



## understanding religions and cultures

# Master of Arts (MA) in the study of religions multidisciplinary approaches to religions

### GENERAL OUTLINE

Teaching for the Master of Arts in the Study of Religions is provided by the various institutes of three different Faculties of the University of Lausanne (Theology and Sciences of Religions, Arts, Social and Political Sciences). Thanks to this platform UNIL is one of the most important centres of excellence in Europe for the study of religion.

The study curriculum combines interdisciplinary training with a comparative perspective and specialisation in the following areas: Social Sciences of Contemporary Religions (migrations, sociology, psychology), Ancient and Modern Christianity, Ancient and Modern Judaism, Religious Plurality, South Asian Religions, Polytheistic Religions of the Ancient Worlds, Socio-Anthropology and History of Islam, Transversal and Marginalised Traditions, Anthropology of Religion, Comparative Sciences of Religions, etc.

You may opt for either a general course or specialisation in a more focused area of study (religious traditions, historical periods, methodological approach, geographical area, etc.).

### Objectives

The Master of Arts in the Study of Religions is designed as a strongly interdisciplinary cycle of training and specialisation. It provides you with in-depth theoretical and methodological skills in the study of religions and an opportunity to deepen your own reflective analysis of this discipline. It thus leads you to build your own informed and critical outlook on religious cultures in history as well as in the contemporary world. The study curriculum also provides you with the tools you need to analyse and address issues relating to the plurality of religious fields and interculturality. You are encouraged to construct your own study curriculum by combining the tools of social science of religions and the anthropological-historical approach. You may also opt to specialise in one of these two approaches rather than both.

### GENERAL INFORMATION

#### Organisers

Faculty of Theology and Sciences of Religions: [www.unil.ch/ftsr](http://www.unil.ch/ftsr)  
Faculty of Social and Political Sciences: [www.unil.ch/ssp](http://www.unil.ch/ssp)  
Faculty of Arts: [www.unil.ch/lettres](http://www.unil.ch/lettres)  
Commission for Education of History and Sciences of Religions: [www.unil.ch/cphsr](http://www.unil.ch/cphsr)

#### Degree awarded

Master of Arts (MA) in the Study of Religions

#### ECTS credits

90 or 120

#### Duration

3 semesters (max. 5 semesters) for 90 ECTS  
4 semesters (max. 6 semesters) for 120 ECTS

#### 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](http://www.unil.ch/immat)

#### Contact

Université de Lausanne  
Commission for Education of History and Sciences of Religions  
Anthropole  
CH-1015 Lausanne  
Tel. +41 21 692 27 20  
Fax +41 21 692 27 25  
[conseil.sciencesdesreligions@unil.ch](mailto:conseil.sciencesdesreligions@unil.ch)

#### More information

[www.unil.ch/cphsr](http://www.unil.ch/cphsr)



## EDUCATIONAL CONTENT

The programme consists of five modules and may be completed by an optional sixth module.

### Mobility

You have the opportunity to study for one semester in a partner institution, or to carry out field work abroad.

### Career prospects

The programme provides cross-disciplinary skills: oral and written communication, analytical and summarising skills, research experience, acquisition and transmission of knowledge, autonomy of judgment, critical thinking and a reflective approach. This range of skills, combined with specialist knowledge gained during the course, prepares you 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
- National and international associative networks
- Polling and market surveys
- Journalism, media, public relations, communication, advertising
- Research and teaching (universities, universities of applied sciences)
- Other: public and private enterprises, SMEs, etc.

Alumni move into a wide variety of roles, for example as a consultant, military liaison officer, or staff member of a non-governmental organisation.

Other examples and alumni testimonials:  
[www.unil.ch/perspectives/ftsr](http://www.unil.ch/perspectives/ftsr)

The skills acquired can be reinforced through the specialisation programme "Focus on Interculturality", which provides preparatory professional training and is worth 30 credits. The programme includes a practical internship outside of the university context and theoretical courses on the intercultural approach and the practical contexts where it is applied (Master of Arts in the Study of Religions with specialisation - 120 ECTS credits).

## SYLLABUS

### Module 1 (common)

#### Advanced Sciences of Religions

- Comparative Seminar
- Epistemology of the History of Religions and Social Sciences of Religions

**12 ECTS credits**

### Module 2

#### Approaches (free choice)

- Anthropology of Religions
- Psychology of Religion
- Sociology of Religions
- Religion and Migrations
- History

**15 ECTS credits**

### Module 3

#### Fields of Study (free choice)

- South Asian Religions
- Polytheistic Religions of the Ancient Worlds
- History of Ancient and Modern Judaism
- History of Ancient and Modern Christianity
- Socio-Anthropology and History of Islam
- Transversal and Marginalised Religious Traditions
- Spiritual and Religious Plurality in Contemporary Societies

At least two fields must be covered.

**20 ECTS credits**

### Module 4

Specific skills including teaching specifically designed as support to the Master's thesis and reinforcement of the specialisation (e.g., field work, languages, methodological tools and/or thematic lessons).

**13 ECTS credits**

### Module 5

Master's thesis

**30 ECTS credits**

### Module 6 (optional)\*

Specialisation Programme providing preparatory professional training («Focus on Interculturality»):

- Internship
- Theoretical teaching on interculturality

**30 ECTS credits**

\* Master of Arts with Specialisation (120 ECTS)

## GENERAL INFORMATION

### Admission requirements

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

### Final enrolment dates

It is possible to start the MA in the Study of Religions in the autumn or the spring semester. Note that some courses are only taught in the Autumn semester.

Applications must be submitted to the Admissions Department before 30 April (Autumn semester) and 30 November (Spring semester): [www.unil.ch/immat](http://www.unil.ch/immat)

Candidates needing a visa to study in Switzerland must apply for enrolment at least two months prior to the deadlines indicated above.

### Start of courses

Autumn semester: mid-September

Spring semester: mid-February

Academic calendar: [www.unil.ch/central/calendar](http://www.unil.ch/central/calendar)

### Part-time Master's degree

Under certain conditions, a Master programme can be followed part-time.

[www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel](http://www.unil.ch/formations/master-temps-partiel)

### General information on studies, guidance

[www.unil.ch/soc](http://www.unil.ch/soc)

### Career prospects

[www.unil.ch/perspectives](http://www.unil.ch/perspectives)

### Accommodation and financial assistance

[www.unil.ch/sasme](http://www.unil.ch/sasme)

### International

[www.unil.ch/international](http://www.unil.ch/international)



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