

MASTER PROGRAMS

1. Significance of a Master's Degree

Due to the possibility of changing disciplines between a Bachelor's degree and a Master's degree, the classification of a North American Master of Arts degree is not yet uniformly regulated in the European education system. When applying for further studies following the M.A., admission is decided on a case-by-case basis. It is advisable to contact the respective university at an early stage in order to coordinate the content of the M.A. program with the planned further studies.

2. Study Programs and Degrees

a. Master's Degree Programs

The Master's degree programs are described in detail on the website. The Master's program is a subject-related, theologically based academic graduate program with the option of choosing a specialization: Culture and Theology (CTH), Intercultural Leadership (ICL) or Intercultural Studies (ICS).

The **Master of Arts** is a specialized course of studies and is not considered to be sufficient for pastoral ministry in churches in German-speaking Europe. Denominations normally require that applicants for jobs in the church have visited their own educational institutions or have completed an educational equivalent (*Master of Divinity*).

Depending on previous education, the approximate time estimated for the completion of a *Master of Arts* is a minimum of 2 to 3.5 years.

At least one year of qualified practical professional experience is generally required. This is regarded as equivalent to 30 ECTS for admission purposes.

Applicants without the relevant theological background (i.e. less than 15 SE/US cr.hrs. in the areas of Bible/Theology/History) will complete the ethos core and concentration curriculum of their Master's degree program. However, if theological courses have already been taken elsewhere, it can be checked whether up to a maximum of 4 qualifying theological courses can still be taken (Qualifying Studies) in order to be able to connect to the specialist program. This regulation applies in particular to lateral entrants from other fields of study or previous educational backgrounds.

Applicants with sufficient previous theological training (at least 15 SE/US cr.hrs. in the areas of Bible/Theology/History) will complete the concentration of their Master's degree program.

While the M.A. degree provides a graduate course of studies, the **Master of Divinity** (M.Div.) degree, in North America, is a practice-oriented education toward full-time ministry at a high academic level. The M.Div. course of studies consists of biblical and theological subjects, generally including a biblical language, pastoral-theological subjects and an extensive internship. Three years of full-time study is required to complete this degree.

b. Certificates of Advanced Studies – CAS

The certificate programs were primarily designed for people who are working and would like to acquire theological foundations or intercultural and leadership skills at Master's level, but do not (yet) have the need for a complete Master's degree.

The certificate is **not** an academic degree in and of itself, rather a proof of academic achievement. It may, however, be completely integrated into the *Master of Arts* program. In this case, the formal admission requirements for the Master's degree program must be fulfilled.

Applicants who do not (yet) meet the formal admission requirements may be allowed into the certificate program under certain conditions and provided they already have sufficient practical professional experience (mission, church ministry). Acceptance into the certificate program is not an automatic acceptance into the M.A. but may be successful following careful consideration (4 courses must show a GPA of at least 2.5).

a) Bible & Theology Certificate (30 US cr.hrs.)

The “Bible & Theology Certificate” combines biblical-theological core courses with three courses that can be freely elected. This certificate can be obtained in one academic year of full-time study. All successfully completed courses can be credited towards a Master's degree program if the admission requirements are met.

b) Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS – 12 US cr.hrs.)

Lifelong learning enables the continuous acquisition of skills for the areas of a field of application. The five Certificates of Advanced Studies serve precisely this purpose: the CAS are short programs at an academic level and are ideally suited to:

- meet current challenges through further training.
- deepen already acquired specialist knowledge and expand skills without having to invest years in an entire degree program.
- to gain a qualified introduction to a specific subject and open up the option of further study.

Each CAS consists of four courses. *THE 5305 Mission and Methods of Theology* is compulsory. In addition, there are three courses from the respective core area. At least one academic year is required for the CAS as part-time further education.

3. The Learning Outcomes of the Master Programs

The Master's program has four majors to choose from, each of them having its own learning outcome.

a. Master of Arts in Culture and Theology (CTH)

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Culture and Theology develop and work sensitively and effectively on biblical principles and religious and ethical questions and topics in an intercultural context. Specific biblical-theological skills and abilities are taught.

b. Master of Arts in Intercultural Leadership (ICL)

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Intercultural Leadership reflect on their understanding and practice of leadership in an intercultural context from a biblical, theological, historical and ethical perspective. This degree programme provides the opportunity to do so and at the same

time imparts skills in the development of employees, organizations and the leadership of intercultural teams.

c. Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies (ICS)

Graduates of the Master of Arts in Intercultural Studies acquire the ability to discover and navigate new environments in an intercultural context. It is about understanding and applying principles in order to analyze and research different cultures, world views and religions. Based on this, relevant strategies are developed for one's own life and work.

d. Master of Divinity (M.Div)

Graduates of the Master of Divinity have comprehensively focused pastoral topics and biblical-theological subjects on life and work in an intercultural context, so that they are competent in churches for servant leadership and in theological education for missional and transformative ministries..

4. Maximum Length of Study

The Master's degree concentration course can be completed full-time within one academic year. As almost all students pursue their studies as part-time, work-integrated further education, study periods are generally considerably longer.

The following applies to regular students: a course must be taken at least every second academic year. Students who have been admitted under the special admission clause without a Bachelor's degree must take one course per academic year in order to retain their place. However, it is also possible to resume studies according to the current curriculum after a longer break.

5. Degree Change

Special circumstances may mean that a change of degree program within the Master's degree programs is advisable. In such cases, a study consultation is necessary so that the transfer to another degree program can take place and a new study plan can be drawn up. The transfer is carried out using the "Degree Change Form" application (Moodle Lounge).