

**Regulations for the  
IPP International Ph.D. Programme “Religion in Dialogue”  
in the Department of Catholic Theology**

1. Applications for admission to the IPP International Ph.D. Programme “Religion in Dialogue” must be lodged with the Ph.D. Commission. The first and second supervisors should also be nominated in these applications.
2. Students who satisfy the requirements pursuant to § 3 of the Ph.D. regulations may apply for admission to the IPP programme. Admissions are decided on the basis of a selection procedure. Holders of a bachelor’s degree acquired in the Federal Republic of Germany or abroad may also apply for direct admission to the IPP programme by means of a qualification procedure. The qualification procedure comprises successful participation in the selection procedure and successful completion of the preparatory year.
3. Together with the doctoral candidate, the first and second supervisors will set out a binding working plan within a period of one month. This plan must include those lectures and seminars from the curriculum of “Religion in Dialogue” which are relevant to the thesis topic (a total of 18 hours per week).
4. The applicant gains admission to the programme when the Ph.D. Commission has approved the working plan.
5. The usual duration of the Ph.D. course of study is three years, or four if a preparatory year is required. At the end of the first and second year of study, the candidates must submit a written progress report on their Ph.D. work to the Ph.D. Commission, attaching pertinent comments provided by their supervisors.
6. If the thesis has not been submitted by the end of the third year and the proceedings for the conferment of a doctorate have been initiated, the Ph.D. Commission will – following consultation with the supervisor – decide whether the candidate is to be excluded from further participation in the IPP programme.
7. The doctoral candidate must submit a summary of his/her dissertation alongside the contract of publication. This summary must be written in English and approved by the supervisor (Abstract § 12 Para. 4 of the Ph.D. regulations).
8. On their part, the supervisors will ensure that the candidates’ working plans and time schedules can be adhered to and that they provide the support and supervision necessary in this regard. The supervisors undertake to offer at least one opportunity for a detailed discussion per month.
9. No more than six months should elapse between the submission of the dissertation and the acceptance of the disputation.
10. Disputations may also take place outside the lecture period.
11. The dissertation may be submitted in English or in another international language if certain conditions are met.
12. The disputation may be held in English.
13. In addition to the Ph.D. supervisor, a second supervisor is assigned to IPP candidates. If the first supervisor is unable to continue supervision of the Ph.D. until its

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completion owing to illness, departure etc., the second supervisor will assume this task.

14. The certificate will be issued in German and English.
15. In principle, the joint award of doctorates with a foreign university is possible.
16. Preparatory year

The preparatory year is compulsory for all doctoral candidates who do not satisfy the normal admission requirements. It covers:

- (1) the acquisition of the necessary knowledge of German through an intensive language course with tutorials
- (2) the opportunity for both foreign and German students to improve their English
- (3) thorough training in academic working techniques and in the preparation of a dissertation through tutorials
- (4) subject-specific preparation for the final examination through lectures and seminars and through special supervision and support by academic staff
- (5) a specific introduction to the subject of the doctoral thesis
- (6) assistance in procuring material for the dissertation

17. Curriculum: Catholic Theology

The teaching and supervisory programme covers:

- Participation in three series of lectures of the Visiting Chair for Intercultural Theology, during the first half of each winter semester
- Participation in three related seminars held by the Visiting Chair, during the first half of each winter semester
- Participation in three postgraduate colloquia held by the Visiting Chair in English, during the first half of each winter semester (a total of 9 hours per week)
- Collaboration in at least three research symposia (partly in English)
- Sojourn as a visitor to cooperating universities and institutes and/or participation in joint events in the Federal Republic of Germany and abroad
- Four lectures and seminars dealing with subject matter and research findings of intercultural or interreligious relevance, on the one hand from the regular range of lectures and seminars offered in Philosophy of Religion, Catholic Theology, Protestant Theology, Comparative Religious Studies/Jewish Studies and Sociology of Religion, and on the other hand from ongoing teaching assignments being carried out by cooperating national and international institutions or lecturers. Acquisition of four seminar certificates with sound results (one each in Philosophy of Religion, Catholic Theology, Comparative Religious Studies/Jewish Studies and Sociology of Religion) (a total of 8 hours per week)
- Ph.D. colloquium with the supervisor (1 hour per week)
- Ongoing individual support and advice by a tutor and the subject supervisor (usually at least once per week)

18. Curriculum: Philosophy of Religion

The teaching and supervisory programme covers:

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- Participation in the lectures and seminars connected with the research projects (e.g. “Philosophical Foundations of the Interreligious Dialogue”)
- Participation in the other relevant lectures and seminars of the institute (a total of 6 hours per week)
- Participation in the regular colloquia on Philosophy of Religion conducted by the Institute for Philosophy of Religion (IRF) (a total of 3 hours per week)
- Collaboration in at least three research symposia (partly in English)
- Sojourn as a visitor to cooperating universities and institutes and/or participation in joint events in the Federal Republic of Germany and abroad
- Four lectures and seminars dealing with relevant subject matter and research findings, on the one hand from the regular range of lectures and seminars offered in Philosophy of Religion, Protestant or Catholic Theology, Comparative Religious Studies/Jewish Studies and Sociology of Religion, and on the other hand from ongoing teaching assignments being carried out by cooperating national and international institutions or lecturers. Acquisition of four seminar certificates with sound results (one each in Philosophy of Religion, Protestant or Catholic Theology, Comparative Religious Studies/Jewish Studies and Sociology of Religion) (a total of 8 hours per week)
- Ph.D. colloquium with the supervisor (1 hour per week)
- Ongoing individual support and advice by a tutor and the subject supervisor (usually at least once per week)

19. Curriculum: Religious Studies

The teaching and study programme covers:

- Participation in lectures and seminars connected with the research projects in Religious Studies
- Participation in the other relevant lectures and seminars in Religious Studies and Sociology of Religion (a total of 6 hours per week)
- Participation in three postgraduate colloquia conducted by foreign lecturers (in English) (a total of 3 hours per week)
- Collaboration in at least three research symposia (partly in English)
- Sojourn as a visitor to cooperating universities and institutes and/or participation in joint events in the Federal Republic of Germany and abroad
- Four lectures and seminars dealing with relevant subject matter and research findings, on the one hand from the regular range of lectures and seminars offered in Comparative Religious Studies/Jewish Studies, Sociology of Religion, Philosophy of Religion, Protestant or Catholic Theology, and on the other hand from additional special courses being offered. Acquisition of four seminar certificates with sound results (one each in Philosophy of Religion, Protestant or Catholic Theology and Comparative Religious Studies/Jewish Studies) (a total of 8 hours per week)
- Ph.D. colloquium with the supervisor (1 hour per week)
- Ongoing individual support and advice by a tutor and the subject supervisor (usually at least once per week)