

POSTGRADUATE PROGRAM STUDY GUIDE
“RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND INTERCULTURAL RESEARCH”



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1. HISTORY AND OBJECTIVE

The Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion of the Faculty of Theology at the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens is committed to providing high-quality higher education in the academic fields of Social Theology and Religious Studies, while fostering a creative environment of research and collaboration for its staff. The dedication of the Department's faculty, research, laboratory, and administrative personnel to the continuous improvement of teaching, research, and services constitutes a strategic goal and shared responsibility.

This commitment has been demonstrated by the collective effort of the Department to substantiate academically the need to broaden its scope and rename it from the "Department of Social Theology" to the "Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion" (Government Gazette 3664/28.08.2018).

The vision of the Department is to continue serving educational, research, social, and cultural goals within a context where interfaith dialogue is essential. This vision is realized through collaboration with scholars and universities abroad and with community organizations, maintaining principles of academic ethics, accountability, and social cohesion.

To this end, the Department continues to expand its network of partner universities through the **ERASMUS** program, participates in the **CIVIS European University Alliance**, and has organized significant international and interdisciplinary conferences such as "*The Holocaust: Diachronic and Interdisciplinary Approaches*" (October 2017) and "*Religious Communities: Canonical and Legal Approaches to Historical and Contemporary Issues*" (February 2018).

In recent years, the Department's academic personnel has been enriched with new members specializing in Intercultural Theology and Art, while new **Research Laboratories** have been established, such as the *Digital Research and Manuscript Studies Lab* (Gov. Gazette 114/4.8.2017, Vol. A), and the *Bioethics Lab*, among others.

2. THE M.A. PROGRAM “RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND INTERCULTURAL RESEARCH”

The M.A. Program “**Religious Studies and Intercultural Research**” focuses on the interdisciplinary study of religion and intercultural inquiry, centered on:

- a) the history, theology, and institutions of religions;
- b) religious culture and its relation to intercultural education;
- c) interdisciplinary approaches connecting religious studies with the social sciences;
- d) leadership, law, and economy within church administration.

The program builds upon the Department’s expertise and research tradition, providing a structured academic framework that integrates theological and religious studies with interdisciplinary research. Through the Department’s academic collaborations, it contributes to the advancement of religious and intercultural studies within the Greek academic context, responding to international developments in the field.

Its growing international engagement and interdisciplinary orientation — promoted by leading universities and research centers — underscore the significance of studying religions, theological traditions, and the modern challenges they face. Within this framework, the M.A. Program enhances the global presence of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens and expands opportunities for academic research and dialogue.

Objectives

The M.A. Program aims to provide advanced postgraduate education and specialization across all fields encompassed by Theology and Religious Studies. Its scientific structure reflects the core demands of academic research and the transformations of contemporary society.

The program seeks to:

- a) develop analytical and research skills, focusing on the relationship between religious traditions and contemporary socio-political dynamics, intercultural dialogue, and applied religious knowledge;

b) broaden graduates' professional prospects by deepening their expertise and enhancing their interdisciplinary skills.

Graduates will gain knowledge and competencies enabling them to work in a wide range of professional environments, such as:

- **Public Administration and International Organizations** – as expert advisors, analysts, or consultants in governmental agencies, public enterprises, international organizations, NGOs, and transnational policy institutes.
- **Religious Institutions** – in key positions requiring specialized understanding of religious, cultural, and social issues within religious organizations and ecclesiastical institutions.
- **Media and Communication** – as journalists, international affairs analysts, columnists, or producers specializing in religious and intercultural issues.
- **Cultural Heritage Management** – in the preservation and promotion of religious monuments, archives, museums, and cultural routes, in both public and private initiatives.
- **Education and Research** – as educators, researchers, or lecturers in lifelong learning centers and intercultural education settings.
- **International Relations and Diplomacy** – in embassies, international institutions, and foreign policy institutes.
- **Political Strategy and Analysis** – as political analysts, communication strategists, and consultants in policy think tanks.
- **Tourism and Cultural Promotion** – as cultural managers and guides specializing in religious and cultural tourism.
- **Justice and Social Welfare** – as experts in religious freedom, human rights, social cohesion, and intercultural mediation.

3. LEARNING OUTCOMES

Upon successful completion of the M.A. Program, students will be able to:

1. Apply research methodologies to the study of religious phenomena and intercultural relations. Students are introduced to contemporary theoretical approaches and methodological tools in the field.
2. Pursue doctoral studies.

3. Use analytical scientific tools to interpret and manage contemporary religious and cultural issues while developing skills that enhance their academic and professional growth.
4. Develop leadership, managerial, and advisory competencies suitable for positions in organizations and institutions active in religion, cultural management, and intercultural communication—responding to the demands of the global labor market and the digital knowledge society.

4. STRUCTURE AND GOVERNING BODIES

According to Law 4957/2022, the governing bodies of the M.A. Program are:

1. **At the University level:**

- The **Committee of Postgraduate Studies** and the **Senate**.

2. **At the Department level:**

- 2.1. **The Department Assembly**, responsible for:

- a) Proposing to the Senate, through the Postgraduate Studies Committee, the establishment/modification or extension of the M.A. Program.
- b) Appointing the Director and members of the Coordinating Committee.
- c) Forming committees for the evaluation of student applications and approving admissions.
- d) Assigning teaching duties among the instructors of the Program.
- e) Forming examination committees for the evaluation of master's theses and appointing supervisors.
- f) Confirming successful completion of studies and awarding the Master's Degree.
- g) Approving the Program's annual report.
- h) Exercising any other responsibilities provided by law.

- 2.2. **The Coordinating Committee (C.C.)**

The C.C. consists of the Director of the Program and four (4) faculty members of the Department with academic expertise relevant to the

M.A. field, who also teach in the Program. The C.C. is responsible for:

- a) Monitoring and coordinating the operation of the Program.
- b) Preparing the Program's budget.
- c) Recommending the distribution of teaching duties.
- d) Submitting proposals to the Department Assembly on matters related to the effective operation of the Program.

2.3. The Director of the M.A. Program

The Director, a member of the C.C., is appointed along with their Deputy by the Department Assembly for a two-year term, renewable. Responsibilities include:

- a) Convening meetings of the C.C., setting the agenda, and presiding over its sessions.
- b) Submitting proposals to the Department Assembly regarding Program-related issues.
- c) Ensuring implementation of the decisions of the C.C. and the Department Assembly.
- d) Coordinating the teaching and administrative activities of the Program.

- 3. The **Secretariat of the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion** provides administrative and clerical support to the Program, including organizing the admission process, maintaining financial records, supporting the C.C., and recording grades.

5. CATEGORIES AND NUMBER OF ADMITTED STUDENTS

- 1. Eligible applicants for the M.A. in “Religious Studies and Intercultural Research” include holders of a first-cycle (undergraduate) degree from Greek higher education institutions or equivalent recognized foreign institutions, according to the Hellenic National Academic Recognition and Information Center (DOATAP).
- 2. The maximum number of admitted students is **240 per academic year**. This number ensures high-quality academic services, an

- appropriate student–faculty ratio, efficient use of facilities, and strong employability prospects for graduates.
3. In addition, one (1) member of the categories EEP, EDIP, or ETEP may be admitted each year, provided their institutional duties are relevant to the Program’s academic field.
 4. State scholarship holders (IKY) and foreign students who are government-sponsored scholarship recipients in a relevant field are admitted without examination as supernumerary students, up to 10% of the total intake.
 5. The interdisciplinary nature of the Program allows applicants from diverse academic backgrounds, provided they demonstrate a strong interest in religious studies and intercultural relations.
 6. If applications exceed available places, selection is based on criteria set by the Program’s regulations to ensure academic excellence and interdisciplinary diversity.

6. ADMISSION PROCEDURE

1. Student selection follows current legislation, the NKUA Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies Regulations, and the provisions of this Program’s Regulation.
2. Each June and, if necessary, again in September, the Department Assembly publishes an admission announcement on the Department, Faculty, and University websites. Applications and supporting documents are submitted to the Department Secretariat within the stated deadline, which may be extended by the Assembly.
3. The C.C., following a Department Assembly decision, appoints an admissions committee composed of at least three (3) faculty members who teach in the Program.
4. **Required documents:**
 - Application form
 - Curriculum Vitae
 - Copy of both sides of ID card or passport
 - Copy of degree or certificate of completion of studies
 - Detailed transcript of undergraduate courses
 - English language certificate (B2 level or higher)

- Two recommendation letters
 - Research proposal related to the M.A. topic
 - Scientific publications or conference presentations (if any)
 - Proof of professional or research activity (if any)
 - Certificate of Greek language proficiency (for foreign applicants)
 - DOATAP recognition certificate for foreign degrees (if required)
5. For foreign degree holders lacking DOATAP recognition, verification is conducted as required by current law.
 6. **Selection criteria:**
 - Bachelor's degree grade: 25%
 - Performance in relevant undergraduate courses: 15%
 - Research proposal and academic adequacy: 20%
 - Certified foreign language knowledge: 10%
 - Publications, presentations, and research experience: 10%
 - Recommendation letters: 5%
 - Oral interview: 15%
 7. Based on total scores, the admissions committee prepares a ranking list of candidates and submits it to the Department Assembly for approval. Admitted students must register within thirty (30) days of the Assembly's decision.
 8. In the event of a tie, all candidates with equal scores are admitted as supernumerary, provided they do not exceed 10% of the total intake.
 9. If an admitted student fails to register, the next candidate(s) on the approved ranking list will be invited to enroll.

7. POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

1. To be awarded the Master's Degree (M.A.), each student must attend and successfully pass twelve (12) of the courses offered in the Program and complete a master's thesis, for a total of ninety (90) ECTS credits.
2. The Program awards a Master's Degree in "**Religious Studies and Intercultural Research**" with the following specializations:

- **A. “History, Theology, and Institutions of Religions.”**
Focuses on the systematic study of the historical development, theological thought, and institutional structures of various religious traditions.
 - **B. “Religious Culture and Intercultural Education.”**
Examines the cultural expressions of religions and their use in intercultural education and communication.
 - **C. “Applied Theology and Social Sciences of Religion.”**
Explores the relationship between theology and the social sciences in the study of contemporary religious phenomena.
 - **D. “Leadership, Economy, and Law of the Church.”**
Studies administrative, economic, and legal aspects of ecclesiastical organization and operation.
3. Degrees are conferred by the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion of the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens (NKUA).
 4. The M.A. is accompanied by a Diploma Supplement in Greek and English, in accordance with applicable regulations.

8. DURATION OF STUDIES

1. The duration of study for the M.A. is three (3) academic semesters: two (2) semesters of coursework and one (1) semester for the master’s thesis.
2. Each semester comprises thirteen (13) weeks of teaching and three (3) weeks of examinations. The thesis may be submitted at any time during the third semester, provided the first two semesters’ coursework has been successfully completed.
3. A total of ninety (90) ECTS credits is required: thirty (30) ECTS per coursework semester and thirty (30) ECTS for the thesis.
4. Part-time study is available for employed students—and, in exceptional cases, for non-employed students—by decision of the Department Assembly. Part-time duration may not exceed twice the normal length.
5. The maximum allowed time to complete the M.A., including the thesis, is six (6) academic semesters.

6. If the maximum duration is exceeded, the Department Assembly decides on the student's dismissal from the Program.
7. Temporary suspension of studies (up to two consecutive semesters) may be granted upon a substantiated request and decision of the Department Assembly. During suspension, student status and related rights are paused. Suspension time does not count toward the maximum duration.
8. After suspension, the student resumes from the point of interruption and must complete all courses, seminars, practicums, etc., not previously passed.

9. DISTANCE EDUCATION

1. Synchronous distance education

The Program will be delivered in **blended learning** mode: approximately **30%** in-person classes and **70%** synchronous distance teaching. The exact teaching modalities are determined by the Coordinating Committee.

Distance methods apply to courses, seminars, and activities suitable for online support; activities requiring physical presence (e.g., fieldwork, participation in religious/cultural events) are excluded.

The NKUA **Digital Governance Unit** is responsible for supporting distance education and for data-protection issues.

2. Asynchronous distance education

Asynchronous methods may be used for **up to 25%** of the Program's total ECTS.

NKUA provides an accessible online platform through which asynchronous services are offered. For each course, the platform hosts:

- Lecture notes
- Lecture presentations
- Multimedia materials
- Bibliographic sources
- Exercises and assignments
- Case studies
- Topics for discussion and reflection

All materials are provided solely for educational use and are protected by Greek copyright law (Law 2121/1993), where applicable. Particular care is taken to ensure accessibility (e.g., audio renderings of texts, video captions).

Asynchronous learning complements and supports synchronous teaching by offering flexibility and opportunities for deeper study.

10. EXAMINATIONS AND ASSESSMENT OF POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

1. Each academic year has two semesters (winter/spring), each with thirteen (13) teaching weeks and three (3) examination weeks. Courses from both semesters have a resit period in September.
2. If a class cannot take place, it will be rescheduled; the date and time are posted on the Program website.
3. Attendance at courses, seminars, and laboratories is compulsory. A student is deemed to have attended a course (and thus has the right to sit the exam) only if they have attended at least **75%** of contact hours; otherwise, the course must be repeated the next time it is offered.
4. Assessment may include a combination of:
 - Final written or oral exams
 - Research papers
 - Seminar presentations
 - Participation in research projects
 - Laboratory exercises
 - Midterm/progress tests
5. The assessment method is set by each instructor. Grading is on a **1–10** scale; the pass mark is **5**. Results are announced by the instructor within four weeks of the exam.
6. Exceptional cases during the examination process (e.g., illness, serious personal reasons) are decided by the Coordinating Committee upon a student's request and supporting documentation.
7. Special examination arrangements for students with disabilities or special educational needs are made in consultation with the instructor and with approval by the Coordinating Committee.

8. Students who fail a course may resit it during the September session. If they fail again, they must repeat the course the next time it is offered.
9. If a student fails **three (3) or more courses per semester**, the Coordinating Committee—following a recommendation from the Program Committee—decides on the continuation of studies.
10. Grade correction is permitted only in cases of obvious error or miscalculation, following a written statement by the instructor and a decision of the Department Assembly.
11. If a student fails a course or exceeds the absence limit, they must systematically repeat the course and pay the corresponding tuition fees. If they fail two or more courses in the September session, or miss exams without a serious documented reason, they are removed from the Program by decision of the Department Assembly.
12. At the end of each semester, each course and instructor is evaluated by students according to institutional procedures under the supervision of the Quality Assurance Unit (MODIP).
13. **Calculation of the final degree grade:**
Multiply each course grade by its ECTS credits, sum these products, and divide by the total ECTS required for the degree.

$$Final\ Grade = \frac{\left(\sum_{k=1}^N (B_k \times ECTS_k) \right)}{Total\ ECTS}$$

14. **Grading scale for Master's Degrees:**

- **Excellent:** 8.50 – 10.00
- **Very Good:** 6.50 – 8.49
- **Good:** 5.00 – 6.49

15. Degree awards take place at a special public ceremony attended by the Rector (or lawful deputy), the Dean, the Department Chair, the Program Director, and all students who have fulfilled the requirements for the M.A. degree.

II. MASTER'S THESIS

1. Assignment of the Master's Thesis (MT) takes place after the student has attended and successfully passed all program courses. The thesis is written during the third semester and must demonstrate the student's ability to treat a topic in religious studies and intercultural research with scholarly rigor.
2. The thesis must be original, research-based, and contribute to the advancement of scientific knowledge. It should show depth of engagement with the relevant literature, critical thinking, and a synthetic approach to the topic. Writing must follow the official guidelines posted on the Program's website.
3. The student submits an application to the Coordinating Committee stating the proposed thesis title, the proposed supervisor, and an abstract. The Coordinating Committee appoints the supervisor and forms the three-member examination committee that will approve the thesis. The thesis may be written in Greek and/or English, in consultation with the supervisor.
4. The thesis title may be modified upon a substantiated request by the student and with the supervisor's consent to the Coordinating Committee. The Department Assembly approves the modification.
5. For examination, the student delivers the thesis to the members of the examination committee at least twenty (20) days before the scheduled defense date. The defense is public before the three-member committee.
6. The supervisor and committee members must belong to the following categories of instructors who have teaching duties in the Program:
 - (a) Department faculty (DEP)
 - (b) Emeritus professors or retired DEP members of the Department
 - (c) Instructors under Presidential Decree 407/1980
 - (d) Scholars of recognized standing with specialized knowledge in the thesis field
7. Approved theses are mandatorily deposited in NKUA's digital repository "Pergamos."
8. If the thesis contains original research results intended for publication, the full text may be withheld from public deposit for a

specified period upon request by the supervisor and the student; in that case, only the abstract is posted.

12. RIGHTS AND OBLIGATIONS OF MASTER'S STUDENTS

1. Master's students enjoy all rights and benefits provided to undergraduate students until the end of any granted study extension, except for free textbooks.
2. The University ensures accessibility of recommended texts and instruction for students with disabilities and/or special educational needs through NKUA's Accessibility Unit, which coordinates actions to guarantee equal access.
3. NKUA's Career Office offers guidance on career issues, professional orientation, and links to the labor market. For this Program in particular, support focuses on employment in bodies and organizations active in interfaith dialogue and intercultural communication.
4. Students must actively participate in the Department's research activities and in relevant conferences, seminars, and workshops. Participation in international conferences and research projects promoting interreligious and intercultural dialogue is also encouraged.
5. The Department Assembly may decide to dismiss a student if they:
 - Exceed the maximum absence limit
 - Fail course examinations and do not complete the Program successfully
 - Exceed the maximum study duration
 - Violate academic integrity regulations
 - Fail to pay the prescribed tuition fee
 - Submit a voluntary withdrawal
6. In case of dismissal, a certificate is issued for courses successfully attended and examined.
7. Students may participate in EU mobility programs or bilateral exchange agreements concluded by NKUA for coursework or completion of part of the thesis.

8. The Program encourages participation in research projects and actions that promote interfaith dialogue and intercultural understanding, providing the necessary academic and administrative support.
9. Students must observe NKUA's Code of Ethics and display academic integrity throughout their studies.
10. At the end of each semester, every course and instructor is evaluated by students, contributing to continuous improvement of the curriculum.
11. Students may request a Diploma Supplement in Greek and English.
12. Participation in the Program requires payment of tuition fees as defined in the Program's Regulations.

13. TUITION FEE WAIVERS

1. Fee waivers are granted to students who meet the financial or social criteria and merit requirements from their first-cycle studies, per current legislation. Waivers apply to only one Master's Program. In any case, beneficiaries may not exceed **30%** of the total admitted each academic year.
2. Applications for waivers are submitted after completion of the admission process. A candidate's financial situation is **not** a reason for non-selection.
3. Waivers are **not** granted to those who receive a scholarship from another source, nor to non-EU citizens.
4. The Department Assembly evaluates waiver applications and issues a reasoned decision approving or rejecting them.
5. If legislation imposes an age criterion, for reasons of good administration and equal treatment, **31 December** of the birth year is recommended as the reference birthdate.
6. Members of EEP, EDIP, and ETEP categories who are admitted as supernumerary under Article 3.4 of these Regulations are exempt from tuition fees.
7. If members of the same family up to the second degree (by blood or marriage) study in the Program simultaneously, a **50% reduction** is

provided on the fees for the second and each additional family member.

8. Applicants must submit all required documentation proving eligibility according to current legislation and Ministry circulars.
9. Decisions on fee waivers are communicated within a reasonable time after application. In case of rejection, an appeal may be submitted within **10 days** of notification.
10. Students receiving a waiver retain all rights and obligations set out for all students in the Program Regulations.

14. SCHOLARSHIPS AND AWARDS

Students may receive scholarships and awards to support their studies.

1. Scholarships

- **(a) Excellence Scholarships (up to two):** awarded to top students based on performance in the 1st-semester courses and exempt the recipient from tuition fees for the final coursework semester.

Eligibility: Candidates must have completed half of the regular study duration; they must not hold a paid position in the public or private sector or receive another scholarship during the same period.

Criteria:

- Course performance ($GPA \geq 8.0$)
- Successful completion of all courses per curriculum
- Personal and family income

In case of ties (including equal income), a draw is conducted. If a student declines the scholarship, it is offered to the next in rank.

- **(b) Work-study (reciprocal) scholarships:** The Department Assembly may award up to three (3) to master's students to assist with undergraduate teaching, depending on intake size and the Program's finances, upon recommendation of the Coordinating Committee. The amount may cover part or all tuition, calculated by actual hours worked. The hourly rate is

set annually (recommendation by the Coordinating Committee; decision by the Department Assembly) and announced to students.

2. Awards of Excellence:

The Program may award non-monetary certificates to the top three students of each cohort after completion of the 1st and 2nd-semester courses, upon recommendation of the Coordinating Committee and decision of the Department Assembly.

Requirements:

1. GPA for semesters A & B ≥ 8.0 ;
2. Completion and successful examination in the regular February (A) and June (B) sessions.

(For GPA calculation in all scholarship/award cases, the formula specified in Article 8.13 applies.)

15. INFRASTRUCTURE AND FUNDING

1. For the smooth operation of the Program, the following facilities of the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion (NKUA) will be used:
 - (a) The lecture rooms of the School of Theology, suitably equipped with audiovisual media
 - (b) The School's Library, with an extensive collection related to religious studies and intercultural research
 - (c) The Department's Laboratories
 - (d) The Department's IT infrastructure and equipment
2. The Department Secretariat provides administrative and clerical support for the Program.
3. Funding may derive from:
 - (a) NKUA's budget
 - (b) The Ministry of Education's budget
 - (c) Donations, endowments, and sponsorships from public or private bodies
 - (d) Research project funds
 - (e) European Union or other international programs
 - (f) A share of the Special Account for Research Funds (ELKE)

- (g) Any other lawful source
- 4. Program revenues are managed by ELKE and allocated as follows:
 - (a) **30%** of total revenue from tuition fees is retained by ELKE (including ELKE's management fee). For revenues from donations, sponsorships, endowments, or research programs, the ELKE retention applied to those sources is used.
 - (b) **70%** covers program operating expenses and compensations/remunerations for teaching, technical, and administrative staff for work beyond statutory obligations, including teaching fees for staff as provided by law.
- 5. Allocation of Program resources aims at sustainability and effective support of teaching and the research activities of master's students.

16. ASSIGNMENT OF TEACHING / INSTRUCTORS

1. The teaching of the Master's Program is assigned, by decision of the Department Assembly, to the following categories of instructors:
 - a) Members of Faculty (DEP), Special Teaching Staff (EEP), Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP) and Special Technical Laboratory Staff (ETEP) of the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion or other NKUA Departments or other HEIs or Higher Military Educational Institutions (HMEI), with additional employment beyond their statutory duties, provided the Program charges tuition fees.
 - b) Emeritus professors or retired faculty members of this Department, other NKUA Departments, or other HEIs.
 - c) Affiliated/Collaborating professors.
 - d) Appointed (contract) instructors.
 - e) Visiting professors or visiting researchers.
 - f) Researchers and special functional scientists of the research and technological bodies of Article 13A of Law 4310/2014 or other research centers and institutes in Greece or abroad.
 - g) Scholars of recognized standing with specialized knowledge and relevant experience in the Program's subject area.
2. All categories of instructors may be remunerated exclusively from the Program's own resources. No remuneration or benefit may be

paid from the state budget or the public investment program. The amount of remuneration is set by decision of the Department Assembly. In particular, faculty members (DEP) may receive additional compensation for work offered to the Program, provided they meet their minimum statutory obligations (per Article 155(2) of Law 4957/2022).

3. The Department Assembly may assign auxiliary teaching duties to the Department's PhD candidates, under the supervision of a Program instructor.
4. Teaching assignments are made by decision of the Department Assembly following a recommendation by the Program's Coordinating Committee.
5. The distribution of teaching is finalized before the start of the academic year for both the fall and spring semesters. If it cannot be set for both semesters at once, the decision is taken before each semester begins.
6. Instructors who are on educational leave or suspended duties may provide teaching to the Program if their schedule allows, provided this is substantively and practically feasible under the circumstances—something that must be judged by the competent bodies case-by-case.

Decisions of the Department Assembly on teaching distribution must include:

- a) The instructor's full name.
- b) Their status (e.g., DEP, EEP, EDIP, ETEP, etc.).
- c) The type of teaching assigned (course, seminar, or lab).
- d) The number of teaching hours per course/seminar/lab.

17. CURRICULUM

1. The Program begins in the fall semester of each academic year. Each semester (fall–spring) comprises thirteen (13) weeks of teaching and three (3) weeks of examinations.
2. A total of ninety (90) ECTS credits are required for the Master's Degree. Specifically, each semester carries thirty (30) ECTS, and the

master's thesis—completed during the summer period—carries thirty (30) ECTS. All courses are compulsory and taught weekly. The order of course attendance is that stated in the curriculum. Lectures last four hours; courses are organized by semester in the order shown in the curriculum and are conducted in Greek and/or English.

3. The language of instruction is Greek and/or English. The master's thesis may be written in Greek or English, following a decision of the Coordinating Committee.
4. During their studies, students must attend and successfully complete graduate courses, engage in research activity and scholarly writing, and complete a master's thesis.
5. The thesis is undertaken in the third (G) semester and is credited with thirty (30) ECTS.
6. Teaching is delivered in person or via distance learning, in accordance with applicable legislation and Article 7 of these Regulations.
7. The indicative curriculum by specialization is as follows: (follows in the next section of your document).

Specialization A: “History, Theology, and Institutions of Religions”

Course Title	ECTS Hours	
1st Semester		
Research Methodology and Academic Writing	5	30
Biblical Theology and the Intercultural Life of the Mediterranean	5	30
Patristic Theology and Christian Anthropology	5	30
Digital Methods for the Analysis and Critical Edition of Biblical Manuscripts	5	30
The Church of Greece as a Factor of Ethnogenesis and Cultural Identity	5	30
Ancient Greek Religion and Philosophy	5	30
2nd Semester		
Canon Law, History, and Theology of the Ecumenical	5	30

Course Title	ECTS Hours	
Councils		
History, Institutions, and Theology of Islam	5	30
Comparative Law of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam (Sources and Marriage Law)	5	30
History and Theology of Eastern Religions	5	30
Christian Theological Literature and the Arab-Islamic World	5	30
Dogmatic Formation of Religious Traditions	5	30
Master's Thesis	30	–
Total ECTS	90	–

Specialization B: “Religious Culture and Intercultural Education”

Course Title	ECTS Hours	
1st Semester		
Research Methodology and Academic Writing	5	30
Communicative Theology	5	30
The Bible and Literary Studies	5	30
Comparative Religious Themes – The Bible and Art	5	30
Eastern Religions in the West	5	30
Cultural Psychology of Religion	5	30
2nd Semester		
Biblical and Early Christian Aesthetic Expression in the Mediterranean Region	5	30
Intercultural Education and Inclusive Pedagogy	5	30
Religious Visual Arts	5	30
Topics in the Philosophy of Religion	5	30
Religious Rhetoric and Cultural Diversity	5	30
Evaluative Reading of Hagiographical and Hymnographic Texts	5	30
Master's Thesis	30	–
Total ECTS	90	–

Specialization C: “Applied Theology and Social Sciences of Religion”

Course Title	ECTS Hours	
1st Semester		
Research Methodology and Academic Writing	5	30
Religious Laws and Human Rights	5	30
Religious Education in the Public Sphere in the 21st Century	5	30
Geopolitics of Religion: Theoretical Approaches and Practical Applications	5	30
Dogmatic Tradition and Political Theory	5	30
Religion and Political Philosophy	5	30
2nd Semester		
Theology and Literature	5	30
History of Religious Art	5	30
Dialogue Between Theology and Psychology	5	30
Religions and Ecology	5	30
Religion, Identity, Politics, and Postmodernity	5	30
Neurotheology and Cognitive Psychology of Religion	5	30
Master's Thesis	30	—
Total ECTS	90	—

Specialization D: “Leadership, Economy, and Law of the Church”

Course Title	ECTS Hours	
1st Semester		
Research Methodology and Academic Writing	5	30
Ecclesiastical Correspondence and Protocol	5	30
Organization and Administration of Ecclesiastical Legal Entities	5	30
Church and Social Networks of Solidarity	5	30
Ecclesiastical Leadership and Human Resource Management	5	30

Course Title	ECTS Hours	
Canon Law and Principles of Financial Administration and Management of Church Property	5	30
2nd Semester		
Theological Communication and Mass Media	5	30
Institutions and Structures of the Church of Greece	5	30
Religious Diplomacy and Soft Power: Trends and Strategies	5	30
Organization of Missionary Activity and Dialogue with the Modern World	5	30
Religious Tourism and Psychosocial Symbolism	5	30
Ecclesiastical Biography and Models of Leadership Practice	5	30
Master's Thesis	30	–
Total ECTS	90	–

18. AWARD OF MASTER'S DEGREE

1. A student completes the requirements for the award of the Master's Degree (M.A.) upon fulfilling the minimum number of courses and ECTS credits required and successfully completing the master's thesis in the field of Religious Studies and Intercultural Research. The Department Assembly verifies completion of studies before the degree is conferred.
2. After the above procedure, a certificate of completion is issued to the postgraduate student. At that point, student status is terminated, and participation in the University's governing bodies ceases.
3. The Master's Degree certifies successful completion of studies and includes a final grade accurate to two decimal places. The grading scale is as follows:
 - **Excellent:** 8.50 – 10.00
 - **Very Good:** 6.50 – 8.49
 - **Good:** 5.00 – 6.49

The final grade is calculated by considering both coursework performance and the thesis grade.

4. The degree format is standardized across all NKUA Departments and Schools and follows the University's Regulations on Postgraduate and Doctoral Studies. The degree is issued in Greek and accompanied by an official English translation.
5. Under this Program, the awarded degree is the **Master's Degree in "Religious Studies and Intercultural Research."** The diploma bears the signatures of the Rector, the Department Chair, and the Program Director.
6. Each diploma is accompanied by a **Diploma Supplement** in Greek and English, providing information about program content, learning outcomes, acquired knowledge and skills, and the graduate's grades according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS).
7. Degrees are awarded in a **formal graduation ceremony**, held at least twice per academic year, in accordance with the University's ceremonial procedures and in the presence of academic authorities.

19. GRADUATION CEREMONY

1. The graduation ceremony is not a formal component of program completion but is a **necessary condition** for the issuance of the official diploma document. The oath-taking ceremony is conducted within a meeting of the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, at the School of Theology, in the presence of the Program Director, the Department Chair or Vice-Chair, and, when possible, a representative of the Rector.
2. Requests for holding the graduation ceremony of master's students in the **Great Hall of Ceremonies** of the University's Central Building are considered by the Rector on a case-by-case basis, based on the number of graduates and organizational feasibility, as indicated by the Program Secretariat to the Directorate of Education and Research.
3. Postgraduate students who have completed all academic requirements may, in exceptional cases (e.g., further studies, residence or employment abroad, serious health reasons), apply to the Program Secretariat for **exemption from attending the oath-**

taking ceremony. Such exemptions must be approved by the Department Chair and the Vice-Rector for Academic, International Relations, and Outreach Affairs.

4. Graduates may receive a **certificate of successful completion** of postgraduate studies before the ceremony, provided that all academic and financial obligations have been fulfilled.
5. The **Master's Degrees** are formally awarded during the graduation ceremony and are signed by the Rector, the Dean of the School of Theology, the Chair of the Department of Social Theology and the Study of Religion, and the Program Director.

20. LIST OF FACULTY MEMBERS (DEP – EDIP) OF THE MASTER'S PROGRAM "RELIGIOUS STUDIES AND INTERCULTURAL RESEARCH"

(This section contains the nominal list of teaching and laboratory staff participating in the Program, as officially published by the Department.)

List of Faculty and Teaching Staff (DEP – EDIP) of the Master's Program "Religious Studies and Intercultural Research"

Name	Rank	Field of Expertise	Employment Status
Diotima Liantini–Nikolakakou	Professor	Religious Iconography and Museum Didactics	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Sotirios Despotis	Professor	Interpretation of the New Testament	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life

Name	Rank	Field of Expertise	Employment Status
Eirini Christinaki	Professor	Canon Law	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life
Emmanouil Karageorgoudis	Professor	History and Literature of the Church of Greece	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life
Kirki Kefalea	Professor	Comparative Religious Literature	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Spyridon Tsitsigos	Professor	Psychology of Religion	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Vasileios Gaitanis	Professor	Communicative Theology	Faculty Member, Division of Christian Worship, Education, and Pastoral Care
Athanasios Glaros	Professor	Orthodox Ecclesiastical Literature	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean

Name	Rank	Field of Expertise	Employment Status
			Cultural Life
Maria Vassileiadou	Associate Professor	Promotion of Mental Health and Sources of Christianity	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life
Eleni Giannakopoulou	Associate Professor	Canon Law and Teaching of the Ecumenical Councils	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life
Athanasios Melissaris	Associate Professor	Pastoral Counseling and Psychology	Faculty Member, Division of Christian Worship, Education, and Pastoral Care
Charalampos Ventis	Associate Professor	Philosophy of Religion	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Ioanna Komninou	Assistant Professor	Theory and Practice of Christian Education	Faculty Member, Division of Christian Worship, Education, and Pastoral Care
Athanasios Antonopoulos	Assistant Professor	Theology of the New Testament	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical

Name	Rank	Field of Expertise	Employment Status
			Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life
Efstathios Lianos–Liantis	Assistant Professor	History and Theology of the Church under Ottoman Rule (1453–1821)	Faculty Member, Division of Canon Law and Byzantine Theology from the 9th Century – Biblical Studies and Mediterranean Cultural Life
Nikolaos Denaxas	Assistant Professor	Sociology of Religion	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Apostolos Michailidis	Assistant Professor	Hinduism	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Lambros Patsavellas	Assistant Professor	Islam	Faculty Member, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Ariadni Sarantoulakou	Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP)	—	EDIP, Division of Christian Worship, Education, and Pastoral Care
Evangelia Voulgaraki– Pissina	Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP)	Missiology	EDIP, Division of Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Spyridon Stergiou	Laboratory Teaching Staff (EDIP)	—	EDIP, Division of Christian Worship, Education, and

Name	Rank	Field of Expertise	Employment Status
			Pastoral Care
Kerasenia	Laboratory	Ancient Greek	EDIP, Division of
Papalexiou	Teaching Staff (EDIP)	Philosophy	Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Georgios	Laboratory	History of Ideas	EDIP, Division of
Foundoulakis	Teaching Staff (EDIP)		Religious Studies, Philosophy, and Sociology
Dimitrios At			

Here is the full English translation of section **21. USEFUL INFORMATION / STUDENT SERVICES:**

21. USEFUL INFORMATION / STUDENT SERVICES

Infrastructure

To ensure optimal use of new services, staff training was organized.

- The Master's Program “**Religious Studies and Intercultural Research**” offers a wide range of student support services, including catering, career counseling, a student welfare office, cultural facilities, and transport options for individuals with disabilities. Stairlifts have been installed to facilitate accessibility.
- The building provides full **Wi-Fi coverage**, projectors, microphones, and speakers to support the teaching process, as well as computers in meeting rooms.
- Additionally, three laboratories operate with significant academic activity and contribution:
 1. **Laboratory of Digital Research and Study of Manuscripts**
— <https://manuscripts-en.theol.uoa.gr/>
 2. **Laboratory of Canon Law** — <https://cll.soctheol.uoa.gr/>

3. **New Laboratory of Religious Studies and Bioethics of Religions “Vasileios Fanaras”**, formed from the merger of the former Laboratory of Religious Studies and the Laboratory of Ethics and Bioethics of Religions (website under approval).

The laboratories' extroverted orientation and activity guarantee the outward-looking character of the Master's Program, fostering the dissemination of new scientific knowledge, which the program encourages students to produce in collaboration with and under the guidance of the teaching staff.

- Students are well informed about available services, which are functional and easily accessible. Information is provided through the Department's website, during in-person meetings with professors, and via official social media channels.
- Administrative staff levels are satisfactory, but the Secretariat requires additional personnel to ensure smooth operation of student support services.
- Teaching follows a **student-centered approach**, employing flexible teaching methods and diverse forms of delivery. The connection between research and learning is achieved through museum and archaeological site visits, written assignments, outdoor amphitheater classes, participation in conferences, seminars, and lectures by international scholars. Participation in **CIVIS** and **Erasmus** programs is also systematically encouraged.
- Students actively participate in the educational process through coursework that includes mandatory assignments and overall classroom engagement.

Facilities

The buildings of the **School of Theology** at the **National and Kapodistrian University of Athens**, located in the University Campus at Ano Ilisia, designed by architects **Lazaros Kalyvitis** and **Giorgos Leonardos**, are considered among the most representative examples of

“Greek modernism.” They belong to the architectural idiom of **“Corbusian brutalism”** while carrying strong symbolic meaning.

Video reference: <https://youtu.be/80e0gzqhFVA>

The School has implemented targeted aesthetic and structural interventions to upgrade the educational and teaching experience. Through consistent, strategic steps, its image and facilities are continuously modernized to provide an environment worthy of its history and academic role, welcoming faculty, administrative staff, students, and researchers alike.

Library

The **Library of the School of Theology** (<https://theol.lib.uoa.gr>) dates back to the School’s founding. Along with the Schools of Law, Medicine, and Philosophy, it formed the core of the **University of Athens**, established in 1837.

The Library’s collection covers the following fields: **Theology, Religious Studies, Church History, Greek History, Missiology, Pastoral Studies, Catechetics, Canon Law, Philosophy, Dogmatics, Christian Sociology, Palaeography, Psychology, Christian Archaeology, Orthodox Church History, World History, Byzantine History, Christian Art and Architecture, Hagiology, Hymnology, Byzantine Music, Old and New Testament Studies, Liturgy, Rhetoric, Sociology, Pedagogy, and Ethics.**

It also contains a **Collection of Old and Rare Books and Editions**, part of which has been digitized. This collection includes manuscripts and rare publications from the **16th to the 19th century**, covering all theological disciplines, with editions from **Leipzig, Vienna, Constantinople, Paris, London, and Venice**, among others.

The Library also hosts **Donated Collections** from retired professors, scholars, researchers, and clergy, comprising over **25,000 volumes**. A smaller section contains **Slavic-language materials** (Russian, Bulgarian, Romanian), currently being catalogued.

Users include undergraduate and postgraduate students, faculty members, and external researchers studying Orthodox Christian literature. The Library also serves many **foreign postgraduate and doctoral students**, particularly from **Southeast Europe and the Eastern Mediterranean**, continuing a long-standing tradition of international scholarly engagement.

Support Structures and Services for Students

The Master's Program provides several key services to its students:

- **E-Class (Electronic Classroom):**

The e-class platform is a complete course management system supporting asynchronous e-learning at NKUA. It is accessible via a standard web browser, requiring no specialized technical skills. It complements traditional teaching by integrating modern online learning methods.

- **Electronic Secretariat – Online Certificates:**

Through NKUA's online service portal <https://eprotocol.uoa.gr/>, students of the Master's Program can submit requests and receive official documents digitally and immediately.