

Mitteilungsblatt – Sondernummer der Paris Lodron-Universität Salzburg

52. Curriculum for the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Salzburg (Version 2016)

This English translation is not legally binding. For a legally binding version, please refer to the German text.

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In its meeting on 08.03.2016, the Senate of the Paris Lodron University of Salzburg formally approved the curriculum for the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology finalised by the Philosophy Curriculum Committee at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at its 07.01.2016 meeting in the following version.

The legal basis for the curriculum is the 2002 Federal Act on the Organisation of Universities and their Studies (Universities Act 2002 – UG), Federal Law Gazette No. 120/2002, and the section of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg pertaining to university studies.

§ 1 General provisions

- (1) The number of ECTS points necessary to complete the Master of Arts degree in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology is 120. This corresponds to 4 semesters of study (2 years).
- (2) Graduates of the master's degree programme in Philosophy will be awarded a Master of Arts (MA) degree.
- (3) In order to be admitted to the MA degree programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology, students must hold a bachelor's or equivalent degree in philosophy or a related field from an accredited Austrian or foreign institution of higher education (cf. UG 2002 §64 para. 5).
- (4) Should an applicant's bachelor's degree be deemed only partially equivalent, the applicant may be required to complete additional work of up to 45 ECTS points in the course of the MA programme. The Rectorate or a University of Salzburg staff member designated by the Rectorate is authorised to make a determination of equivalency.
- (5) All graduation requirements to be fulfilled by students have been assigned ECTS points. One ECTS point is equal to 25 hours of study, which corresponds to the average number of hours required to achieve the learning objectives expected of students. An academic year consists of 1500 hours, which corresponds to 60 ECTS points.
- (6) Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will not be subject to any form of discrimination in their studies. The University is committed to the basic principles laid out in the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Austrian non-discrimination laws, as well as the policy of positive action.

§ 2 Overview of the degree programme and skills to be acquired

(1) Overview of the degree programme

Philosophy is the methodical search for the foundations of a rational, universally verifiable understanding of reality as a whole. The Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology aims to impart a holistic scholarly orientation about basic structures of reality and fundamental questions of human life and human behaviour, which reflect current developments in the human and natural sciences on the one hand and the broad spectrum of important philosophical theories and approaches in the past and present on the other. This orientation gives special consideration to philosophical issues stemming from the religious dimension of human life and examines the relationship between these theories and approaches and the Christian view of the world, of human life and of God. In this way, the MA programme operates in the service of the study of theology; for philosophical reflection provides theology with supplementary theoretical, terminological and methodological underpinnings, consolidates the awareness of theological problems and encourages the formulation of innovative thought processes and solutions.

Building on the bachelor's programme in Philosophy, the master's programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology offers a deeper and more specialised orientational knowledge of the current state of philosophical research, in particular in the

areas of epistemology, metaphysics, natural philosophy, anthropology, ethics, philosophy of religion and religious studies. In all its courses, this MA programme is committed to the unity of historical and systematic scholarship.

(2) Skill profile and competences (learning outcomes)

The MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology serves to further develop competences gained in the BA programme. It aims to expand and consolidate students' knowledge, including within the context of theology, of the history of philosophy and philosophical methods that will be relevant in their future careers. Through a profound analysis of important philosophical texts from the past and present, students will gain a differentiated perspective on philosophical interpretations of the world and acquire independent critical insight into the preconditions for human understanding, speech and behaviour, and in so doing will be strengthened in their ability to develop their own scholarly views. In particular students can

- reflect on the origins and conditions, principles and methods, goals and limitations of provable knowledge;
- understand and interpret the general structures of the world independently using philosophical principles;
- critically analyse texts, factual questions, lines of thought and findings in individual scientific disciplines, taking into account their place in the history of ideas along with systematic and methodological aspects;
- take a stand on contemporary ethical questions from fields such as the biosciences, medicine, economics, technology and media studies from an interdisciplinary perspective;
- take part in current scholarly discourse and form an independently reasoned scholarly opinion about in fundamental questions of theoretical and practical philosophy;
- plan, structure and carry out philosophical discussions and research projects;
- offer nuanced critical assessments of developments in society and provide inspiration and orientation within different areas of society.

(3) Importance and relevance of the degree programme for scholarship, society and the labour market

Unlike taking a degree in a practical field such as medicine, architecture or law, taking a degree in philosophy does not mean putting oneself on a clearly defined path to a specific career. Instead, students of philosophy need to prepare themselves for a broad array of career options. The skills required of graduates, such as precise, critical and innovative thinking, intellectual flexibility, initiative-taking, problem-solving skills, communication skills, capacity for teamwork and tolerance for ambiguity, will be fostered and consolidated within the broad academic scope the programme. As a consequence, students will receive the ideal foundation for a diverse array of careers. For those students who envision a career in research and academia, the MA programme prepares them for the PhD programme in Philosophy.

Graduates of the MA programme in Philosophy from the Faculty of Catholic Theology often pursue careers in the following fields: research management, cultural management, human resources, library and information resources, publishing, media, adult education, political consulting, IT, environmental protection and ethics consulting.

§ 3 Structure of the programme

The MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology comprises 5 modules with a total number of 58 ECTS points. In addition, there are 24 ECTS points assigned for elective courses. The master's thesis is worth 28 ECTS points, each

master's seminar 2 ECTS points and the master's examination 6 ECTS points.

| | ECTS |
|--|------------|
| M01 Theoretical Philosophy | 9 |
| M02 Philosophical Anthropology | 9 |
| M03 Practical Philosophy | 9 |
| M04 Philosophy of Religion and Religious Studies | 9 |
| Elective module | 22 |
| Electives | 24 |
| Master's seminars | 4 |
| Master's thesis | 28 |
| Master's examination | 6 |
| Total | 120 |

§ 4 Course Types

The programme utilises the following course types:

- (1) Lectures (VO) offer an overview of a subject and its theoretical approaches and presents different schools of thought and methods. The material is primarily presented in the form of a lecture. VOs do not involve continuous assessment, and attendance is not obligatory.
- (2) Lectures with integrated exercises (VU) combine the theoretical introduction to a subject with exercises to put theory into practice. VUs do not involve continuous assessment, and attendance is not obligatory.
- (3) Seminars (SE) are advanced courses that promote scholarship. They serve to deepen students' knowledge of a subject and further the discussion of and reflection on scholarly topics based on the active participation of students. Seminars involve continuous assessment, and attendance is mandatory.

A master's seminar constitutes the course framework in which students will present their thesis project and put it up for discussion.

§ 5 Master's degree modules and plan of study

This section lists modules and courses in the master's degree programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology: The allocation of courses to particular semesters should be viewed as a recommendation designed to ensure that the courses are completed in such an order that knowledge is acquired successively and that a workload of 60 ECTS points per year is not exceeded. Modules and courses may however be completed in a different order.

Detailed descriptions of the modules, including the knowledge, methods and skills to be acquired can be found in Annex I: Module descriptions.

| MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology | | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------|------|------|------------------------|----|-----|----|--|
| Module | Course | Semester credit hrs | Type | ECTS | Semester no. with ECTS | | | | |
| | | | | | I | II | III | IV | |
| (1) Compulsory modules | | | | | | | | | |
| M01 Theoretical Philosophy | | | | | | | | | |
| | Special questions in theo- retical philosophy | 2 | VU | 4 | | 4 | | | |
| | | 2 | SE | 5 | 5 | | | | |
| Subtotal for M01 | | 4 | | 9 | 5 | 4 | | | |
| M02: Philosophical Anthropology | | | | | | | | | |
| | Special questions in anthropology | 2 | VU | 4 | | 4 | | | |
| | | 2 | SE | 5 | 5 | | | | |
| Subtotal for M02 | | 4 | | 9 | 5 | 4 | | | |

M03: Practical Philosophy

| | | | | | | |
|---|---|----|---|---|---|--|
| Special questions in practical philosophy | 2 | VU | 4 | 4 | | |
| | 2 | SE | 5 | | 5 | |
| Subtotal for M03 | 4 | | 9 | 4 | 5 | |
| M04: Philosophy of Religion and Religious Studies | | | | | | |
| Special questions in philosophy of religion and religious studies | 2 | VU | 4 | 4 | | |
| | 2 | SE | 5 | | 5 | |
| Subtotal for M04 | 4 | | 9 | 4 | 5 | |

(2) Elective modules according to § 6

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|----|----------|----|---|---|---|
| | 6 | VU | 12 | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| | 4 | SE | 10 | | 5 | 5 |
| Total for elective module catalogues | 10 | VO/VU/SE | 22 | 4 | 9 | 9 |

(3) Electives

... ..

| | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|------|-----|----|----|----|----|
| Total for elective courses | ... | 24 | 8 | 3 | 13 | |
| (4) Master's seminars | 2 | 4 | | | 2 | 2 |
| (5) Master's thesis | | 28 | | | 6 | 22 |
| (6) Master's examination by committee | | 6 | | | | 6 |
| Sum total | (28) | 120 | 30 | 30 | 30 | 30 |

§ 6 Elective module

The MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology includes an elective module, which offers students the opportunity to specialise and consolidate their knowledge of philosophy in an area of personal interest. Students can choose 22 ECTS points worth of courses – ideally related to their master's thesis – from the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology's course catalogue.

§ 7 Elective courses

- (1) The MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology aims to provide students the freedom to pursue interdisciplinary interests. To this end, students choose freely from courses worth 24 ECTS points to complete their elective requirement. These courses, which make it possible for students to obtain additional qualifications and specialised knowledge, can be completed at any accredited post-secondary institution.
- (2) If there are enough commonalities in the subject matter of the elective courses a student chooses for 12 or 24 ECTS points, these electives can be listed as specialisations on a student's master's degree certificate.
- (3) Students are recommended to choose from the following: Systematic Theology, thematic modules from the Theology curriculum at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Salzburg, ancient history, German studies, history, sociology, political science, psychology, gender studies, law, economics, medicine, physics, biology. Students should also explore the list of Supplemental Study Programmes (Studienergänzungen) offered by the University of Salzburg.

§ 8 Master's thesis

- (1) A master's thesis serves to demonstrate that students have acquired the ability to perform independent academic research in philosophy according to current academic research methods and standards.
- (2) The topic of the master's thesis should be concise enough to make it practicable for a student to complete the thesis within six months (cf. UG2002 § 81 para. 2).
- (3) The topic of the master's thesis must be taken from a module in the master's curriculum. The student may suggest a topic or choose from a list of topics provided by the student's thesis supervisor.
- (4) It is to be noted that both the student's work on the topic and the supervisor's work with the student are governed by Austrian copyright law, Federal Law Gazette No. 111/1936 (cf. UG 2002 § 80 para. 2).
- (5) Rules governing the supervising and grading of master's theses are spelled out in the section of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg pertaining to university studies, § 21 para. 4-7. In general, supervisors are to be academic staff from the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Philosophy with a habilitation certificate. In special cases, the Dean can also name other individuals with a PhD as thesis supervisors.
- (6) Concepts for master's theses are to be introduced and discussed in the master's seminars.
- (7) A master's thesis is to comprise approximately 220,000 characters (with spaces).
- (8) A master's thesis is to be submitted in written and in electronic form. Graduates will also be requested to publish their master's thesis by providing a copy to the Austrian National Library.

§ 9 Study abroad

It is recommended that master's students in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology spend one semester abroad, ideally in their second or third semester in the programme. Course transfers for courses completed abroad will be handled by the responsible university body. All documents needed to complete course transfers are to be provided by the student.

Steps will be taken to ensure that the semester abroad can be completed without causing a delay in a student's course of study, provided that the following conditions are met:

- at least 30 ECTS points are earned in each semester of study abroad.
- the content of courses completed during a semester abroad is not identical to courses already completed at the University of Salzburg.
- the student has attained confirmation by formal notification in writing before beginning his or her semester abroad as to which courses to be taken abroad are transferable.

In addition to gaining skills specific to the study of philosophy while studying abroad, students will:

- acquire and consolidate knowledge about philosophy in a foreign language
- acquire and consolidate foreign language skills (speech comprehension, conversation etc.)
- acquire and consolidate organisational skills by independently planning and performing a daily routine at a university in a foreign country
- familiarise themselves with international university systems and broaden their perspectives in the field of philosophy
- acquire and consolidate intercultural communication skills.

Students with disabilities and/or chronic illnesses will be assisted in their search for a study abroad spot and in planning for their semester abroad by the University (disability & diversity office).

§ 10 Allocation of places in courses with a limited number of participants

- (1) The maximum number of participants in individual course types in the MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Salzburg is set as follows:

| | |
|---|-----------------|
| Lectures (VO) | no limit |
| Lectures with integrated exercises (VU) | no limit |
| Seminars (SE) | 30 participants |

- (2) In cases which the number of people registered for a seminar exceeds the set limit, priority of enrolment will be given to students for whom this seminar is a requirement for their programme.
- (3) Students in the MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Salzburg will be enrolled in the following order:
- progress made (sum total of ECTS points earned in the programme)
 - completion of a greater number of courses and/or exams
 - completion of a greater number of semesters of study
 - higher weighted grading score according to ECTS points
 - random selection.
- Available places will be allocated to students from other programmes using the same criteria.
- (4) For students participating in international exchange programmes, additional places constituting at least 10 per cent of the maximum set number of participants will be made available. These places will be allocated randomly.

§ 11 Requirements for exams

- (1) § 10-20 of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg govern the awarding of grades, annulment of grades, awarding of certificates, setting of exam dates, registration for exams, the implementation, retaking and transfer of exams and all legal concerns.
- (2) Courses are graded individually. Once all courses in a particular module have been completed, the module itself is viewed as having been completed. The grade assigned to a module is derived from the grades in the individual courses in the given module. It is determined in relation to the number of ECTS points assigned to the individual courses (cf. the section of the Statutes of the University of Salzburg pertaining to university studies, § 19 para.3).
- (3) The order in which exams are taken can be determined by the student.
- (4) In courses involving continuous assessment, assessment criteria are to be announced by the instructor at the beginning of the course. In such courses, the final grade is not the result of a single exam at the end of the semester but rather of continuous participation by those enrolled in the course. In seminars, students must submit a paper.
- (5) The master's degree programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology has been completed once
- (a) Modules M01-M04, the elective module, all elective courses and the master's seminars have been completed,
 - (b) the master thesis received a passing grade,
 - (c) the master's examination (cf. § 14) has been passed by the examining committee.

§ 12 Master's examination by committee

- (1) The MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology concludes with a final examination by committee worth 6 ECTS points.
- (2) In order for a master's examination to take place, a student must have completed all course requirements and received a passing grade on their master's thesis.
- (3) The examination procedure is as follows:
 - a) the student will briefly present their master's thesis (approx. 10 min.),
 - b) the committee will question the student about the presentation and about problem areas within the thesis module (approx. 30 min.) and
 - c) the committee will question the student about an additional field of philosophy from modules M01-M04 (approx. 20 min.); This field may be chosen by the student but cannot be part of the module in which his or her master's thesis was written.

§ 13 Effective date

This curriculum comes into force on 1 October 2016.

§ 14 Transitional provisions

- (1) Students enrolled in the 2011 version of the MA programme in Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at the University of Salzburg (published in the Mitteilungsblatt – Sondernummer 121, 03 June 2011) have until 30.09.2019 to complete the programme.
- (2) These students are eligible to transfer into the 2016 MA programme at any time during regular periods of admission. To do so, they must present an irrevocable declaration in writing to the Admissions Office (Studienabteilung).

Annex II contains a course equivalency list.

Annex I: Module descriptions

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Module description | Theoretical Philosophy |
| Module code | M01 |
| Total workload | 9 ECTS points |
| Learning Outcomes | Students gain insight into a diverse array of questions and approaches to finding answers in the area of epistemology, philosophy of language, hermeneutics, natural philosophy and metaphysics, and take up problems as a part of current research discussions, interpret them within their interdisciplinary systematic context and provide independent commentary on them. |
| Module content | The courses address complex problems of epistemology, philosophy of language, hermeneutics, natural philosophy and metaphysics, unpacks their origins within the history of ideas, discusses their systematic forms and contexts, and examines their relevance for both different and related scholarly approaches. |
| Courses | One VU and one seminar are to be chosen from the current course catalogue of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology in the areas of epistemology, philosophy of language, hermeneutics, natural philosophy and metaphysics. |
| Type of examination | oral (contribution to classroom discussions, presentations) and written (handouts, seminar papers) |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Module description | Philosophical Anthropology |
| Module code | M02 |
| Total workload | 9 ECTS points |
| Learning Outcomes | Students can analyse complex questions in philosophical anthropology in a scholarly manner and reflect critically and independently on current questions both within the discipline and at the intersections of the related human sciences, especially psychology. |
| Content | Students will be introduced to specific key topics in anthropology as well as current questions in the areas of overlap between philosophical anthropology and special human sciences such as psychology, pedagogy, human biology and sociology with an eye to the current state of research, which will then be discussed in the course and worked through independently by students under the instructor's guidance. |
| Courses | One VU and one seminar on philosophical anthropology are to be chosen from the current course catalogue of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology. |
| Type of examination | oral (contribution to classroom discussions, presentations) and written (handouts, seminar papers) |

| | |
|---------------------|---|
| Module description | Practical Philosophy |
| Module code | M03 |
| Total workload | 9 ECTS points |
| Learning Outcomes | Students will have specialised knowledge in practical philosophy (general ethics, applied ethics, political philosophy, etc.). They will be able to formulate their own views, defend them, reflect on them in relation to their philosophical foundations and socio-political consequences, and bring them to bear on current scholarly and socio-political debates. |
| Content | These courses deal with special topics taken from core areas of practical philosophy such as general ethics, applied ethics, social philosophy, philosophy of language and culture, and political philosophy. Topics will be developed to reflect the current state of research both in practical philosophy and related areas of study, discussed in the course, and worked through independently under the instructor's guidance. |
| Courses | One VU and one seminar on practical philosophy are to be chosen from the current course catalogue of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology. |
| Type of examination | oral (contribution to classroom discussions, presentations) and written (handouts, seminar papers) |

| | |
|---------------------|--|
| Module description | Philosophy of Religion and Religious Studies |
| Module code | M04 |
| Total workload | 9 ECTS points |
| Learning Outcomes | Students will have a deeper knowledge of special questions and phenomena of past and present forms of religions and their relationship with each other. They are able to reflect critically on current questions in philosophy of religion and religious studies and on their boundaries with neighbouring disciplines. |
| Content | These courses deal with key questions of philosophy of religion and religious studies, examining them in depth using other branches of philosophy (e.g. epistemology and metaphysics) and neighbouring disciplines such as Jewish studies, Islamic studies, South Asian studies, Egyptology, iconology, sociology and ethnology. Questions and problems will then be discussed, taking into account the current state of research, and worked through independently under the instructor's guidance. |
| Courses | One VU and one seminar on philosophy of religion and religious studies are to be chosen from the current course catalogue of the Department of Philosophy at the Faculty of Catholic Theology. |
| Type of examination | oral (contribution to classroom discussions, presentations) and written (handouts, seminar papers) |

Annex II: Course equivalency list

| 2011 Curriculum | 2016 Curriculum |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| M01 VK (4) | M01 VU (4) |
| M01 SE (6) | M01 SE (5) |
| M02 VK (4) | M02 VU (4) |
| M02 SE (6) | M02 SE (5) |
| M03 VK (4) | M03 VU (4) |
| M03 SE (6) | M03 SE (5) |
| M04 VK (4) | M04 VU (4) |
| M04 SE (6) | M04 SE (5) |

Courses in the compulsory elective module in the 2011 Curriculum will be counted for the elective module in the 2016 curriculum using an equivalent number of ECTS points.

Imprint

Editor and publisher:
Rector of Paris Lodron University of Salzburg
O.Univ.-Prof. Dr. Heinrich Schmidinger
Copy-editor: Johann Leitner
Kapitelgasse 4-6
A-5020 Salzburg