



Universität
Zürich ^{UZH}

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UNIVERSITÄT
BERN

Joint Master in Ancient Judaism

at the University of Bern and the University of Zurich



Joint Master in Ancient Judaism

In this specialized 2-year M.A. program, jointly provided by the Universities of Bern and Zurich, students are invited to explore all aspects of Ancient Judaism. The Hebrew Bible, the Sibylline oracles, archaeological artifacts such as sarcophagus inscriptions and magic bowls, the works of Flavius Josephus and Philo, the development of Jewish holidays and Rabbinic Midrashim are just some of the many facets of Ancient Judaism covered by the program: the history, literature, culture, and religion of the Jews in the context of the ancient Mediterranean world, from the Babylonian exile to the rise of Islam.

Studies in Ancient Judaism

The Specialized master's degree in ancient Judaism is designed to train students in the history, literature, cultures and religion of the Jews in Antiquity, from the Second temple to the rabbinic period (6th century BCE to 6th century CE). In the context of this master's program, student will have the opportunity to study Ancient Judaism in an interdisciplinary perspective, combining the study of texts and artifacts, and to work with renowned scholars in the field. A strong focus in the philological and text-critical methods will allow students to develop competences in the study of Jewish-Hellenistic literature, post-biblical literature, Jewish pseudepigraphia, and rabbinic texts. The spread of Hellenistic culture throughout the Mediterranean world and beyond can be addressed as a form of globalization in Antiquity: How did Jewish authors interact with Greco-Roman traditions and customs, and how did these traditions inform the everyday life and artistic expression in Jerusalem, Alexandria, and Rome? How does second temple Judaism stand in relation to rabbinic Judaism? Here are some of the themes and questions students will be brought to explore in the context of this program, jointly offered by two of the most prestigious Swiss universities. Students will also be introduced to important methodological questions concerning the study of the ancient world more generally, or regarding the theoretical positions of Jewish Studies in the academia today.

Students select their courses on history, literature and methodology from a list of courses offered by the University of Bern's and University of Zurich's theology and humanities departments. This enables them to earn a specialized

qualification that reflects their individual interests. The electives encourage interdisciplinary learning and research, by giving the students the possibility to attend courses in associated disciplines, such as Religious Studies, Ancient History, Classics, and Near-eastern Archaeology.

Students can either choose Ancient Judaism as their exclusive field of study, or as a major, combined with a secondary subject.

Doctoral Studies

Students willing to pursue their research in Jewish Studies at the doctoral level can do so. Doctoral students, seeking to deepen their understanding of a selected research topic, will be guided through the writing of their dissertation by the coordinators of the program, and given the opportunity to present and discuss their work in the context of Graduate seminars and colloquia at both the Universities of Zurich and Bern.

Admission to the Program

Admission to the program depends on the following conditions:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree in areas such as Religious Studies, Theology, Jewish Studies, Semitics, History, or Classics from an accredited university or college.
- Hebrew or Greek language skills at a level compatible with university standards of proficiency. Requests for permission to study these languages in the course of the master's program may be submitted to the program committee.
- Prospective candidates will be invited for an interview with two members of the program committee addressing their personal goals, interests, and competences, as well as subject-related requirements.

Career Prospects

Knowledge gained through the Specialized master's degree in Ancient Judaism can be put to use in any field where expertise in ancient history and philology, or proficiency in the field of religion and philosophy is recommended, such as cultural institutions, museums, media, publishing houses, tourism, and of course academic teaching and research.

Grants

The University of Bern supports six M.A. students with a full grant each year:
http://www.int.unibe.ch/content/incoming/master_grant/index_eng.html.

Support for graduate research and travel as well as doctoral fellowships are also available from the Swiss Government.

<http://www.eda.admin.ch/eda/en/home/rebs/asia/okaz/embast/eskas.html>

Program Directors



Prof. Dr. René Bloch
(Bern) Vorsitz



Prof. Dr. Konrad
Schmid (Zürich)

Overview

program	Master's Degree in Ancient Judaism
can be studied as	mono-course (120 credits) combined course (90 + 30 credits in a secondary subject)
language of instruction	mainly German, some English
standard period of study	4 semesters
start of program	each semester
application deadlines	April 30 for fall semester December 15 for spring semester
web pages	www.antikesjudentum.uzh.ch www.antikesjudentum.unibe.ch

Contact

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