

UNIVERSITY OF LUCERNE

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

CENTRE FOR THEOLOGY AND PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGIONS (THEIRS)

ONLINE MASTER'S IN PHILOSOPHY, THEOLOGY AND RELIGIONS (PHILTER)

Question and Answer (Q&A)

1. What is so unique about the Master's programme?

The strength of the Master's programme lies in providing students with a history of philosophy in its relationship to the history of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, Islam. It is natively designed online and thus able to cater to global students.

2. Who are the professors?

Peter Adamson (LMU Munich / King's College London), **Jehoschua Ahrens** (Lucerne), **Maria Rosa Antognazza** (King's College, London), **David Giuseppe Arie Anzalone** (Lucerne), **Marienza Benedetto** (Bari), **Paul Richard Blum** (Loyola University, Maryland), **Charles Burnett** (Warburg Institute, London), **Emanuele Colombo** (Chicago), **Richard Cross** (Notre Dame, Indiana), **Simon Erlanger** (Lucerne), **Davide Falessi** (Lucerne), **Tyron Goldschmidt** (Rochester, New York), **Warren Zev Harvey** (Jerusalem), **Christoph Helmig** (Cologne), **Maarten J.F.M. Hoenen** (Basel), **Anthony Kenny** (Oxford), **Gyula Klima** (Fordham University, New York), **Marco Lamanna** (Lucerne), **Gary Carl (Muhammad) Legenhausen** (Qom), **Olga Lizzini** (Aix-Marseille), **Winfried Löffler** (Innsbruck), **Maria Evelina Malgieri** (Turin), **Ryan Mullins** (Helsinki), **Mostafa Najafi** (Lucerne), **Pasquale Porro** (Turin), **Santiago Ramos** (Rockhurst, Kansas), **Ulrich Rudolph** (Zurich), **Ferenc Ruzsa** (Budapest), **Ursula Schumacher** (Lucerne), **Roman Seidel** (FU Berlin), **Erdal Toprakyan** (Tübingen/Lucerne), **Giovanni Ventimiglia** (Lucerne)

3. What is the Summer School?

The Master's programme offers students the opportunity to attend a summer school in Sicily from the end of August to early September. Students will have the opportunity to meet some of their peers and professors in person while exploring and discovering the beauty of the island, as well as gaining a number of credits to advance their degree.

4. Is the Summer School mandatory? Can I participate online?

The Summer School is not mandatory. You can also participate online.

5. How high are the tuition fees for studying this Master's programme?

The tuition fee per semester (including exams and use of the learning platform OLAT) is CHF 810 for student's resident in Switzerland and CHF 1110 for student's resident abroad.

6. I cannot afford this programme. Can I still apply?

Yes, of course! The University is proud to offer a full scholarship which covers all tuition fees.

7. Is there a possibility of receiving a full scholarship?

Yes! The University is proud to offer up various scholarship fundings to qualified applicants seeking financial support for the Master's programme. All applications (including certificates, grades of all exams taken at the University, Curriculum Vitae with two academic references, letter of motivation) must be submitted online to: info-masterphilter@unilu.ch.

8. Can I study part-time?

Yes, of course! The online Master's programme is usually attended by those who have other activities in the meantime. The lessons are recorded, so you can listen to them at any time of the day. There is also a 90-minute online meeting per course with the professors.

In addition, it is not necessary to take all exams within the semester, but it is possible to stagger exams and courses. Of course, the fees per semester remain the same.

9. Can I work during my studies?

Yes, of course. The online Master's is usually thought for and attended by those who have other activities in the meantime.

10. What language skills are required? Do I need to speak German?

German language skills are not required, but you must provide evidence of English proficiency in order to enroll in this Master's programme.

11. Do I need to have prior knowledge in philosophy?

Yes. If you do not have a bachelor's degree in philosophy or a similar discipline, then an interview with the Director of the Master's programme is necessary in order to find out whether you meet the minimum prerequisites for admission to the Master's programme. In some cases, the Director of the Master may suggest the study of some basic texts, to be completed (and verified) before the beginning of the Master.

12. What are prior requirements for the studies?

Anyone with a Bachelor's degree in philosophy and theology within the framework of the *Bologna Declaration* is admitted to the Master's programme. Applicants with an equivalent Bachelor's degree will be admitted at the request of the program director. Subject-related Bachelor's are: Religious Studies; Cultural Studies; International Studies; International Law; Comparative Constitutional Law and Religions; Languages (Hebrew, Arabic); History.

If you do not have a bachelor's degree in philosophy or those similar disciplines, then an interview with the Director of the Master's programme is necessary to find out whether you meet the minimum prerequisites for admission to the Master's programme. In some cases, the Director of the Master may suggest the study of some basic texts, to be completed (and verified) before the beginning of the Master. Conditions of up to 60 Credits (to be acquired outside the Master's) can be imposed for admission to this degree. A maximum of 30 credits can be recognized as having already been acquired by the student in another university.

13. How do I apply for the Master's programme?

You can apply online under this link: <https://portal.unilu.ch/site/besucher/anmeldung/en-us>. Please select the subcategory: "Master/Philosophy, Theology and Religions".

All applications must be submitted online until 30 April (or late registration until 31 August) for the autumn semester and 30 November (or late registration until 31 January) for the spring semester.

14. How will the courses be built? Are there exams or papers?

Examinations will consist of [1] a free-topic written paper and [2] a written general test per module (approx. mid-January and end of June). They will be conducted on the web platform Moodle, and will be identical in content and requirements to in-person exams.

15. What are the perspectives after the Master's programme?

Our programme provides fundamental logical, philosophical, theological and historical knowledge, as well as essential methodological skills that allow for the enhancement of academic and professional study. The broad range of topics and cultures studied in the programme ensures students a global vision enriched by:

• Skills in Philosophy

In a society that is evolving faster and faster, where companies and institutions are forced to change their strategies on short notice, the demand for versatile, open-minded professionals capable of challenging established paradigms and inventing new ones is growing. Philosophy graduates are therefore increasingly sought after in the professional world.

• Skills in Inter-Religious Dialogue

In a multicultural society challenged by global migratory phenomena, the demand for professionals who are knowledgeable about history, as well as the history of philosophy and intellectual history of cultures other than their own, continues to grow. A strong command of the mentality and intellectual history of different cultures is an indispensable tool for interreligious dialogue. The specific training offered by this Master's course meets these needs.

• Skills in Academia

Our Master's in *Philosophy, Theology and Religions* grants a solid training over a wide set of areas of knowledge, including philosophy, history of philosophy, theology, history of theology, philosophy of religion, Jewish philosophy, Christian philosophy and Islamic philosophy. This Master's degree broadens the fields in which to do a doctorate, making it possible for applications to be made not only in philosophy departments but also in theology departments all over the world. The Faculty of Theology of Lucerne has recently created a PhD (Dr. Phil. in *Theological Studies*) for which students holding this master's degree would be ideal.

• Career

Programme graduates will be a perfect fit for international careers in culture, education, media, politics, public administration, consulting, church and religious services and NGO work, such as journalism, media & publishing, public relations & marketing, personnel services, political consulting, political and cultural foundations, management consulting, high school philosophy and humanities teaching, archives/museums /libraries, church non-profit and international organizations, social employment and asylum systems.