



Christopher P. Grant © Shutterstock

understanding religions and cultures

Master of Arts (MA) in the study of religions

multidisciplinary approaches to religions

GENERAL OUTLINE

Objectives

The Master of Arts in the Study of Religions is designed as a specialised programme with a strongly interdisciplinary character. It allows students to acquire theoretical and methodological skills in the social sciences of religions and the history of religions. Students learn to use tools that will help them to analyse and understand issues bound up with the plurality of religious fields and multiculturalism, within the framework of seven possible specialisations: Indian Religions, Judaism, Christianity, Migrations, Marginalised Transversal Traditions, Sociology and Psychology of Religions (see overleaf).

Skills development and career prospects

The Master of Arts in the Study of Religions allows students to acquire specific knowledge in the chosen specialisation, as well as skills relating to religious and cultural diversity generally. More broadly, the programme also provides cross-disciplinary skills: oral and written

communication, discernment, analytical and summarising skills, research experience, acquisition and transmission of knowledge, independence and the ability to form judgements in areas covered. This range of skills, combined with specialist knowledge gained during the course, prepares students for a very varied range of careers and sectors, such as:

- National and international public administrations
- Non-governmental organisations, particularly inter-cultural and development-related
- Teaching (secondary and higher education)
- National and international associative networks
- Polling and market surveys
- Journalism, media, public relations, communication, advertising
- University-level research and teaching
- Other: public and private enterprises, SMEs, etc.

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organisers

Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies - www.unil.ch/ftsr
& Faculty of Social and Political Sciences
College of Religious Studies:
www.unil.ch/csr

Degree awarded

Master of Arts (MA) in the Study of Religions

ECTS credits

90

Duration

3 semesters (max. 5 semesters)

Teaching language

French. Research work may be done in English.

Enrolment

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department before the deadline:
www.unil.ch/immat

Contact

Université de Lausanne
Collège de sciences des religions
Anthropole
CH-1015 Lausanne
Tel. +41 21 692 27 20
Fax +41 21 692 27 25
Frank.Muller@unil.ch



EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

Description

The Master of Arts in the Study of Religions benefits from courses offered by different institutes in three faculties of the University of Lausanne (Theology and Religious Studies, Arts, Social and Political Sciences). This platform makes the UNIL one of the most important centres of excellence in Europe in the field of religious studies.

The programme combines cross-disciplinary elements (transversal courses) and areas of specialisation based on a specific orientation chosen by the student:

- Religious Traditions of India and Comparative History of Religions
- Multidisciplinary Approaches to Judaism
- History and Anthropology of Christian Religions
- Comparative History of Religions: Transversal and Marginalised Religious Traditions
- Social Sciences of Migrations. Diasporas and Migrations: analysis of transnational and translocal spaces (practices of Islam and other religions)
- Sociology of Religions: Religious Plurality in Modern Societies
- Psychology of Religions: Construction of Identity and Self-Awareness

For each of these orientations the main module provides the basis of specialisation. The complements and options module allows the inclusion of field work or documentary research and allows students to choose courses aligned with their preferred career and/or dissertation (30 credits), the subject of which is contained within the field of the chosen specific orientation. Students therefore have an opportunity to construct an original study path and to create a personalised profile.

Examinations

Courses on the programme are validated by seminar work or examinations. The main module is concluded by a final examination. For some orientations, an examination sanctions the second module.

Mobility

Students have the possibility of studying for one semester in a partner institution, or carrying out field work abroad.

SYLLABUS

Main module

- Specific courses in the chosen orientation

30 ECTS credits

Complements and options

- Field work or documentary research
- Research symposium
- Optional courses

30 ECTS credits

Dissertation

- Dissertation in the chosen orientation

30 ECTS credits

PRACTICAL INFORMATION

Admission requirements

The candidate must be a holder of a Bachelor of Arts in Religious Studies, a Bachelor of Theology, a Bachelor's degree awarded by UNIL's Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, with a minor in Religious Studies, a Bachelor of Arts with «History of Religions and Religious Studies» as a basic discipline, a Bachelor's degree awarded by a Swiss university with 60 credits at least in the area of «Religious Studies», or a title judged to be equivalent.

Regulations and additional information concerning the course

Web site of the College of Religious Studies: www.unil.ch/dihsr or www.unil.ch/csr

Final enrolment dates

It is possible to start the MA in the Study of Religions in the autumn or the spring semester.

Autumn semester: 30 April

Spring semester: 30 November

Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland must apply for enrolment at least two months prior to the deadline indicated above. Note: some courses are run only in the autumn semester!

Start of courses

Autumn semester: mid-September

Spring semester: mid-February

Part-time Master's degree

See Directive 3.12:

www.unil.ch/interne/page44629.html#3

Academic calendar

www.unil.ch/central/page4804.html

General information on studies, career prospects and guidance

Guidance and advisory service:

www.unil.ch/soc

Accommodation and financial assistance

Office for socio-cultural affairs:

www.unil.ch/sasc

International students

www.unil.ch/international

Study abroad possibilities

www.unil.ch/echanges



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