



UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI
FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

Faculty of Theology
STUDY GUIDE 2011-2012

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WELCOME TO STUDY AT THE HEART OF HELSINKI!

Welcome to the Faculty of Theology of the University of Helsinki! This guide is designed to provide you with some practical information which you need in your theological studies, whether you are a degree student or an exchange / visiting student. All in all, you will not find all information from this rather small package; feel free to ask the questions that arise regarding the Faculty of Theology and studying here.

The Faculty of Theology has provided higher education in Theology since the establishment of the University; today it is among the largest theological faculties in the world. There are some 1,800 students pursuing a theological Bachelor and Master's degree and 300 doctoral students. Besides the University of Helsinki, there are only two institutions of higher education in Finland where Theology can be studied: the Swedish-speaking Faculty of Theology at Åbo Akademi University in Turku, and the School of Theology at the University of Eastern Finland in Joensuu.

As the largest in its field in the country, the Faculty of Theology plays a central role in theological teaching and research in Finland, as well as an important role outside the academic world. It aims to strengthen general awareness of the significance of religion in society and culture. The Faculty is a non-denominational academic community. Many graduates enter the service of the Evangelical Church of Finland. Some become teachers in comprehensive or upper secondary schools; others find employment in research work, the media, or other sectors of society.

Finland in Brief

Forests and lakes dominate the landscape of Finland, but there is geographical variety from the unique archipelago of the southern and western coastlines to the rolling mountains and clear-water rivers of Lapland. The climate in Finland is milder than in many other areas of the same latitude, partly because of the warming influence of the Gulf Stream. The population of Finland is about five million. Finland is a parliamentary republic with a multiparty political system. The 200 Members of Parliament are elected once in every four years and the President is the head of the state.

Finland and Finnish national consciousness have been molded by the country's location between East and West. Although Finns regard themselves as part of western culture, the Finnish lifestyle has undeniably been enriched by the closeness to Russia. Present-day Finland is, as it has always been, in close contact with both St Petersburg and Stockholm. From the 13th century onwards was Finland a part of the kingdom of Sweden. However, after Sweden had lost a war against Russia, Finland was ceded to Russia and became an autonomous Grand Duchy within Imperial Russia in 1809, its Grand Duke being the Czar himself.

After the October Revolution in Russia in 1917, Finland declared itself independent. During World War II Finland managed to retain its independence in the Winter War and Continuation War against the Soviet Union. Since the war, it has pursued a policy of military non-alliance. Finland joined the European Union in 1995, and is among the eleven member states that adopted the common currency euro in the beginning of 1999. The final transfer from national currencies occurred in January 2002. Finnish industry has traditionally been based on forestry and metal industry. A significant component of the industry is high technology, especially telecommunications. It currently leads Finnish exports. However, less than a third of Finns work in industry, while 65% work in trade and services.

The Finnish language belongs to the Finno-Ugric group of languages - it is closely related to Estonian and remotely to Hungarian. Finland's special richness lies in bilingualism: both Finnish and Swedish are official languages. English is currently the most popular foreign language in schools. Other languages widely studied are German, French and Russian.

Public Holidays

All Saints' Day	5.11. 2011
Independence Day	6.12. 2011
Christmas	24.-26.12. 2011
New Year	1.1. 2012
Epiphany	6.1. 2012
Easter	22.-25.4. 2012
May Day	1.5. 2012
Ascension Day	2.6. 2012
Midsummer Day	25.6. 2012

Helsinki in a Nutshell

Helsinki, the capital city of Finland, is situated on the Southern Coast of the country, on the Bay of Finland. It was founded in 1550 by King Gustav Vasa of Sweden. Fires destroyed several times the old wooden town but it was always rebuilt. The capital was officially changed from Turku to Helsinki in 1812, and after the university was moved to the new capital in 1827, Helsinki quickly became the cultural and intellectual centre of Finland. Its harbor and location bolstered trade and made Helsinki an important city in the Baltic region. Today, Helsinki and the neighboring cities of Espoo and Vantaa are home to a sixth of the Finnish population, or nearly a million people. The capital offers the cultural, educational and entertainment necessities of student life in beautiful natural surroundings, as the Helsinki metropolitan area is regarded as one of the greenest cityscapes in the world.



Helsinki is located on the southern coast of Gulf of Finland next to Sweden (west), Russia (east), Norway (north) and Estonia (south).



Pihlajasaari on the coast of Helsinki is a popular island to spend a warm summer day.

UNIVERSITY OF HELSINKI

History

The University of Helsinki is the oldest and largest university in Finland, and is also among the oldest universities in Europe. It was founded in 1640 as the Royal Academy of Turku. The Academy counted as one of the Swedish universities and adopted the European university tradition, primarily following the German pattern. In the Russian era, in 1828, the University was moved to Helsinki, which was growing into a new administration centre. The new buildings erected for the University were quite impressive, considering the circumstances and the national resources. The main building was and still is located in the city centre, opposite the building, which houses the Finnish government.

When Finland became independent in 1917, the University was given a new name, the University of Helsinki. The University Act of 1923 guaranteed the University's autonomous position and defined its duty of being the promoter of free research and academic education in Finland and the educator of young people.

Higher education in Finland began to expand rapidly after World War II. Today there are seventeen universities and some 143,000 university students in the country. In the 1960's the number of students of the University of Helsinki grew rapidly, and the growth has continued ever since. The University of Helsinki still has a special national standing because of its traditions, bilingualism, versatility and size, and its ability to attract students from all over the country and internationally.

Organisation

Teaching and research is carried out in eleven faculties, representing Theology, Law, Medicine, Arts, Science, Behavioral Sciences, Social Sciences, Agriculture and Forestry, Veterinary Medicine, Biological and Environmental Sciences and Pharmacy. The faculties are divided into divisions and institutes.

The University receives the bulk of its funds from the national budget, but it also has income of its own for funding research, teaching and administration. At the present time, there are no tuition fees for students. Admission to higher education in Finland is based on the results of the annual entrance examinations and the matriculation examinations taken at the end of the upper secondary school.

Teaching Periods

The autumn term begins on 1 August and ends on 31 December. The spring term begins on 1 January and ends on 31 July. The academic year is divided into four teaching periods, each beginning and ending at the same time throughout the University. There is a week's break between the periods, when there is no teaching but students may complete independent work.

Teaching periods in the academic year 2011–2012:

Autumn semester 2011:

I period 5 September – 23 October

No teaching on 24 October – 30 October

II period 31 October – 18 December

Spring semester 2012:

III period 16 January – 3 March

No teaching on 5 – 11 March

IV period 12 March – 20 May

There is no teaching on the following dates:

5 September: Opening ceremony of the University

19 December – 15 January: Christmas holiday

7 February: Day of the Faculty Organization
of Theological Students (TYT)

21–27 April: Easter holiday

1 May: May Day

The consultation hours of the teachers are held during the teaching periods of 5 September – 18 December and 16 January – 20 May.

Registration for the Academic Year 2011–2012

All undergraduate, graduate and doctoral students must register as attending or non-attending students each academic year. Registration can be done through the WebOodi system (www.helsinki.fi/weboodi) during the registration period between 1 May and 31 August.

Every undergraduate and graduate student registered at the University of Helsinki automatically becomes a **member of the Student Union**. In 2011–2012 the membership fees for the Student Union of the University of Helsinki are as follows:

- 89 € for undergraduate and graduate students
- 47 € for doctoral students

When registering through the WebOodi system, you need a netbank customer number and a password for one of the following banks: Nordea, Aktia, Sampo or OKO. You are automatically registered as a student also when you pay the fee in the bank and use your student number as a reference number. The fee can also be paid in cash at the office of the HYY Student union of the University of Helsinki (Mannerheimintie 5 A, 2nd floor). If you did not use the automatic registration, you will need to register in person at the Student Services (University Main Building, Fabianinkatu 33, 1st floor) at the beginning of the new academic year and show the receipt of the payment. You will also need the receipt when you pick up your study guide, your student calendar and your annual registration tag for your national student card (UniCard) at the pick-up point for guidebooks.

After having paid the Student Union fee you are entitled to student health care, reduced fares in public transportation, discounts in student cafeterias, and other benefits and services. Read here more about the benefits and services offered by HYY for its' members: <http://www.hyy.helsinki.fi/english/63/>

For more information about the registration, see:

http://www.helsinki.fi/studying/enrolment_and_registration.shtml

Please note:

These guidelines given on student registration do not apply to first-year students. Exchange students coming through the official exchange programs do not have to pay the membership fee themselves. The university takes care of the fee for them.

Student Union of the University of Helsinki (HYY)

New Student House

Mannerheimintie 5A, 2nd floor

Homepage: <http://www.hyy.helsinki.fi/english>

All undergraduates and graduate students at the University of Helsinki are members of the Student Union. Postgraduate students can also join the Student Union if they wish to do so. HYY had 29,754 members at the end of the year 2010. HYY provides its' members with guidance services and interest representation as well as various membership benefits. The membership of HYY entitles you to student discounts provided by society, such as public transportation, student priced meals and discounts to many cultural events. HYY also serves its approximately 250 sub-organisations and a large part of Student Union members participate in their various activities.

Read more below how to become active within different student organizations: <http://www.hyy.helsinki.fi/english/352/>

Computer Services

University of Helsinki IT Helpdesk: tel. +358 9 191 55555

atk-neuvonta@helsinki.fi

Homepage: <http://ww.helsinki.fi/atk/english>

In order to be able to use the University computer services in campus areas, you need to have a user account. You can apply for the user account in the Study Office of the Faculty of Theology (Aleksanterinkatu 7, 3rd floor).

Learning Centre Aleksandria

Fabianinkatu 28, (P.O. Box 53, 00014 University of Helsinki)

Entrances: Fabianinkatu 26, Vuorikatu 7 and also via gateway from the Porthania building

Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/aleksandria/english/>

Aleksandria Learning Centre is a service centre for both students and teachers of the University of Helsinki. It has many computer work desks for your use. Experts in teaching, information service and information technology provide consultation and advice on the use of Aleksandria's state-of-the-art facilities. The centrally located learning centre is also a meeting place for students.

Undergraduate Library

Fabianinkatu 32 (P.O.Box 53, 00014 University of Helsinki)

Tel.: +358 9 191 23920

Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/library>

The Undergraduate Library provides study materials needed in basic and intermediate studies on the City Campus of the University of Helsinki and has concluded a service agreement with the Open University. The Library's services are lending, study facilities (bring your own laptop with you!), information retrieval training, IT services and guidance in using the library. Opening hours of the University of Helsinki Libraries: <http://www.helsinki.fi/library/services/hours.html>

Finnish Student Health Care Service

FSHS Töölö
Töölönkatu 37 A
00260 Helsinki
<http://www.fshs.fi>

Finnish Student Health Care Service (FSHS) provides preventive health care and medical care, mental health care and oral health care for instance for students enrolled at universities. In order to have access to the FSHS services, student must be Student Union (HYY) member and pay the health care fee as part of the Student Union membership fee. Also in order to use the services of FSHS, the student needs to have a valid Lyyra card for undergraduate/graduate students (Student Union ID card).

Emergency care is available at municipal health centers and at hospitals.

FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

Visiting address: Aleksanterinkatu 7
Mailing address: P.O. Box 33, FI-00014 University of Helsinki
Tel. (University switchboard): +358 9 1911
fax (Faculty Office): +358 9 191 22106
Homepage: www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk

Decisions at the Faculty of Theology are made by the Faculty Council and the Dean of the Faculty.

The Faculty Office is open Mon – Fri at 9–11.30 a.m. and 12.30–2 p.m. (3rd floor)
The Study Office is open Mon, Tue, Thu, Fri at 10–11.30 a.m. and 12.30–2 p.m. (3rd floor)
The International Affairs Officer: tel. +358 50 3175068, e-mail: theologyhelsinki.fi (3rd floor)
Contact information and teachers' consultation hours:
<http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/departments/index.htm>

The Faculty is the largest of the three theological units in Finland and has one of the highest numbers of theology students in Europe. The mission of the Faculty is to conduct research on religion and its various manifestations, provide teaching based on research and engage in national and international social debate. The Faculty is a non-denominational academic community.

The Faculty of Theology has received several awards for its teaching and for the development of it, in which the students have also their own and active representation. Teachers provide top level teaching

based on research. The Faculty offers inspiring environment for studies thanks to its' unique research in Religion covering many point of views and rich expertise of the teachers.

All theological disciplines are represented in the Faculty, including church history, biblical studies, systematic theology, practical theology and study of religions. Also operating in the Faculty is the Catherine Institute which conducts and promotes research on religious life in Russia and Eastern Europe, the Byzantine cultural heritage and the Orthodox tradition.

Biblical Studies

Biblical Studies is a center for academic research and teaching of the Bible and the cultural world of the Bible, comprising the fields of Old and New Testament Studies and cognate related areas. During the last two decades the research and teaching has extended to extracanonical writings and new manuscript discoveries, such as Near Eastern prophecies, the Dead Sea Scrolls and Nag Hammadi codices.

In addition to the text-critical and philological study of the biblical and other ancient texts, a wide range of different methods and approaches are applied to explore the social and cultural world of the Bible. Scholars working in the division are using, for example, archaeological, social-scientific, socio-historical, and psychological approaches. Cultural analysis, literary-critical studies, and the reception of the Bible in later historical and cultural contexts belong to the research areas as well. Since 1998, the discipline has been involved in the archaeological excavations at Kinneret (Tel Kinrot at the north-western shore of the Sea of Galilee) and Horvat Kur, now called the Kinneret Regional project, together with the universities of Bern, Leiden and Mainz.

Amanuensis: M.Th, Researcher **Kirsi Valkama** (Anne-Marit Enroth on leave of absence 1.8.2011-31.7.2012)

Secretary: **Erkki Väänänen**

Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/hyel/english/>

Church History

General Church History

The discipline of General Church History studies the historical impact of Christianity throughout the world. In addition to examining key lines of development, General Church History focuses on special themes from the ancient and medieval periods to the present. Specific regions are also studied. Students can concentrate on European, Asian and African or American church history. They can also choose to study the history of inter-church cooperation, the history of the Catholic, Orthodox or Anglican Church, or church art and book history.

Finnish and Scandinavian Church History

The discipline of Finnish and Scandinavian Church History focuses on Finland and its neighbouring countries. Studies shed light on the history of Finnish and Nordic societies and churches from the medieval period to the present. Finnish and Scandinavian Church History examines the problems

associated with the relationship between church and the state, and analyses the interaction between church and society. The relationship between religion and politics is another key topic. Previously, the Division of Church History conducted extensive research in the history of the humanities during the era of Swedish rule in Finland; this tradition is now carried on in research and teaching in book history.

Amanuensis: M.Soc.Sc **Timo Valtonen** (Hanna-Maija Ketola on leave of absence until 31.12.2011)

Secretary: **Hilkka Ranki**

Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/khl/english/>

Systematic Theology

Systematic Theology specializes in Dogmatics, Ecumenics, Ethics and the Philosophy of Religion. Since the beginning of the 1980's the research interests have focused on the Reformation and medieval philosophy and theology. A third area of emphasis has been the basic questions of modern theology in the fields of dogmatics, ecumenics, theological ethics and philosophy of religion. New research projects include ethical problems in human gene technology and contextual theology.

The Philosophical Psychology, Morality and Politics Research Unit (PMP) is a research project on the history of the philosophical psychology of ethical and political discourse. It belongs to the Academy of Finland's programme of Centres of Excellence in Research, and functions at the Universities of Helsinki and Jyväskylä. The unit explores psychological assumptions in moral and political philosophy from classical Antiquity to the Enlightenment.

There has been active cooperation with Nordic, German, and American scholars in these issues. Nordic cooperation is especially intense in Reformation studies. Other significant contacts include the University of Utrecht, the University of Oxford, and the Institut für Europäische Geschichte in Mainz. Systematic Theology has engaged foreign scholarship holders in the research projects on medieval philosophy and theology. Organizing and participating in research and postgraduate seminars and conferences is a central activity of the discipline.

Systematic Theology has also participated in the teaching offered by Helsinki Summer School, which takes place in August. Introduction to Bioethics (6 ECTS) is lead by teachers from Systematic Theology, Biolaw and Medical Ethics (Faculty of Law).

Systematic Theology houses the Ecumenical Archives, a library that supports teaching and research on cooperation between the churches, as well as on ecumenical theology. The development of the Archives focuses on international relations and recurrent acquisitions. For the most part, the acquisitions consist of a large variety of journals (about 150 subscriptions) and documentation of the ecumenical movement.

Amanuensis: M.Soc.Sc. **Satu Kunnas** (3 days/week), M.Th. Karoliina Hovi (2 days/week)

Secretary: **Hilkka Ranki**

Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/steol/english/>

Comparative Religion

Address: Unioninkatu 38 E (P.O. Box 59, FI-00014 University of Helsinki)

The goal of study in Comparative Religion is to create an awareness of religion as one of the essential elements of culture and society, and to reveal the effects that religion and culture have upon each other. The task is also to give a general picture of the doctrinal contents and historical developments of the world's major religions, together with an overview of the religions of tribal cultures, including the Finnish spiritual heritage. After completing the general study program, the aim of the intermediate level is to provide the students with knowledge of religions, religious communities and religious life, as it may apply in their own communities or that of a foreign culture. Specifically, the intention is to provide the student a functioning knowledge of culture and religion in his own environment, as well as that of the third world, and to further his own specialized studies in Comparative Religion.

Comparative Religion has traditionally had a strong position in research of indigenous people, especially of the cultures and religions of Sami and Northern people. Other significant research fields are Buddhist monk communities and of orthodox pilgrims, as well as the life and religion of modern Muslim women. All research projects are connected with international networks and have an essential element of empirical fieldwork.

Amanuensis (Faculty of Arts): Phil.Lic. **Riku Hämäläinen**

Secretary: **Sonja Pakarinen**

Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/usktl/english/>

Practical Theology

Practical Theology focuses on the operations of different churches and other religious communities - in their foundations, theories and practical results. It is responsible for teaching in the following three disciplines: General Practical Theology, Religious Education, and Church Sociology. Practical Theology is also responsible for the applied studies which give students the opportunity to acquire practical experience of congregational and religious work while also putting theoretical knowledge into practice.

The experts in Practical Theology are engaged in a number of research projects, some of which are international joint ventures and some of national importance. Ongoing research activities include, among others, projects on Church and European Union, Religious communities and recession survival strategies, Religion in Transforming Solidarity and Alvar Aalto's church architecture.

Finnish religiosity and the study of religious movements are a part of the Practical Theologys' research areas. Further projects are studies on religious learning, distance teaching in religious pedagogy, further training for church employees, religious commitment, alienation, international relations of the churches, religious culture and ecclesiastical art.

Kuvio Digital Archives (www.kuvio.helsinki.fi), an umbrella archives for various academic uses, has been developed since 1995 at the division of Practical Theology. Its backbone is the Archives for the Church Architecture and the Arts, which comprises of over 3000 press quality scans of modern European church architecture.

Amanuensis: M.Th. **Timo Ävist**
Secretary: M.Sc. **Päivi Rönqvist**
Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/ktel/english/>

Catherine Institute

The Catherine Institute promotes research on religious and social situation in Eastern Europe and Russia, Orthodox religion, and Byzantine history and culture. Ongoing research projects are, for instance, Ecumenical Consultations of the Russian Orthodox Church as a Mirror of the Change in Polics, Society and Values 1959-2005 as well as Orthodox Christianity and Politics in Serbia. The institute coordinates its research with the departments of the Faculty of Theology, the Aleksanteri Institute, and the Church Research Institute.

The library of the institute contains approximately 11,000 volumes and a collection of icon literature unique in the Nordic countries, accompanied with some 2 000 slides. The library and slide collection serve both Finnish and foreign students and researches, as well as anyone interested.

Postdoctoral researcher: Th.D. **Maija Turunen** - leave of absence (until May 2011), Acting post-doctoral researcher **Krista Berglund**
Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/katariina/english/>

Theology Library

Aleksanterinkatu 7, 4th floor (P.O. Box 33, FI-00014 University of Helsinki)
Tel.: +358 9 191 23870, fax: +358 9 191 23879
Homepage: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/kirjasto>
The Theology Library is open Mon–Fri 9 a.m.– 6 p.m. On holiday eves the library closes at 4 p.m.

Faculty Organization of Theological Students (TYT)

The Faculty Association for Theologians, TYT, is one of the student associations at the University of Helsinki and is among the liveliest and oldest. It was founded by imperial decree in 1853. It is the last remaining faculty association in Finland. For more than 150 years it has served as a place of community and training ground for innumerable people who have later contributed to church and society. Today the work continues. TYT has about 1500 members and it promotes the interests of its members as well as organises various kinds of events and activities. In recent years the association has vigorously expanded its sphere of activity. Church services, excursions, parties, sports and international evenings are examples of TYT at work. TYT is a non-confessional and politically non-aligned promoter of interests for theologians. It also represents its members, especially in various spheres of university politics and unions. International students are warmly welcome to join the events and get acquainted with TYT and its members!

Address: Aleksanterinkatu 7, 2nd floor
Tel.: +358 50 532 3846, e-mail: kv-tyt@helsinki.fi
Homepage : <http://www.tyt.fi/etusivu.php>



Faculty of Theology is located in the biggest shopping street in Helsinki, Aleksanterinkatu. It lies next to the university main building and close to the harbor and the Esplanade Park.



A parallel street to Aleksanterinkatu:
North-Esplande

THEOLOGICAL DEGREES

Undergraduate and Graduate Degree Programmes and Specialist Options

The Bachelor (180 credits) and Master of Theology (120 credits) degree programmes focus on a field of scholarly expertise in theology. The Faculty offers two degree programmes: the degree programme providing the knowledge and skills needed to complete theological work in church and society (degree programme A) and the degree programme for prospective religion teachers in schools (degree programme B). Degree programme A is further divided into two specialist options: the A1 option, which includes studies required of clergy in the Evangelical Lutheran Church and of lecturers in theology, and the more general A2 option. The two specialist options in degree programme B are for prospective teachers of one subject (B1) and two subjects (B2). Appointees to posts in the Evangelical Lutheran Church of Finland and religion teachers in Finnish schools must hold a Master of Theology degree.

On the undergraduate level, teaching is provided only in Finnish. It is possible to study in English for the Master's degree and the postgraduate degrees.

Teaching in English is also available for the exchange students who come to the Faculty of Theology from the **Erasmus** and **Nordplus** partner universities and visiting students from different universities around the world. See more information regarding applying under Application information below.

International Master's Programmes at the Faculty of Theology

Master's Degree Programme A: Theological Work in Church and Society, A2 studies option (general)

The basic degree for the international students offered by the Faculty is the Master of Theology degree (120 credits) which takes approximately two years to complete. In some cases the accepted student will be given supplementary studies (up to 60 credits) to complete their Bachelor degree so that the required entry level for Master's level studies in Theology is met.

The Finnish Master's degree can be regarded as equivalent to the British and American Master's degree, and to the German Magister Artium and the Ersten/Zweiten Staatsprüfung. *International students are admitted to the specialist option A2.* It is possible to apply for specialist option A1 later. It should be noted that this option requires a fluent knowledge of Finnish from students accepted into it.

The Master of Theology degree programmes (120 ECTS-compatible credits) provide students with: 1) A thorough knowledge of the major subject and basic knowledge of the other subjects studied in the degree programme; 2) The ability to apply scientific knowledge and methods; 3) The ability to work as a theological expert and developer; 4) The qualification for academic postgraduate study; 5) Good communication and language skills

The structure of the Master's Degree Programme Theological Work in Church and Society is as follows:

Master's thesis 40 cr

Major advanced studies 30 cr

(The seminar includes the 1-credit personal study plan (HOPS).

Methodology includes 1 ICT studies credit)

- Master's seminar in English

Elective studies 50 cr

(Advanced, intermediate, minor, applied and Finnish or Swedish studies)

- Intermediate or advanced studies must total at least 15 cr.
- They may include applied studies up to a maximum of 10 cr.
- They may include a minor subject module of 1 x 25 cr.
- They may include Finnish or Swedish studies up to a maximum of 25 cr.

Advanced Studies

Students in the A2 option must complete 30 credits of advanced studies in the major subject. In their studies, students examine the basic issues of the discipline and related scientific research, and learn to use at least one scientific research method. A Master's thesis in the major subject equals 40 credits of studies. The recommended length of the thesis is 60-100 pages.

The following major subjects are offered in the Master of Theology degree programmes: Old Testament Studies, New Testament Studies (Biblical Studies) General Church History, Finnish and Scandinavian Church History (Church History) Dogmatics, Ecumenics, Philosophy of Religion, Theological Ethics and Social Ethics (Systematic Theology) Comparative Religion (Study of Religions) Practical Theology, Church and Social Studies, Religious Education (Practical Theology)

International students must choose the major subject of their Master's degree programme when they apply to the Faculty. Once admitted to the Faculty, they must participate in an interdisciplinary English-language thesis seminar arranged by the Faculty.

The Faculty may require that students in some major subjects complete additional studies if they wrote their Bachelor's thesis in a different major subject and have not completed intermediate studies in the major subject of their Master's degree programme.

Intermediate Studies

For information about intermediate studies and related teaching (time, place, teacher, substitution), please log into WebOodi (www.helsinki.fi/weboodi). Students can participate in a lecture series and take an end-of-course examination to substitute for some of the set texts in one study unit only. They can also participate in an intermediate seminar to substitute for three credits of set texts in certain study units. Lecture series can be used to substitute for a maximum of six credits in a 10-credit intermediate study unit. If several lecture series are offered in a single study unit, the student him- or herself can decide how many lecture series to attend. Information about substitution is usually given in connection with each study unit.

Applied Studies

Applied studies are not compulsory for international degree students. Students in the A2 option can complete 10 credits of applied studies. The objective is to ensure that students can apply theological knowledge and work as theological experts while cooperating and interacting with multidisciplinary colleagues in a creative and ethically responsible manner. Students are acquainted with the practices and principles of their chosen employment sector, and taught to understand the significance of theological knowledge for that sector. They are capable of analyzing their experiences; assess their strengths and areas in need of development, and examining their theological identity. Graduates can give constructive feedback on the professional skills of others and can also process the feedback they themselves receive. The personal study plan written as part of the applied studies allows students to focus on employment issues. Students are provided with the skills necessary to work in expert positions for which the Master of Theology degree qualifies them. Each applied study unit also has specific goals. Further information about applied study units is available from the Faculty's career officer and university lecturers in applied studies.

Minor Subject Studies

Master's students in the A2 option can complete a maximum of 25 credits of minor subject studies.

Students can complete minor subject modules in another faculty or university. Students can also complete studies in more than one minor subject, but only one of the minor subjects may consist of less than 25 credits of studies. When planning minor subject studies, students should find out whether their chosen subject can be studied freely or whether the department requires a test. For further information about the right to study a subject, please contact the Student Affairs Office of the faculty in question or visit the faculty website.

The Master's Degree Programme Religious Roots of Europe (RRE)

The International Master's Programme Religious Roots of Europe (RRE) is offered in collaboration between six Nordic Universities: Aarhus University, University of Bergen University of Copenhagen, University of Helsinki, Lund University and University of Oslo

The programme examines the roles of religion and culture. The students acquire a wide-reaching understanding of how the three major religions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam were formed, how they interacted in their early phases, and what is their impact on today's world. These insights are crucial for understanding important religious and cultural issues both in the past and present time.

Terms, modules and progression of studies

The Religious Roots of Europe (RRE) is a two-year programme. The Programme is assigned 120 ECTS credits altogether consisting of four terms covering 30 ECTS credits full-time study.

The Programme consists of modules that vary in the number of ECTS credits allotted to each (modules are marked as boxes in the figure below). There is a progression within each separate module, as well as a progression between the different terms. Students must complete requirements for a lower module before advancing to the next. It follows that the master thesis should be assessed as the final module in the education.

During their two years in the programme, the students enrol at one Nordic university, but they study at all six institutions, partly at in-person seminars, partly through e-learning (electronic correspondence course work). So in addition to the unique content of the programme, the students are trained in a thoroughly international atmosphere. The emphasis on e-learning gives the students a good deal of experience with cooperation at a distance, including how to keep self-motivated under these circumstances.

FIRST TERM	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
SECOND TERM	Interactions between the religions 10 ECTS	Options: Interaction, text, language 10 ECTS	Text from a particular religion 10 ECTS	
THIRD TERM	Interactions between the religions 10 ECTS	Thesis colloquium, methodology and theory and		The three religions in comparative perspective 10 ECTS
FOURTH TERM	Master's thesis 40 ECTS			

Throughout their study, the graduates acquire a number of general academic skills at a high level. They get extensive experience in analyzing and interpreting texts independently, critically and methodically, and in discussing and evaluating different points of view. They are also able to perform advanced research, to identify relevant material and to grasp large amounts of information. Graduates are capable on their own of identifying, structuring and exploring complex issues, and of planning and implementing projects within a limited time frame. Throughout the programme, the graduates are trained in presenting and communicating facts and results in a simple and cogent fashion.

Through this training, RRE graduates are qualified for innovative scholarly work and for PhD-programmes, for teaching on religion and intercultural relations, to take on duties in companies, culture and society and to engage in social contexts that require skills in interdisciplinary work, project management, information processing and communication.

For more information please read here: <http://www.helsinki.fi/rre/index.htm>

Postgraduate Degrees

The postgraduate degrees of the Faculty of Theology are Licentiate of Theology and Doctor of Theology. It is also possible to complete a Doctor of Philosophy degree. It is meant for students whose Master's degree is not theological but who wish to write their doctoral dissertation in a theological discipline. The postgraduate degrees have been reformed as a part of the Bologna Process.

See for more information: http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/studies/pg_degree_programmes.htm

Exchange studies

The Faculty is a member of the Nordic Nordplus Network of Theological Faculties, which consists of eight other faculties in the five Nordic countries. Through Nordplus students come to study theological studies, Nordlys offer the possibility to take studies other than the major subject (theology). Those eight faculties are as follows: Uppsala University, Lund University, Oslo University, Norwegian School of Theology, University of Copenhagen, University of Aarhus, University of Iceland, Åbo Akademi.

The Faculty of Theology has signed Erasmus bilateral agreements with the following universities and their departments of theological/religious studies for undergraduate and graduate candidates: Bath Spa University; Charles University in Prague; Eberhard-Karls-Universität; Evangelical-Lutheran Theological University (Budapest); Georg-August-Universität Göttingen; John Paul II Catholic University of Lublin; Katholieke Universiteit Leuven; King's College London; Liverpool Hope University; Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München; Pontifical University, St. Patrick's College, Maynooth; Protestant Theological University (PTHU), valid from 2012 onwards; Radboud Universiteit Nijmegen; Ruprecht-Karls-Universität Heidelberg; University of Utrecht (valid from 2012 onwards); Tartu Ülikool; Universität Bern; University of Durham; University of Iceland (Háskóli Íslands); Universität Leipzig; Université Marc Bloch (Strasbourg II); Universität Potsdam and Universität Wien.

The agreements with partners mentioned above include also Teacher Exchange Mobility.

If you are studying at a Nordic university or at an Erasmus partner university, you can apply to become an exchange student in the Faculty of Theology. You should start by contacting the International Affairs Coordinator at your home university. More information on student exchange can be found at: www.helsinki.fi/exchange/.

For information on practical matters, student life and living in Finland, visit also the webpages of the University of Helsinki: <http://www.helsinki.fi/exchange/studies/index.html>

Faculty of Theology has also an exchange agreement with Candler School of Theology (Emory University) in USA. This, however, is only available for Finnish students of the Faculty of Theology and American students of Candler School of Theology.

Application Information

International degree students may be accepted to pursue a Master of Theology degree (in specialist option A2) and Religious Roots of Europe (RRE) if they have completed a suitable Bachelor's degree. The application deadline for graduate applicants is annually around 31 January. More information:

http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/studies/ug_how.htm

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

<http://www.helsinki.fi/admissions>

Incoming exchange students (Erasmus, Nordplus) can apply for studies at Faculty of Theology twice a year. In the academic year 2011-2012 the application periods are as follows: 15.8.2011-1.11.2011 and 1.3.2012-30.4.2012. More information:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/exchange/>

<http://www.helsinki.fi/exchange/howtoapply/index.html>

Incoming visiting students (students coming from universities with which Faculty of Theology hasn't an exchange agreement) may apply throughout the whole academic year. Please read more here:

http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/studies/courses_visiting.htm

Postgraduate applicants may apply twice a year. For more information please read here:

http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/studies/pg_how.htm

Studies and courses, Acceptance and arrival in Helsinki, Permits and Living in Finland:

<http://www.helsinki.fi/exchange/acceptance/index.html>

STUDYING AT THE FACULTY OF THEOLOGY

How to study in English

Students without knowledge of Finnish can choose the following ways of study:

- Completing Finnish study units by taking book exams in English: Most intermediate and advanced study units can be taken as book exams. There are usually enough alternatives to choose from on the reading lists so that one can study in English only.
- Completing study units in English: Certain study modules are offered only in English, also for the Finnish students.
- Completing individual lecture courses offered in English: See the list of lecture courses offered in English. These courses can be taken as a part of a study module or individually.
- Please also remember that as a student at the Faculty of Theology, you can choose study units and lecture series from other Faculties quite freely. Visiting students, however, should indicate such intentions clearly upon application. This is because certain fields are very popular and therefore the right to study them is restricted.

Study Units, Lecture Courses and Methods of Study

Degree programmes consist of study units, each of which usually lasts for one or two teaching periods (with the exception of courses in classical languages and seminars in the major subject). Each study unit must be completed before the end of the following term. Studies completed as part of a study unit are valid until the end of the following term, unless otherwise stated.

The Faculty unit for the development of teaching and learning has decided that exemptions to the above one-term rule may be granted for the following reasons: 1) illness (medical certificate required), 2) military or non-military service, 3) pregnancy, or 4) another compelling reason. When applying for an exemption, students must contact the person responsible for the study unit in question. Study units completed after 1 August 2005 which are not part of a module will expire in 10 years. Study modules will not expire.

It is important to understand the difference between a study unit and a lecture course. A lecture series is usually a 24-hour series of lectures with an essay or a test at the end of the course. A lecture series may be given throughout a term (e.g. 2 hours per week), or intensively (e.g. 2 hours every day for 2 weeks).

A study unit is a larger entity and it can be completed in a variety of ways, usually by combining a lecture course with a list of reading which is tested separately. One lecture course may be integrated into different study units. Study units tend to stay the same from year to year, whereas lecture series change yearly. The content of one study unit may thus differ from year to year, depending on the lecture series available. Each unit may include lecture series and their examinations, reading, essays, independent research, group work, and practical training. Not all units include all forms of study. Each study unit is graded separately, and these grades together determine the final grade of the degree. An exam on the required reading may be taken on specific faculty examinations days. Advance registration for the exams is required; see under "Faculty examination system" later on.

It is possible to accumulate separate lecture series without deciding beforehand, into which study unit they will be integrated into, and then to put together a study unit later. Please note that the lecture series can be completed independently and do not have to be incorporated into any study unit. Each lecture series can be used only once (in one study unit).

The system described above refers mainly to intermediate and advanced studies. A complete list of the study units and their contents is available in Finnish only in the study guide (opinto-opas in Finnish), also found on the Finnish website (<http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk>)

ECTS-compatible Credits

One ECTS-compatible credit (hereafter "credit") requires an average of 26.7 hours of work. The annual workload of students is 60 credits, or 1,600 hours. The workload consists of studies completed during teaching periods and at other times. Credits are based on the required workload. This means, among other things, that teachers assign credits for set texts based on the purpose, workload and demands of such texts, not just on the number of pages students must read. When determining credits, the Faculty aims to take the independent work completed by students more fully into account. Students' workload consists of lectures, small group work, seminars, assignments, set texts, examinations, independent study, online work, etc.

Examinations 2011-2012

Faculty examination system

A unique feature of the Finnish study system is the faculty examination (*tiedekuntatentti* in Finnish). It is possible to complete almost any study unit by taking a written examination on specific dates throughout the year. The examination may be on designated reading, a lecture series taken previously, or both.

In the Faculty of Theology, the faculty examinations are always held on Fridays (not all Fridays) from 9 am to 1 pm. Students must register for the faculty examination ten days before the examination. For registration, students should use an electronic registration sheet in WebOodi (www.helsinki.fi/weboodi).

At the beginning of the examination session student will get an envelope containing the question sheet. Answers are placed into the same envelope, which is then returned to the examination supervisors and forwarded to the teacher. Results of the examination will appear on each division's bulletin board in 2-3 weeks.

Because of the high number of participants in each faculty examination, the subjects taught at the Faculty of Theology have been divided into two groups, and the faculty examination Fridays have been divided accordingly.

Group I: Church History, Dogmatics, Ecumenics, Theological Ethics and Social Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Study of Religions, Latin.

Group II: Biblical Studies, Practical Theology, Church and Social Studies, Religious Education, Hebrew, Greek.

The examinations are usually held in Auditorium 1 (*sali 1* in Finnish) of the Main Building (Fabianinkatu 33), but always check ahead. The following rules must be adhered to at the examination:

- Arrive at 9.00. Students will not be admitted into the room after 9.45, and may not leave the room before 9.45.
- Students are allowed to bring only their writing equipment (pen, pencil, ruler, and eraser) to the examination. Paper is provided at the site. Bags and outerwear must be left outside or at the side of the room. Mobile phones must be switched off, and they must be left in the bag or handed over to the examiners.
- Answers are to be returned to the examiners in the envelope containing the questions.
- Students must present an identity card or other proof of identity when returning their papers.

Faculty Examination Dates in 2011–2012

Location: PR (University Main Building) lecture room 1

Time: Fri 9.15-13.00 on the following dates:

Autumn term

9 September (I)

23 September (II)

Spring term

20 January (I)

3 February (II)

7 October (I)	17 February (I)
21 October (II)	2 March (II)
11 November (I)	16 March (I)
25 November (II)	30 March (II)
9 December (I-II)	13 April (I)
	27 April (II)
	11 May (I-II)

I and II refer to the two groups into which the subjects of the Faculty of Theology have been divided.

- Group I: Church History, Dogmatics, Ecumenics, Theological Ethics and Social Ethics, Philosophy of Religion, Comparative Religion, Latin
- Group II: Biblical Studies, Practical Theology, Church and Social Studies, Religious Education, Hebrew, Greek

Summer Examinations 2012

There will be two Faculty Examinations in the summer of 2012,

- on Thu 28 June at 10–14, in PR lecture room 1 and lecture room PII
- on Thu 16 August at 10–14 in lecture rooms PR lecture room 1 and PII (Porthania Building).

Registration has to be made by 16 June 2012.

Registration

Registration to all examinations organized by the Faculty of Theology is **required**. Registration is made by using the WebOodi system at www.helsinki.fi/weboodi. In order to use WebOodi, you need to have the user account and password to the University computer network. It is possible to register at WebOodi 30 days prior to the exam. The deadline for registration is 10 days before the exam (on Tuesday).

Results

The results of an exam are published in two-three weeks on the notice board of the division. A student may see his/her own results in WebOodi. In December and during the summer, it takes longer to get the results.

Grading Scale

5 excellent

4 very good

3 good

2 satisfactory

1 passable

0 fail

Registration of Studies

A student is asked to check in WebOodi that the courses he/she has completed are registered. When a bigger block of studies, like Basic Studies, Intermediate Studies, or Advanced Studies, is completed, a registration of the whole block is made. A student is asked to fill in a form and submit it to Administrative Secretary Eija Molarius in the Faculty Office, or to division in question, in the case of Advanced Studies. All blocks have to be registered well before graduation.

MASTER'S THESIS AND MATURITY TEST

Thesis seminar and Master's thesis

Students pursuing a Master of Theology degree must write a Master's thesis (40 credits) in their major subject. The Master's thesis must show the student's familiarity with scientific thought and his or her command of the necessary research methods, knowledge of the thesis topic and ability to communicate scientifically. The thesis work begins in the major subject seminar, in which students usually participate during their fourth year of study. The thesis topic is often determined on the basis of the seminar theme. Students must agree on the thesis topic with their seminar supervisor.

Students should prepare for seminar work by actively participating in methodological instruction and reading the recommended literature during their intermediate and major subject studies. The seminar is intended for discussion and profound study of the topic as well as for presentation and assessment of results together with the other students. Students should not complete applied studies or the studies in education required of teachers while completing the seminar. The research seminar also includes work (1 credit) relating to the personal study plan. Further information about seminars and thesis writing can be obtained from the professors of each major subject and the seminar assistants, who also provide personal guidance during their consultation hours.

Guidelines for the format of theses

A Master's thesis must be submitted to the Faculty for examination in two bound copies, of which one is stored in the Theology Library. The student can collect the other copy from the Faculty's administrative services once the thesis has been approved. The library copy must be hard-bound. The Faculty has issued the following guidelines on the format of theses:

- Theses submitted to the Faculty must be printed on both sides of the pages.
- The following margins must be used: top, bottom, left and right margins must be 2 cm, and an additional margin of 3 cm must be left for binding. Thus, the left side of odd-numbered pages and the right side of even-numbered pages must have a 5 cm margin for binding. The font type must be Times New Roman or Times, font size 12 and line spacing 1.5. The font type of footnotes must be the same as that of the body of the text, with font size 10 and line spacing 1.
- The first line of each new paragraph must be indented. No blank lines should be left between paragraphs. When the text is aligned to the right, hyphens must be used. Long direct quotations in the body of the text must be indented and typed in font size 10, with line spacing set at 1. When indenting text, no quotation marks or italics should be used to indicate a quotation.
- Headings must comply with the settings or heading styles of the body of the text.
- The title page of the thesis must indicate its title, discipline and type (e.g., Master's thesis in New Testament studies), the month and year of its submission (e.g., May 2011) and the name of its writer.

Each Master's thesis must be accompanied by a one-page bound abstract on the topic and results. A form for the abstract can be printed out from the Alma intranet:
<https://alma.helsinki.fi/doclink/150401>

The abstract must be written according to instructions given in the seminar. The VESA online list of subject headings (<http://vesa.lib.helsinki.fi>) or the Theology Library's list of subject headings (www.helsinki.fi/teol/kirjasto/palvelut/asiasanat) can be consulted to select keywords for the thesis.

The recommended length of a Master's thesis is 60–100 pages.

For special reasons and upon a well-founded application, the Faculty may declare part of a thesis confidential. An application for confidentiality must be accompanied by a statement from the student's supervisor. The research section of a confidential thesis is always public, while the sections containing delicate information must be placed in a separate appendix. The Faculty decision on a confidentiality application will state which sections of the thesis are declared confidential, why, where the confidential sections will be stored and under what conditions, as well as who will decide on access to the whole thesis.

Objectives and assessment criteria for Master's thesis

The Master's thesis must demonstrate a student's familiarity with academic thinking, mastery of the *necessary research methods, knowledge of the thesis topic and ability to communicate scientifically*. The recommended length of a Master's thesis is 60–100 pages. The Faculty will approve or reject the thesis based on examiner statements. (See the standing regulations of the Faculty of Theology, chapter III, section 8.)

The research must be honest and fulfil the norms of research ethics in terms of documentation, references, relations to other research and possible experiment settings. (See *Good Scientific Practice and Procedures for Handling Misconduct and Fraud in Science*, published by the National Advisory Board on Research Ethics in 2002.)

The significance of the assessment criteria below for the final grade of the thesis may be emphasised in different ways, depending on the distinguishing characteristics of the thesis and the discipline.

Assessment criteria

1. Formulating and discussing the research question

- The appropriateness of the research topic, its chosen limitation and perspective
- Posing and justifying the research question
- Focusing on issues that are central to the research question

2. Use of sources

- The quality, relevance and sufficiency of the source material in terms of the topic and research question
- Understanding and use of the sources

3. Knowledge of research literature, its use and assessment

- Placing the research in the appropriate context of previous research
- Independent and critical analysis of previous research, theories, methods and material is considered an additional merit

4. Analysis and command of methodology

- Choice and justification of research methods
- Command of the chosen research methods
- Clarity of argumentation

5. *Independent observations and conclusions*

- Answering the research question and reporting on results
- Justification and reliability of conclusions
- Observations which are interesting for the field or society at large will be considered an additional merit

6. *Structure and readability of the thesis*

- Consistency and clarity of the thesis structure
- Transitions between paragraphs and chapters and the flow of the text
- Spelling and clarity of language
- Format of endnotes, footnotes and the bibliography as well as the overall appearance of the thesis

Description of grades

The assessment of approved Master's theses at the Faculty of Theology is based on the grade descriptions presented below. The particular traits of the discipline and the thesis should be considered when applying the assessment criteria.

Grading scale (improbatur, approbatur, lubenter approbatur, non sine laude approbatur, cum laude approbatur, magna cum laude approbatur, eximia cum laude approbatur and laudatur)

Improbatur

"Rejected". The work does not fulfil to an acceptable degree the requirements, assessment criteria and/or ethical norms set for Master's theses.

Approbatur

"Approved". The work fulfils both the Faculty requirements for a Master's thesis and the ethical norms, but is significantly deficient.

Lubenter approbatur

"Readily approved". The work fulfils both the Faculty requirements for a Master's thesis and the ethical norms, but when examined in the context of the assessment criteria its deficiencies are not sufficiently compensated by its merits.

Non sine laude approbatur

"Approved not without praise". The work fulfils both the Faculty requirements for Master's theses and the ethical norms. In terms of the assessment criteria, the thesis has satisfactory sections, but they do not sufficiently compensate for the weaknesses of the work.

Cum laude approbatur

"Approved with praise". In terms of the assessment criteria, the thesis is of a good standard and fulfils the ethical norms. The concepts and language used are clear. The research problem, methods and

results are well justified and based on relevant material. The distinct merits of the thesis can compensate for possible deficiencies that may have emerged in the light of the assessment criteria.

Magna cum laude approbatur

“Approved with high praise”. In terms of the assessment criteria, the thesis has distinct merits that are not undermined by its deficiencies in other respects. The thesis fulfils the ethical norms.

Eximia cum laude approbatur

“Approved with extraordinary praise”. In terms of the assessment criteria, the thesis has significant merits and is without deficiencies that reduce the overall quality. The thesis fulfils the ethical norms.

Laudatur

“Praised”. In the light of all essential assessment criteria, the thesis is highly distinguished. The text is of a high scholarly standard, and sections could be published as scholarly articles with minor modifications. The thesis fulfils the ethical norms.

Submission of a Master’s thesis for examination

A Master’s thesis must be submitted for examination to the Faculty’s Student Affairs Office in two bound copies, of which at least one must be hard-bound. The student must simultaneously submit two additional copies of the abstract form. He or she must also register for a maturity test on WebOodi no later than the Thursday preceding the submission date of the thesis by 23.59. After the thesis has been approved, one thesis copy is delivered to the Theology Library, while the student can collect the other from the Student Affairs Office. The title page of the thesis must indicate its title, discipline and type (see example under “Guidelines for the format of theses”), the month and year of its submission and the name of its writer. The abstract form must be bound with both thesis copies to immediately follow the title page.

In 2011-2012, the Thesis can be submitted for examination on the following Fridays by 11.30 to the Faculty’s Student Affairs Office (address: Aleksanterinkatu 7, 3rd floor): 2 September, 4 November, October, 13 January, 24 February, 13 April and 4 May. A thesis can also be submitted to the Faculty’s Student Affairs Office before the deadline or can be mailed to arrive by the deadline.

N.B.! A student who has transferred to the new degree structure and is yet to complete both a Master’s thesis and Bachelor’s thesis can submit both theses for examination on the submission dates for Master’s theses. If both theses relate to the same topic, the student needs to take only one maturity test.

Registration for submission of a Master’s thesis and for a maturity test takes place on WebOodi. Registration ends on WebOodi on the day before the date for Master’s thesis submission at 23.59. For example, if you intend to submit a Master’s thesis for examination on 2 September, registration on WebOodi ends on 1 September at 23.59, and the maturity test is on 9 September. To register for submission of a Master’s Thesis and for a maturity test, please see the thesis submission dates under “Tentit” (Examinations) in the advanced studies section of the course catalogue on WebOodi. Advanced studies are listed in separate catalogues according to division. You can also search for the registration function using the thesis code available in the course catalogue. To register for the written

maturity test, a transcript from the Student Register or the student's credit book must show that the student has completed the following studies:

- Course YK 70 Kirjoitusviestintä (Written communication) **or** Y35 Viestintä ja argumentaatio (Communication and argumentation) **or** Y30 Kommunikaatiotaidot (Communication skills) **or** YYA 3. Puhe- ja kirjallinen viestintä (Spoken and written communication) **or** 2.1. Viestinnän perusteet sekä suullinen ja kirjallinen viestintä (Foundations of communication and oral and written communication)
- Thesis seminar in the major subject

The Dean appoints a primary and secondary examiner for each thesis.

Master's thesis assessment

The Faculty Council decides at a meeting on the approval and grading of a Master's thesis. The thesis examiners submit a grade proposal, and the primary examiner also submits a written statement on the thesis. Approved Master's theses are graded on the following scale from the highest to the lowest: *laudatur*, *eximia cum laude approbatur*, *magna cum laude approbatur*, *cum laude approbatur*, *non sine laude approbatur*, *lubenter approbatur* and *approbatur*.

Students can find out the grade proposed for their thesis by contacting the Faculty's administrative services on the Wednesday prior to the Faculty Council meeting. If a student is dissatisfied with the proposed grade, he/she can ask in writing for the suspension of the grading process prior to the Faculty Council meeting. The dates of the Faculty Council meetings are listed in the course catalogue and on the Faculty website.

Students dissatisfied with the grade of their thesis can appeal in writing to the Faculty Council, which decides whether the appeal warrants the appointment of an additional examiner or any other measures. A student dissatisfied with the Faculty Council decision on his/her appeal can further appeal for its amendment to the University's Board of Appeals Examination. Further information is available in the regulations appended to the course catalogue.

Ensuring the high visibility of Master's theses through the E-thesis service

The University of Helsinki provides the writers of approved Master's theses in the Faculty of Theology with the opportunity to publish their thesis on the University's E-thesis online service. The Faculty of Theology has set the grade *cum laude approbatur* as the minimum quality criterion. The E-thesis service publishes theses, dissertations and serial publications. The database can also be freely accessed from outside the University.

Instructions (in Finnish) on the publication process are available at:

<http://ethesis.helsinki.fi/ohjeet/gradu.html>

Written maturity test

Students pursuing a Master's degree in the Faculty must pass a written maturity test related to their Master's thesis. The maturity test requires the student to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the topic of the thesis. The student is not required to demonstrate his/her Finnish or Swedish skills at this point if he/she passed a maturity test for a Bachelor of Theology degree in the same language, but the student

must, under the Government Decree on University Degrees (794/2004), pass the maturity test to demonstrate knowledge of the thesis topic.

The maturity test can be taken on the following Fridays in 2011-2012 from 9.00 to 13.00 in Auditorium 1 of the University's Main Building: 9 September, 11 November, 20 January, 2 March, 20 April and 11 May. Students must register for the test on WebOodi no later than the Thursday prior to the thesis submission date by 23.59. The maturity test involves writing an essay on a topic related to the student's thesis. The essay must be sufficiently long; the Faculty recommends it be from three to four pages of a four-page sheet of paper. The primary examiner examines the maturity test. The test is graded on a pass/fail basis.

A student can write his/her thesis in a language other than Finnish or Swedish with the consent of a professor in the major subject. In such cases, the student can take the maturity test in Finnish, Swedish or the language of the thesis if he/she has demonstrated his/her native language skills in the maturity test taken in conjunction with the Bachelor's thesis.

Instructions for taking the Maturity Test

Select one of the given tasks and write a three- to four-page response in the form of an essay. The essay should be structured and have a natural beginning and ending. Note that a length of one to two pages is insufficient. Return the question sheet along with your response.

The Maturity Test is also a native-language test, and thus the following should be borne in mind when preparing your essay's final written form:

1. A command of basic spelling and punctuation must be demonstrated;
2. The syntactic structure must be sound;
3. The text should progress by means of the language, not by diagrams, pictures or tables; references to sources must also be incorporated linguistically into the body of the text (i.e., not by means of footnotes or endnotes);
4. The text should form a structured and coherent whole;
5. The text must be understandable to the reader; the writer must not assume that the reader is already acquainted with his or her thesis; and
6. A factual style is the most pertinent for a research-based essay.

The Maturity Test is graded on a pass/fail basis. The Maturity Test is graded by the main examiner of the student's thesis and by a teacher of the student's native language. The text must be acceptable in terms of both the content and the linguistic form. If the student fails the Maturity Test, he/she may sign up for the next Faculty exam.

The grading of the Maturity Test relating to a Master's thesis is decided in the same Faculty Council meeting as is responsible for approving the Master's thesis. By contrast, approval of the Bachelor's Maturity Test and the Bachelor's Thesis rests with the Dean, who decides on both at the same time.

Graduation

Students should request a degree diploma at least twelve days before graduation. By that time, their Master's thesis must be graded, their studies must be completed and recorded in the Student Register,

and their study modules must be approved. The Dean of the Faculty of Theology issues the degree diplomas. To receive a diploma, students must sign up for a degree ceremony and/or submit a request for a diploma to **Eija Molarius** at the Faculty's Administrative Services (Aleksanterinkatu 7, 3rd floor). If a student does not participate in a degree ceremony, he/she can collect the diploma from the administrative services on one of the dates below

Graduation *with and without a ceremony / Master of Theology, Doctor of Theology Dates 2011 – 2012

<i>Form has to be submitted</i>	<i>Graduation (degree certificate)</i>
31 August	12 September
29 September	*10 October
2 November	14 November
7 December	*19 December
11 January	23 January
22 February	5 March
11 April	23 April
16 May	*28 May
30 May	15 June

The graduation ceremony is held at the University Festivity Hall (Aleksanterinkatu 5) at 2 p.m. After the ceremony, there is coffee for the graduates and their family and friends.

The graduation dates can be found also from the Alma intranet:
<https://alma.helsinki.fi/doclink/150401>

TEACHING IN ENGLISH 2011-2012

Teaching in English on offer for exchange students (Erasmus, Nordplus, Visiting students) can be found in Weboodi: <https://oodi-www.it.helsinki.fi/hy/frame.jsp?Kieli=6> as well as on faculty's website: <http://www.helsinki.fi/teol/tdk/english/studies/index.htm>

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