Theology (Canonical License)

Degree conferred  
Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatus Canonicus

Languages of study  
Study in two languages, in French and German

Commencement of studies  
Commencement of studies in the Autumn Semester (September) or in the Spring Semester (February)

Access to further studies  
Ph.D.

A Canonical License is required for advancement to a doctorate by students wishing to teach at a papal or other ecclesiastical university, or at a seminary.

Profile of the study programme

Unlike other university disciplines, theology has its own guiding perspective: it is fundamentally concerned with God and doctrine, reflecting its own position and that of the church in society. The critical work of theology is aimed at helping to keep issues of values and truth alive in public discourse.

Theological training consists primarily of training courses for future priests and pastoral care assistants and secondary school teachers.

Fribourg profile

The Faculty of Theology of the University of Fribourg is the largest theological faculty in Switzerland and one of two Catholic theological faculties integrated into a state university. Like the other faculties, it is subject to state law; however, it is also recognised by the ecclesiastical authorities and is supported by the Dominican Order and the Conference of Bishops of Switzerland.

The content of a Canonical License course consists of lectures and classes, a thesis and ECTS points in the license special subject and in other theological fields, which are agreed with the license supervisor. All departments must be taken into consideration: the Hebraic Bible and its cultural context (OT), the New Testament in its cultural and historical context, patristics and ancient church history, modern and contemporary church history, the sciences of faith and philosophy, dogmatic theology, the theology of ecumenism, interreligious dialogue, theological ethics, practical theology and liturgical science.

Candidates doing a license are mentored by their thesis supervisor. He or she defines the license components in agreement with the candidate.

Candidates who already have a specialist Master's degree in Theology must catch up the subjects they did not study for their Master's degree in agreement with the curator studiorum for their license; this may prolong their studies to two years.

Learning outcomes and career openings

A Canonical License is required for advancement to a doctorate by candidates wishing to teach at a papal or other ecclesiastical university (SapC 17) or at a priests' seminary (SapC 50.1). To be eligible to apply for a doctoral programme, candidates need a Canonical License; this gives them access to a doctorate recognised by the church.

Studies organisation

Structure of studies

60 ECTS credits, 2 semesters

Admission

Master's degree programmes are built on the knowledge and abilities that were acquired when obtaining a Bachelor's degree.

Holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within the corresponding discipline (requires the acquisition of minimum 60 ECTS credits at Bachelor level in the corresponding discipline) without any additional requirements. The same applies to holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a foreign university, provided that the Bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg.

Holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university or holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded by a foreign university, provided that the Bachelor's degree is recognised and considered equivalent by the University of Fribourg, can be admitted to a Master's degree programme within another discipline with prerequisites (must be successfully completed before starting the Master's degree programme) or additional requirements (can be completed during the Master's degree programme). According to existing agreements, holders of a Bachelor's degree awarded from a Swiss university of applied sciences can also be admitted with prerequisites or additional requirements.

The respective conditions of admission for each Master's degree programme are reserved.

Contact

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