



**INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S
DEGREE PROGRAMMES**

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

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INTERNATIONAL MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAMMES AT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

UNDERSTANDING RELIGION TO UNDERSTAND THE WORLD

The Faculty of Theology at the University of Helsinki is committed to researching the significance of religion individually, culturally and socially, in order to provide informed comment on the enormous challenges facing contemporary Europe. It has one of the highest numbers of theology students in Europe. International studies have assessed that the research and teaching conducted at the Faculty of Theology are of high quality. All theological disciplines are represented in the faculty: Biblical studies, Church history, Systematic theology, Practical theology and Comparative religion. The faculty is a non-denominational academic community.

The faculty offers two Master's Degree Programs (120 ECTS) in English: The Religious Roots of Europe (RRE) and The Religion, Conflict and Dialogue (RCD). RRE is a joint Master's Programme offered by the University of Helsinki in cooperation with five other Nordic Universities of Aarhus, Bergen, Copenhagen, Lund and Oslo. The graduates of both programmes will be able to pursue various career paths where theological, religious, and cultural expertise is needed and valued.

Graduate from these programmes will also qualify for innovative scholarly work and for further education, e.g. in PhD programmes. Read more about Career prospect under each programme description.

FOR MORE INFORMATION ABOUT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY VISIT THE WEBISTE:
[HTTP://WWW.HELSINKI.FI/TEOL/TDK/ENGLISH/](http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/)



4 Religious Roots of Europe (RRE)



WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The Religious Roots of Europe is a joint International Nordic Master's Degree programme in cooperation with six Nordic universities, including Helsinki. The goal of RRE is to acquaint students with the traditions, formative processes and mutual interactions of the three most influential religions at the root of European culture and history: Judaism, Christianity and Islam. RRE combines e-learning, face-to-face compact seminars, and local tutorials to achieve an international and open study environment.

religions have traditionally been studied more or less separately. The leading objective of RRE is to study them together in their formative period from a comparative perspective using a variety of approaches, including historical, philological, social scientific, feminist and literary.

DOCTRINES, RITUALS, CANONICAL TEXTS, MYTHS, RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS

The phenomena central to each religion are studied along with their relationship to society, politics, law, gender issues and ethics. Specific topics include ideas of martyrdom, justification or condemnation of war, asceticism, religious authorities, the position of women, and different strategies for interpreting authoritative religious texts.

THEMATIC FOCUS: JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY AND ISLAM

The three religions interacting with each other have had – and continue to have – profound influence on the development of European culture and society. These



WHERE WILL THE PROGRAMME TAKE YOU?

RRE enables you to acquire for example:

- > a deeper insight into the formative processes of Judaism, Christianity and Islam; the parallels with and the differences between the three traditions and the interaction of their followers.
- > the skills for communicating knowledge of the subject matter and theoretical insights and for transmitting acquired methods to others both orally and in writing.
- > the tools for critically evaluating the role of the three religions in contemporary society.

CAREER PROSPECT

Graduates of the RRE programme will be able to pursue different career paths in which theological, religious, and cultural expertise is needed. Expertise in religious perspectives and questions is increasingly valued in various functions of the society and of diverse companies and corporations.

1ST YEAR, FALL SEMESTER	RELIGION AND SOCIETY 5 ECTS	METHOD AND THEORY 5 ECTS	OPTIONS: INTERACTION, TEXT, LANGUAGE 10 ECTS	THE EMERGENCE OF JUDAISM, CHRISTIANITY, AND ISLAM 10 ECTS
1ST YEAR, SPRING SEMESTER	INTERACTION BETWEEN THE RELIGIONS 10 ECTS		OPTIONS: INTERACTION, TEXT, LANGUAGE 10 ECTS	TEXT FROM A PARTICULAR RELIGION 10 ECTS
2ND YEAR, FALL SEMESTER	INTERACTION BETWEEN THE RELIGIONS 10 ECTS		THESIS COLLOQUIUM, METHODOLOGY AND THEORY AND	THE THREE RELIGIONS IN CONTEMPORARY PERSPECTIVE 10 ECTS
2ND YEAR, SPRING SEMESTER	MASTER'S THESIS 40 ECTS			

6 Religion, Conflict and Dialogue (RCD)

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

Religion, Conflict and Dialogue programme aims to prepare students to carry out critical analyses of the role of religion in conflicts in local, national and global contexts. The students will develop their expertise in reconciliation projects involving religious issues and gain an understanding of the requirements of such work.

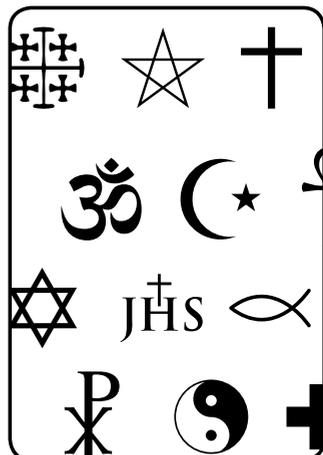
THEMATIC FOCUS: RELIGION, CONFLICT AND DIALOGUE

Religions can be seen as both a reason for and a solution to conflicts between individuals, groups and nations. Ignoring the religious point of view can be misleading in conflict prevention or resolution. However, dialogue between religious individuals or bodies is a challenge that requires both the proper knowledge and skills. RCD provides

a basic understanding of different religions and their roles in conflicts and reconciliation. Though rooted in theology and religious studies, the programme is multidisciplinary in its outlook and combines theoretical and practical viewpoints.

CENTRAL FEATURE OF THE PROGRAMME: THE CASE STUDY

At the very beginning of the programme, each student will identify a particular conflict situation, ongoing or past, in which religion has presumably played a role. Throughout the studies the student will regularly present his/her research in a variety of formats, including oral presentations, blogs and essays.



WHERE WILL THE PROGRAMME TAKE YOU?

RCD enables you to acquire for example:

- > Skills and abilities to conduct research on religious, political and social issues
- > The ability to select and the skill to use appropriate methodologies from a variety of disciplines to understand the role of religion and dialogue in conflict and conflict resolution
- > Critical knowledge of the understanding of conflict and dialogue within at least two religious traditions
- > The competence to take part in and understand conflict resolution situations; the mastery of conflict diagnosis tools from the point of view of early detection and prevention

CAREER PROSPECT

The Master's Programme in Religion, Conflict and Dialogue is ideal for students who wish to pursue a career in positions requiring expertise in the areas of conflict prevention and analysis, reconciliation processes, dialogue promotion, theology and religion.

Thereby, the programme prepares students for a career in governmental and non-governmental organisations on an international level, local community organisations, universities, churches and other religious organisations, government departments, and education.

1. YEAR	INTRODUCTORY STUDIES 5 ECTS	CORE STUDIES 5 ECTS	INTRODUCTORY STUDIES SKILLS 5 ECTS	INTRODUCTORY STUDIES 5 ECTS	CORE STUDIES 5 ECTS	CORE STUDIES 5 ECTS
	1. PERIOD			2. PERIOD		
1. YEAR	CORE STUDIES 5 ECTS	CORE STUDIES 5 ECTS	OPTIONAL STUDIES 5 ECTS	MASTER'S THESIS 5 ECTS (CONTINUES IN THE 2 ND YEAR, 1 ST PERIOD)	OPTIONAL STUDIES 5 ECTS	APPLIED STUDIES 5 ECTS
	3. PERIOD			4. PERIOD		
2. YEAR	MASTER'S THESIS SEMINAR 5 ECTS	APPLIED STUDIES 5 ECTS	OPTIONAL STUDIES 5 ECTS	OPTIONAL STUDIES 5 ECTS	APPLIED STUDIES 5 ECTS	MASTER'S THESIS (40 ECTS)
	1. PERIOD			2. PERIOD		
2. YEAR	MASTER'S THESIS (40 ECTS)					
	3. PERIOD			4. PERIOD		

HOW TO APPLY & CONTACT INFORMATION

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RELIGIOUS ROOTS OF EUROPE

- > A Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS credits/full time studies of 3 years) in a field of study relevant to the programme (e.g. theology, religious studies, classical philology, Semitic languages, classical archaeology, history).
- > A documented proficiency in at least one "classical" language (i.e., 20 credit points in Greek, Latin, Hebrew or Arabic; or 20 credit points altogether in two "classical" languages).
- > A verified proficiency in English on a level required by University of Helsinki
- > Each applicant must submit a CV and a Letter of Motivation.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE RELIGION, CONFLICT AND DIALOGUE

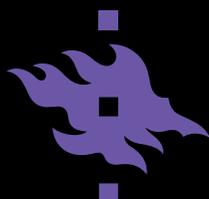
- > A Bachelor's degree (180 ECTS credits/full time studies of 3 years) in a field of study relevant to the programme (e.g., theology, religious studies, other humanities, social sciences, behavioural sciences or law)
- > Curriculum Vitae including complete study and work history
- > Letter of Motivation
- > A verified proficiency in English on a level required by University of Helsinki

TUITION FEES

- > No admission or tuition fees. The University of Helsinki currently has no application, examination, admission or tuition fees. The only fee required of matriculated students is the Student Union membership fee (€92 per year).
- > The University of Helsinki currently has no long-term grants or scholarships available to new RRE and RCD students.
- > Accepted students are nevertheless expected to pay their own living costs, including housing.

FURTHER INFORMATION AND ANNUAL TIMING OF ADMISSION

- > <http://www.helsinki.fi/rre>
- > <http://www.helsinki.fi/rcd>



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FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

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