



Faculty of Theology

Doctoral studies in the Faculty of Theology

General information

Doctoral studies can be pursued in the Faculty of Theology in the framework of the General Doctorate or in a Doctoral Program in either study of religions or theology.

The General Doctorate requires a dissertation demonstrating ability to conduct independent scientific research, 12 ECTS credits of course work, and a Doctoral Colloquium.

The Doctoral Programs require a dissertation demonstrating ability to conduct independent scientific research and 30 ECTS credits of course work, including regular attendance at the Research Colloquium offered by the relevant department and program-related interdisciplinary conferences. The Doctoral Programs in study of religions and theology are currently being designed. Doctoral students in the Faculty of Theology can also apply for admission to the PhD Program Asia and Europe.

Admission

Eligible for admission to doctoral studies are persons with a university Master's degree with a good total grade in the field (as a major or minor) in which the PhD is to be pursued and persons who completed an equivalent degree at a university in another country. Decisions on possible exceptions to this requirement are made by the Faculty's studies committee at the request of the applicant. Admission of persons who completed a Master's degree in a field closely related to the discipline in which the PhD is to be pursued is possible.

A further requirement for admission is agreement by a faculty member to support the dissertation project and to head the doctoral committee that will monitor the doctoral studies. Once confirmation of this has been obtained, the applicant can apply to the Admissions Office of the University of Zurich for the fall or spring semester.

Dissertation

A dissertation is usually a monograph. Decisions on other forms can be made by the Faculty. The dissertation can be written in German, French, Italian or English, or with approval in another language.

Course work

ECTS credits can be earned in doctoral-level university courses: In addition to Research Colloquiums in the relevant department and interdisciplinary courses, these are also courses in transferable skills (such as English writing skills, university-level teaching). ECTS credits can be given for attendance at congresses and conferences, PhD meeting groups (*Doktorierenden-Kollegs*), inter-university Doctoral Programs and networks, summer schools, and so on, if participation is active and entails a verifiable contribution (paper, poster, presentation) and if a report is submitted to and accepted by the main PhD supervisor.

Supervision

For each doctoral project a doctoral committee with a main PhD supervisor is formed. The doctoral committee supervising the PhD candidate is made up of at least two specialists and headed by the main PhD supervisor, who is a faculty member. The main PhD supervisor provides regular feedback to the PhD candidate on the quality and progress of the research work.

Information on the different Doctoral Programs

General Doctorate

Requirements for successful completion of the General Doctorate are course modules (minimum 12 ECTS credits). At least 6 ECTS credits of course work must be within the field and at least 4 ECTS credits of course work must be in transferable skills. Required modules are the Research Colloquium in the relevant department (1-2 ECTS credits per semester) for at least two semesters and active participation in at least one conference in the field (1-2 ECTS credits).

Interfaculty Doctorate in Study of Religions (Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Arts)

The Faculties of Theology and Arts offer an interfaculty doctorate in study of religions. The basic requirements are identical to those outlined above, but the doctoral committee is made up of a professor from each faculty.

Doctoral Programs

Study of Religions

In preparation. The Doctoral Program in study of religions is based on inter-university cooperation between the Universities of Basel and Zurich. The inclusion of further partners is in planning.

Theology

In preparation. The Doctoral Program in theology is based on inter-university cooperation between the Faculties of Theology at the Universities of Basel, Bern, and Zurich.

Degree conferred

For the doctorate in study of religions, there are two possibilities: The interfaculty doctorate conferred by the Faculty of Theology and Faculty of Arts leads to Doctor of Philosophy (Dr. phil. = PhD). The doctorate within the Faculty of Theology leads to Doctor of Study of Religions (Dr. sc. rel. = PhD).

The doctorate in theology leads to Doctor of Theology (Dr. theol. = PhD).

A Diploma Supplement in German and English is issued along with the degree describing the course of study and including an academic record.

Important notes

- The doctoral regulations are available at: www.theologie.uzh.ch/studium/doktorat.html
- An overview of disciplines and research fields and a list of faculty members is available at: www.theologie.uzh.ch/faecher.html

Contact

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