

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 program?

The strength of the Master's program lies in providing students with a history of philosophy in its relationship to the history of the three Abrahamic religions: Judaism, Christianity, and Islam. It is natively designed as an online program and can thus accommodate students from all over the world.

2. Who are the professors?

Peter Adamson (LMU Munich / King's College London), **Dario Affronti** (Lucerne), **Jehoshua Ahrens** (Lucerne), **David Giuseppe Arie Anzalone** (Lucerne), **Marienza Benedetto** (Bari), **Paul Richard Blum** (Loyola University, Maryland), **Marta Borgo** (Lucerne), **Charles Burnett** (Warburg Institute, London), **Emanuele Colombo** (Chicago), **Richard Cross** (Notre Dame, Indiana), **Simon Erlanger** (Lucerne), **Almedina Fakovic** (Lucerne), **Davide Falessi** (Lucerne), **Tyron Goldschmidt** (Rochester, New York), **Warren Zev Harvey** (Jerusalem), **Christoph Helmig** (Cologne), **Maarten J.F.M. Hoenen** (Basel), **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** (Lucerne), **Mostafa Najafi** (Lucerne), **Pasquale Porro** (Turin), **Santiago Ramos** (Rockhurst, Kansas), **Ulrich Rudolph** (Zurich), **Ferenc Ruzsa** (Budapest), **Ursula Schumacher** (Lucerne), **Roman Seidel** (FU Berlin), **Seyedali Taghaviniasab** (Lucerne), **Erdal Toprakyan** (Tuebingen), **Giovanni Ventimiglia** (Lucerne).

3. How much are the tuition fees for the program?

The tuition fee per semester (including exams and use of the learning platform Moodle) is CHF 810 for students residing in Switzerland, and CHF 1110 for students residing abroad. There are also one-time application and enrollment fees of CHF 100/150 each.

4. I cannot afford this program. Is there a possibility of receiving a full scholarship?

Yes! The University is proud to offer up various scholarship covering tuition fees either in part or in their entirety to qualified applicants who can demonstrate their skills in philosophy or theology. All applications (Curriculum Vitae, Letter of Motivation, Transcript of Records) must be submitted online to: info-masterphilter@unilu.ch.

5. Can I study while also working either part-time or full-time?

Yes! The program is ideally suited to students who have other major commitments which occupy much of their day-to-day schedules, such as full-time work or family responsibilities. Lectures take place entirely online and are pre-recorded. Students can thus choose the pace at which

they work through the lectures. At the same time there are also online live meetings with the professors and the team, which are not compulsory.

6. What language competency is required? Do I need to know German?

The program is conducted entirely in English. No knowledge of German is required.

7. Do I need to have prior knowledge in philosophy or in theology?

It is important that you can prove that you have taken and passed exams in related disciplines for a minimum of 60 credit points during your undergraduate studies. If this is not the case, you will likely be admitted with conditions, meaning that you will need to complete some qualifying courses (none of which count towards the master's degree itself) before being able to receive credit for the main coursework under the program.

8. What are prior requirements for the studies?

Anyone with a Bachelor's degree recognized by the University of Lucerne in philosophy and theology within the framework of the *Bologna Declaration* can be admitted to the Master's program. Applicants with an equivalent undergraduate degree can also be admitted after a formal check by the University. Other relevant subjects are: Religious Studies, Cultural Studies, International Studies, Law, etc.

9. How do I apply for the Master's program?

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

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

10. How will the courses be structured? Are there exams or papers?

Lectures take place entirely online and are pre-recorded. Students can thus choose the pace at which they work through the lectures. Each semester students are required to submit two research papers (one per module) and write a multiple-choice examination based on the lecture content. The semester grade will be based on the papers and quiz. Students will also have the chance to take part in live debates and meetings (via Zoom) moderated by the program professors, although these meetings are not mandatory.

11. How much time should I expect to dedicate to the MA program per week?

We recommend planning for approximately 8 to 10 hours per week to stay on track with all course components, including watching the videos, completing reading, and participating in activities. The program is designed to be flexible and asynchronous, allowing you to manage your workload in a way that suits your personal and professional commitments.

12. What is the International Conference? Is it mandatory? Is it possible to participate online?

The annual international conference is a week-long program which takes place either in Lucerne, Switzerland or in Palermo, Sicily around the end of July or August. Participating students attend in-person lectures by program instructors and enjoy various opportunities for discussion and conviviality as well as for exploring the beauty and history of the city. Participants also receive several credits towards their degrees. Participation is encouraged, but not mandatory. Students have the option of attending online.

13. What are the prospects after completing the program?

The program gives students expertise in philosophy, logic, theology, and cultural history, as well as fundamental methodological skills essential for academic and professional study. The broad range of topics and cultures studied in the program ensures that students have a global vision enriched by:

- **Academic formation**

The program trains students in various fields crossing traditional disciplinary lines, including history of philosophy, historical theology, philosophy of religion, contemporary analytical philosophy, and non-Western philosophy. This course of study widens the scope of possible subsequent studies at the doctoral level: graduates are in a competitive position to apply not only to programs in philosophy, but also in theology and religious studies. For instance, the Faculty of Theology of Lucerne has recently created a PhD (Dr. Phil. in Theological Studies) for which graduates of this program would be ideally suited.

- **Aptitude in interreligious collaboration**

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.

- **Non-academic professionalization**

Graduates of the program will possess competitive credentials 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.