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### **Faculty of Theology:**

Pursuant to a resolution adopted by the board of the Faculty of Theology on 27 January 2016 and a statement issued by the Senate on 3 September 2016, the Presidential Board of the Georg August University of Göttingen approved the Examination and Study Regulations for the Consecutive Master's Degree Programme in "Intercultural Theology" (§ 44 para 1 second sentence Lower Saxony Higher Education Act, NHG, in the version published on 26 February 2007 (Nds. GVBl. p. 69), most recently amended by Article 1 of the act of 15 December 2015 (Nds. GVBl. p. 384); § 41 para 2 second sentence NHG; § 37 para 1 third sentence no. 5 lit. b), § 44 para 1 third sentence NHG).

## **Examination and Study Regulations for the Consecutive Master's Degree Programme in Intercultural Theology at Georg August University Göttingen**

### **§ 1 Scope**

- (1) The "General Examination Regulations for the Bachelor's and Master's Degree Programmes as well as Other Academic Programmes at the University of Göttingen" (*Allgemeine Prüfungsordnung für Bachelor- und Master-Studiengänge sowie sonstige Studienangebote an der Universität Göttingen*, APO) as amended apply to the consecutive Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology.
- (2) These regulations set out additional provisions governing completion of the Master's degree programme in "Intercultural Theology".

### **§ 2 Objectives of the course study and fields of application; purpose of examinations; academic degree**

- (1) <sup>1</sup>The objective of the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology is to enable graduates to work in detail and based on scholarly research within intercultural contexts in the field of theology. <sup>2</sup>In accordance with this objective, the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology provides students with knowledge of theology, ecumenism and missions in various cultural contexts. The programme additionally trains students to participate in the dialogue among groups expressing various international cultural traditions of Christian theology, and to communicate interreligious knowledge within one or several cultures. <sup>3</sup>By providing students with

a knowledge of theology as well as methodological and analytical skills for working in the field, the programme trains students for professional activities in which theology is made productive through intercultural discussion. It additionally forms the basis for further studies at doctoral level.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology enables students to more closely reflect, in theological terms, on these topics:

- a. the intercultural character of the Christian message;
- b. communication of the Christian message in various cultural contexts;
- c. interactions of Christians with people of other faiths and with other world-views.

In addition, students are able to analyse the transformation processes involved when thus encountering other cultures, while taking social, political and economic conditions into account.

<sup>2</sup>The Master's degree programme enables students to independently carry out theological and interdisciplinary scholarly research as well as to apply scholarly knowledge of theology, ecumenism and missions within the context of intercultural exchange.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The programme renders intercultural theology productive at international level by:

- a. bringing together students from Germany and other European countries and from non-European contexts, in particular from the southern hemisphere;
- b. including guests scholars specifically from such contexts;
- c. supporting dialogue through methods involving digital teaching and learning;
- d. encouraging students in the course of their intercultural theological education to personally reflect on their professional careers.

<sup>2</sup>The intercultural course of studies thus nurtures students' personality development and their ability to be active in civil society.

(4) The programme in Intercultural Theology prepares for work in organisations and societies active in missions and ecumenism, in churches in Germany and in partner churches in other countries. Graduates may also work for international church alliances, nongovernmental organisations, in the media, at institutions of further education (adult education) and at research institutions.

(5) The examinations taken in the course of the Master's degree programme determine whether examinees have acquired the knowledge and skills required to meet the study objectives, are able to recognise the relationships relevant to the topic of study, and possess the ability to work according to scholarly principles, thereby enabling them to teach at a scholarly level and to reflect on and evaluate the knowledge they have acquired, with a view to application contexts.

(6) Upon successfully passing the Master's examination, graduates are awarded the academic degree of "Master of Arts", abbreviated "M.A.", by the university.

### **§ 3 Programme structure and regular period of study**

(1) The course of studies begins with the winter semester.

(2) The regular period of study is four semesters.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The programme is conducted by the Faculty of Theology of the Georg August University in close cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology (FIT) at Hermannsburg. <sup>1</sup>The courses offered are held both at Göttingen and Hermannsburg. <sup>3</sup>Students have the option and are recommended to take up residence on the FIT campus and form a study community. <sup>4</sup>The libraries at FIT and at the University of Göttingen are available for use during the entire period of study. <sup>5</sup>Based on these Examination and Study Regulations, the participating universities offer a course programme that allows students to complete the course of studies, including all examinations, within the regular period of study; this does not apply to a student's potential progress in every case.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The programme consists of 120 credits (C), distributed as follows:

- a. 88 C for coursework;
- b. 12 C for professional training (key skills);
- c. 20 C for the Master's thesis.

<sup>2</sup>The required compulsory and elective modules are specified in the Module Overview (Appendix I). <sup>3</sup>A recommended course plan showing how to appropriately structure the course of studies is provided in Appendix II.

<sup>4</sup>The module catalogue is published separately; within the scope of the Module Overview (Appendix I), the catalogue constitutes an integral part of these Regulations.

(5) All courses and examinations under the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology are held in English.

(6) <sup>1</sup>Modules including "Cross-Culture III" (M.IntTheol.11) are taken during the third semester of the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology. This semester takes place in the form of a project.

<sup>2</sup>Either from a research or application perspective, students develop an appropriate topic of investigation that is related to their particular main area of study and interest, and subsequently carry out the project independently based on a plan agreed with a supervisor, who is to be chosen from among the teaching staff involved in the course of studies. <sup>3</sup>The aim of the project is to relate the topic to the other programme modules, referring to the main subject matter, methodology or regional focus of the modules in the particular case. <sup>4</sup>By working independently on and analysing a comprehensive and complex topic of investigation, students are also prepared to work on their Master's thesis later. <sup>5</sup>In the investigation, students apply themselves to a structured analysis of an exemplary situational context, describing the religious or denominational and theological background as well as the institutional relationships within the overall socio-cultural and socio-political conditions. <sup>6</sup>The intercultural and interreligious specifics in particular are to be detailed in the light of the knowledge of religious studies and history previously acquired during the course of studies, with special attention devoted to reflecting on the distinction between theory-building and the requirements posed by a concrete situation.

<sup>7</sup>The project should be integrated with existing projects or related to current issues at a local level. <sup>8</sup>It is especially worthwhile for projects to contribute to intercultural efforts at a local level.

(7) <sup>1</sup>Students may also spend the third semester at one of the partner universities or institutions of the FIT or the University of Göttingen. <sup>2</sup>These include in particular:

- a. Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, India;
- b. Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore, India;
- c. St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam Kerala, India;
- d. Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam Kerala, India;
- e. University of Pune, India;
- f. Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Adis Abeba, Ethiopia;
- g. Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Adis Abeba, Ethiopia;
- h. The Graduate School of Theology, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea;
- i. Osaka University, Osaka, Japan;
- j. Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana;
- k. Near Eastern School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon;
- l. Yerevan State University, Faculty of Theology, Yerevan, Armenia;
- m. University of Tartu, Estonia;
- n. Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Indonesia Bagian Timur Makassar (STT INTIM MAKASSAR), Indonesia;
- o. Tumaini University, Iringa University College, Tanzania;
- p. Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, China;
- q. Belarusian State University, Saints Methodius and Cyrill Institute of Theology, Belarus.

<sup>3</sup>A university or institution will be chosen in accordance with provisions below while considering as far as possible the main topics and objectives pursued through the course of studies.

<sup>4</sup>All students are strongly recommended to consult with staff in preparation. <sup>5</sup>In the event that a partner university or institution is chosen by more students than the particular institution has capacity for, students will be selected based on a process in which students will be required to give reasons for their preference in writing. <sup>6</sup>The examination board will select students based on the criteria listed below:

- a. Students' main topics of study and study goals (4 points max.)
- b. Career perspectives, internship place (4 points max.)
- c. Personal reasons (4 points max.)

<sup>7</sup>Where students' have equal points standings, the selection will be based on the average grades students achieved on examinations prior to the application. <sup>7</sup>Where afterwards students still have equal standings, students will be selected randomly. <sup>8</sup>During the semester at a partner university or institution, students complete the modules "Theology in Context" (M.IntTheol.10), "Cross-Culture III" (M.IntTheol.11) as well as portions of the module "Professional Perspectives in Intercultural Theology" (M.IntTheol.15).

(8) The master's degree programme is not suited to part-time studies.

#### **§ 4 Professional training**

(1) <sup>1</sup>During professional training, students complete the module "Language Instruction Course German" (M.IntTheol.04) along with one of the elective modules offered. <sup>2</sup>Students with a suitable level of proficiency in German may earn 6 C by taking another module, such as the elective module M.IntTheol.14 or M.IntTheol.06 "Language Instruction Course".

<sup>3</sup>The elective modules are offered so as to allow students to choose from at least two options.

(2) Unless otherwise indicated, elective modules are held as block courses at the University of Göttingen.

#### **§ 5 Special forms of examination**

(1) In addition to the examinations set out in the provisions of the APO, examinations of the types specified in the following may be required: portfolio, evaluation report and essay.

(2) <sup>1</sup>A portfolio is a catalogue of various achievements defined in view of a student's study goals/skills obtained through courses. <sup>2</sup>It includes a discussion of the individual's learning process in the light of issues relating to theory, methodology and application. <sup>3</sup>A portfolio will encompass a maximum of 20 pages.

(3) <sup>1</sup>An evaluation report is a written description of a project carried out in practice, detailing the steps, outcomes and supervision. <sup>2</sup>The report will encompass a maximum of 15 pages.

(4) <sup>1</sup>An essay is intended as a means of independently and critically discussing central issues as well as understanding and summarising primary and secondary literature with respect to structure and arguments. <sup>2</sup>Students will choose topics in independent consultation with teachers. <sup>3</sup>An essay should comprise no more than 10 pages.

#### **§ 6 Approval for the Master's thesis**

(1) Prior to approval for the Master's thesis, students will have successfully completed modules totalling at least 72 C.

(2) <sup>1</sup>To proceed with the Master's thesis, students must submit a written application to the examination board responsible for approval. <sup>2</sup>The application must include the following documents:

- a. evidence of compliance with the prerequisites specified under paragraph 1;
- b. the proposed topic of the Master's thesis;
- c. proposals for the principal and secondary supervisors;
- d. written confirmation from the principal supervisor and the secondary supervisor;
- e. a statement that the candidate has not achieved a failure with final effect or a result consid-

ered as a final failure on a Master's examination in the same or a similar Master's degree programme at a university in Germany or another country.

<sup>3</sup>Proposals as required under sentence 2 lit. b and c as well as evidence as required under sentence 2 lit. d are not necessary where students provide certification of not having found a supervisor. <sup>4</sup>In such a case the examination board responsible will appoint a supervisor for the candidate and determine the topic of the Master's thesis. <sup>5</sup>The candidate will be consulted on the choice of topic. <sup>6</sup>The right to propose a topic does not constitute a legal claim.

(3) <sup>1</sup>The examination board will decide whether to approve the candidate to proceed with the thesis. <sup>2</sup>Approval is to be refused if the candidate has not met the prerequisites for approval or has achieved a failure with final effect or a result considered as a final failure on a Master's examination in the same or a similar Master's degree programme at a university in Germany or another country.

## **§ 7 Master's thesis**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The written Master's thesis is intended as a means of demonstrating the candidate's ability, using the methodology of the specialised field, to work through a problem within a set period, to develop an independent judgement founded in research, to make observations based on research, and to present the results in an appropriate form and language. <sup>2</sup>20 C will be awarded upon successful completion of the Master's thesis.

(2) <sup>1</sup>The candidate is to agree with the principal supervisor, to be proposed by the candidate, on the working topic of the Master's thesis and to submit the topic, along with approval by the secondary supervisor to be proposed by the candidate, to the examination board responsible. <sup>2</sup>The examination board will assign the topic of the Master's thesis and specify accompanying rules of procedure. <sup>3</sup>The assignment date is to be recorded.

(3) <sup>1</sup>A period of 20 weeks will be allowed for completing the Master's thesis. <sup>2</sup>At the candidate's request, the examination board responsible can, in consultation with the supervisor, extend the period for working on the thesis by an additional six weeks at most, where a significant reason for which the candidate is not accountable exists. <sup>3</sup>A significant reason usually exists in the case of illness, which must be reported without delay and certified by a physician.

(4) <sup>1</sup>The candidate may refuse the topic only once and only within the first four weeks of the period for working on the thesis. <sup>2</sup>A new topic is to be agreed on without delay and at the latest within four weeks. <sup>3</sup>In the event that a candidate must repeat the Master's thesis, the examination candidate may refuse the topic as permitted under sentence 1 only if no use was made of this option in the first examination attempt.

(5) The Master's thesis is to be written in English.

(6) <sup>1</sup>Two copies of the Master's thesis are to be submitted to the responsible examination office by the stipulated date; an additional text version, in a format supported by a common word pro-

cessing program or in PDF (without protection), is to be submitted along with certification that the additionally submitted version corresponds to the written version.<sup>2</sup>The submission date is to be recorded.<sup>3</sup>Upon submission, the candidate will provide written certification of having independently written the thesis and of having used no other sources or aids other than those indicated.

(7) <sup>1</sup>The responsible examination office will forward the Master's thesis for review to the principal supervisor and the secondary supervisor. <sup>2</sup>Each of the reviewers will award a grade.

(8) The evaluation period should not exceed eight weeks.

(9) <sup>1</sup>The Master's thesis may also be prepared by a group of candidates. <sup>2</sup>An individual candidate's contribution to the thesis, to be evaluated for the examination, must be indicated in terms of sections, pages or other objective criteria in order to allow clear differentiation and must meet the requirements under paragraph 1.

### **§ 8 Repetition of examinations to improve grades**

Without prejudice to § 16a paragraph 3 sentence 2 of the General Examination Regulations (APO), no repetition of examinations previously passed is permitted for the purpose of improving grades.

### **§ 9 Examination board**

(1) <sup>1</sup>The examination board will consist of five members, appointed by the groups represented in the board of the Faculty of Theology, with three members appointed by the university teaching staff and one each by the staff and by the student body. <sup>2</sup>Each group is to additionally appoint a deputy member.

(2) The examination board will elect a chairperson and a deputy chair from among the university teaching staff.

### **§ 10 Overall grade**

(1) A student will be considered to have passed the Master's examination after earning at least 120 credits and after passing all of the required module examinations and successfully completing the Master's thesis.

(2) An overall grade of *Mit Auszeichnung* (With honours) will be awarded to students receiving a grade of 1.0 on the Master's thesis and an average grade of 1.5 as calculated over all examinations.

## **§ 11 Student advisory service**

- (1) Teaching staff participating in the course advise students on matters relating to the course of studies, and the dean of the Faculty of Theology advises on examination matters.
- (2) The university's central student advisory service is responsible for general student counselling and in particular for cross-faculty issues.
- (3) Students should consult an advisory service particularly in the following cases:
  - after two failed examinations;
  - when the time required for studies does not correspond to the regular allotted period;
  - when changing the course of studies or the university;
  - prior to beginning a semester in another country.

## **§ 12 Entry into force**

- (1) These regulations will enter into force as of 1 October 2016 after publication in the Official Bulletin of the Georg August University of Göttingen.
- (2) At the same time, the following will become void: the Examination Regulations for the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology in the version published on 14 September 2009 (Official Bulletin No. 22/2009 p. 2035), most recently amended through the resolution adopted by the Presidential Board on 8 September 2010 (Official Bulletin No. 21/2010 p. 1546), along with the Study Regulations for the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology, issued as a supplement to the Examination Regulations, in the version published on 14 September 2009 (Official Bulletin No. 22/2009 p. 2054), most recently amended through the resolution adopted by the Presidential Board on 8 September 2010 (Official Bulletin No. 21/2010 p. 1548).
- (3) <sup>1</sup>Notwithstanding paragraph 2, students who began their courses of study prior to these Examination and Study Regulations becoming effective and have been continuously enrolled in the Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology will be examined in accordance with the Regulations as referred to in paragraph 2. <sup>2</sup>Where students have not yet sat examinations, the foregoing will not apply to module overviews, module catalogues or module manuals if a deviating decision by the examination board is required in order to protect students' trust. <sup>3</sup>A deviating decision can be taken in particular in cases where students are permitted to repeat examinations or where a necessary compulsory or elective module has been substantially modified or dropped entirely. <sup>4</sup>The examination board can specify general rules for such cases. <sup>5</sup>On request, students as referred to in sentence 1 will be examined exclusively in accordance with the provisions set out in these Regulations. <sup>6</sup>Examinations in accordance with the provisions of the Regulations referred to in paragraph 2 will be held no later than in the fourth semester after this amendment becomes effective.



## Appendix I Module Overview of the Master's Degree Programme in Intercultural Theology

### 1. Master's degree programme in Intercultural Theology

Students must earn at least 120 credits (C) in total as specified below.

#### a. Theological studies

Students must complete the following 11 compulsory modules, totalling 88 C:

M.IntTheol.01	"Processes of Translation, Inculturation and Intercultural Communication"	(7 C / 4 semester hours, SH)
M.IntTheol.02	"Christianity in an Intercultural Perspective"	(7 C / 4 SH)
M.IntTheol.03	"Cross-Culture I"	(9 C / 6 SH)
M.IntTheol.05	"Religions, Churches and Theology in Europe and the Western World"	(7 C / 4 SH)
M.IntTheol.07	"Religions, Churches and Theology in Africa"	(8 C / 4 SH)
M.IntTheol.08a	"Religions, Churches and Theology in Asia and the Middle East"	(8 C / 4 SH)
M.IntTheol.09a	"Cross-Culture II"	(8 C / 4 SH)
M.IntTheol.10	"Theology in Context"	(6 C / 4 SH)
M.IntTheol.11	"Cross-Culture III"	(15 C / 1 SH)
M.IntTheol.15	"Professional Perspectives in Intercultural Theology"	(8 C / 3 SH)
M.IntTheol.16	"Research in Intercultural Theology"	(5 C / 1 SH)

#### b. Professional training

Students must complete modules totalling at least 12 C as specified below.

**aa.** Students must successfully complete the following compulsory module for 6 C:

M.IntTheol.04	"Language Instruction Course German"	(6 C / 6 SH)
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Students already having a command of German equivalent to the level acquired through M.IntTheol.04 are to complete in the place of M.IntTheol.04 one of the modules listed under bb. or cc. below.

**bb.** Students must successfully complete at least one of the following elective modules for 6 C:

M.IntTheol.14-01	"Theories of Religion"	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-02	"Concepts of Healing and Salvation in Ancient Religions (Paganism, Judaism, Christianity)"	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-03	"The Early Christians in a World Full of Gods: Cultural Encounter and Religious Debate"	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-05	"Ethical Expertise in the Horizon of Religion"	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-06	"Literacy and Education in Religion"	(6 C / 2 SH)

M.IntTheol.14-07	“Concepts and Theories of Religious Counselling”	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-08	“Importance of Law and Legislation in Religions”	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-09	“Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Europe”	(6 C / 2 SH)

**cc.** Students may complete one of the following voluntary electives and sit an additional examination for 6 C:

M.IntTheol.06-01	“Introduction to Arabic Language”	(6 C / 6 SH)
M.IntTheol.06-02	“Introduction to Biblical Hebrew”	(6 C / 6 SH)
M.IntTheol.06-03	“Introduction to New Testament Greek”	(6 C / 6 SH)
M.IntTheol.06-04	“Introduction to Latin”	(6 C / 6 SH)

### **c. Master’s thesis**

Students successfully completing a Master’s thesis are awarded 20 C.

## **2. Key skills courses**

Students enrolled in other Master’s degree programmes may complete the following modules to acquire key skills as part of professional training:

M.IntTheol.14-01	“Theories of Religion”	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-02	“Concepts of Healing and Salvation in Ancient Religions (Paganism, Judaism, Christianity)”	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-03	“The Early Cultural Encounter and Religious Debate” Christians in a World Full of Gods:	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-05	“Ethical Expertise in the Horizon of Religion”	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-07	“Concepts and Theories of Religious Counselling”	(6 C / 2 SH)
M.IntTheol.14-08	“Importance of Law and Legislation in Religions”	(6 C / 2 SH)

## Appendix II Example of a course plan

Sem. Σ C	Course of study in "Intercultural Theology" (88 C)					Professional training (12 C)	
	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module
1. Σ 29 C	M.IntTheol.01 Processes of Translation, Inculturation and Intercultural Communication (compulsory) 4 SH / 7 C	M.IntTheol.02 Christianity in an Intercultural Perspective (compulsory) 4 SH 7 C	M.IntTheol.03 Cross-Culture I (compulsory) 6 SH/9 C			M.IntTheol.04 Language Instruction Course German (compulsory) 6 SH 6 C	
2. Σ 32 C Σ 38 C	M.IntTheol.05 Religions, Churches and Theology in Europe and the Western World (compulsory) 4 SH 7 C	M.IntTheol.07 Religions, Churches and Theology in Africa (compulsory) 4 SH 8 C	M.IntTheol.08a Religions, Churches and Theology in Asia and the Middle East (compulsory) 4 SH 8 C	M.IntTheol.09a Cross-Culture II (compulsory) 4 SH 8 C	1 C M.IntTheol.15 Professional Perspectives in Intercultural Theology (compulsory) 3 SH 8 C 7 C		Voluntary module for additional examination: M.IntTheol.06 6 SH 4 SH 6 C
3. Σ 28 C	M.IntTheol.10 Theology in Context (compulsory) 2 SH 6 C	M.IntTheol.11 Cross-Culture III (compulsory) 1 SH 15 C					
4. Σ 31 C	Master's thesis 20 C		M.IntTheol.16 Research in Intercultural Theology (compulsory) 1 SH / 5 C			M.IntTheol.14 Elective module in Theology 6 C	
Σ 120 C	88 C (+ 20 C)					12 C	