Theology students today are faced with the momentous task of contributing to modern culture. This requires a thorough and interdisciplinary academic training. With this in mind, the Faculty of Theory and Religious Studies insists on developing well-rounded and highly-trained scholars with critical minds.

The Research Master: Master of Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion offers a broad perspective on what theology and religious studies are all about. After graduation, you will have obtained a broad yet profound theoretical foundation in the great European traditions of thought and you will be able to move with ease as a dialogue partner in diverse theological fields. Nothing less is to be expected from the Faculty of Theory and Religious Studies, which from its founding in 1432 has built a rich history and tradition. At the faculty, lectures are interwoven with more informal seminars. Both classes and seminars aim to provide an opportunity for a better dialogue and a cordial relationship between professors and students. The faculty also confers on qualified students the degrees of Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus (S.T.B.) and Licentiatus (S.T.L) in combination with the degree for the research master’s programme.

An international experience

The research master’s programme attracts students from all over the world, which adds a valuable intercultural element to your experience. We also encourage students to participate in exchange programmes that allow them to spend a semester abroad. The Faculty of Theory and Religious Studies has 74 agreements in 24 different countries within the framework of the Erasmus+ programme.

Programme

The 120-credits programme comprises the following:

- **Courses (60 credits):** you take six courses of the truncus communis (24 credits), one interdisciplinary course (4 credits), three courses from three different majors outside your specialization major (12 credits), and five electives (20 credits).

- **A research master’s thesis (32 credits):** you will have to write a thesis in two years’ time in which you present the results of your study of an original research topic. The thesis must provide a structured and coherent survey of the issue while including an evaluation of research already undertaken and demonstrating evidence of an awareness of problems related to the topic.

- **A major* (28 credits):** you take seven major courses.

* The major can be selected from the research areas on offer at the faculty: Biblical Studies, Systematic Theology and the Study of Religions, Theological and Comparative Ethics, History of Church and Theology, Pastoral and Empirical Theology. For more information, please consult www.theo.kuleuven.be/en/research/research_units.

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult www.kuleuven.be/ma/mastrl/programme.
Opportunities for research

The library of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is internationally respected as one of the world’s best theological libraries. Besides its extensive research collection, it represents a heritage of preservation, bringing to life multiple scientific disciplines. With more than 1,300,000 volumes and with modern facilities, the library provides a stimulating learning environment, welcoming researchers and students from all around the world.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for the research master’s programme, you must have obtained an academic bachelor’s degree in theology and religious studies from KU Leuven. Admission decisions for students who do not possess this degree are based on a detailed evaluation of the applicant’s previous studies by the faculty’s Admissions Committee. In some cases students can be granted advanced standing, and as such admission to the abridged research master’s programme (less than 120 credits). Unless you are a native speaker, you will also have to provide evidence of your English proficiency.

Programme admission: www.kuleuven.be/ma/mastrl
General admission: www.kuleuven.be/admissions

Application procedure

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You can download and submit your application form via www.kuleuven.be/application. In addition to the application form, a number of required documents needs to be uploaded.

More information at: theo.kuleuven.be/en/prospective_students/admissions

Students with a Flemish degree can consult www.kuleuven.be/inschrijven.

Career perspectives

The research master’s programme prepares you not only for admission to the Doctoral Programme in Theology, but also for a variety of careers in sectors including academia, secondary and higher education, business, publishing, the media, the socio-cultural sector, and various domains of pastoral care.

“Leuven’s climate is extremely pleasant, and nowhere is it possible to study so peaceably. And there is no happier place to build one’s intellect. And nowhere is there a bigger and better professor corps.”

(Erasmus of Rotterdam)

Contact

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