seminar for the Master's Thesis	5	
		Master's Thesis	3	
				30
4.	PM 02	VO History of Religions in Europe	5	
	PM 02	UE Interdisciplinary Reflection 4	3	
		Master's Thesis	19	
		Master's Examination	3	
				30