

Postdoctoral Programme in Theology

Study Plan · 6 semesters · 120 academic credits · 3 years

120 Total Credits	6 Semesters	26 Courses & Tutorials	16 Academic Phases
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- Methodology
- Doctrinal/Ethics
- Biblical/Exegetical
- Contemporary
- Historical/Systematic
- Research/Thesis

Semester 1 — Methodological and Doctrinal Foundations						22 credits
Course Name	Code	Description	Cr.	Hours	Type	
Phase I — Methodological foundations						
Advanced Theological Methodology	TDP-101	Theological epistemology, research paradigms, methodological hermeneutics and academic standards of theological discourse.	5	125 h	Methodology	
Research Design and Academic Communication	TDP-102	Postdoctoral project design, advanced academic writing, scientific publishing and bibliographic reference management.	5	125 h	Methodology	
Phase II — Doctrinal and ethical formation						
Ethics and Moral Theology	TDP-103	Foundations of Christian ethics, bioethics, theological deontology and application of moral principles in contemporary contexts.	5	125 h	Doctrinal	
Biblical Hermeneutics and Biblical Studies	TDP-104	Hermeneutical principles, history of biblical interpretation, exegetical methods and the relationship between text, context and reader.	4	100 h	Biblical	
Phase III — Dialogue and contemporary engagement						
Comparative Religion and Interreligious Dialogue	TDP-105	Comparison of world religious traditions, theology of religions, ecumenism and frameworks for interreligious dialogue.	3	75 h	Contemporary	

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Semester 2 — Biblical Depth and Contemporary Theology						21 credits
Course Name	Code	Description	Cr.	Hours	Type	
Phase III (cont.) — Dialogue and contemporary engagement						
Contemporary Issues in Theology	TDP-106	Contextual theology, postcolonialism, feminist theology, eco-theology and challenges of modern religious pluralism.	4	100 h	Contemporary	
Phase IV — Original research and academic contribution						
Seminar I — Postdoctoral Research Project	TDP-107	Formulation of the postdoctoral project: problem statement, hypothesis, theoretical framework, methodology and research timeline.	5	125 h	Research	
Tutorial I — Individual Research Mentoring	TDP-108	Individual sessions with assigned mentor for methodological guidance, progress review and project adjustments.	3	75 h	Research	
Phase V — Biblical and exegetical depth						
Biblical Hermeneutics	TDP-109	In-depth analysis of hermeneutical methods: historical, narrative, rhetorical criticism and postmodern readings of sacred texts.	4	100 h	Biblical	
Exegetical Methodology and Biblical Text	TDP-110	Critical exegesis of OT and NT, linguistic analysis, textual criticism, literary structures and homiletical application.	5	125 h	Biblical	
Semester 3 — Theological Engagement and Advanced Mentoring						19 credits
Course Name	Code	Description	Cr.	Hours	Type	
Phase VI — Contemporary theological engagement						
Contemporary Issues in Theology II	TDP-111	Advanced study of public theology, secularization, political theology, human rights and mission in plural contexts.	4	100 h	Contemporary	
Seminar II — Moral Theology and Ethical Problems	TDP-112	Critical analysis of contemporary ethical dilemmas: bioethics, social justice, sexuality, environment and applied moral theology.	5	125 h	Doctrinal	
Phase VII — Advanced research mentoring						
Tutorial II — Specialized Research Guidance	TDP-113	Individualized oversight of the postdoctoral project, evaluation of theoretical frameworks and guidance for academic publications.	4	100 h	Research	
Phase VIII — Historical and systematic foundations						
Historical and Systematic Theology	TDP-114	History of Christian thought, patristics, scholasticism, the Reformation, modern theology and contemporary theological systems.	3	75 h	Historical	
Biblical or Modern Languages	TDP-115	Biblical Hebrew, New Testament Greek or a modern language of academic relevance to the research project.	3	75 h	Biblical	

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Semester 4 — Research Development and Interculturality						19 credits
Course Name	Code	Description	Cr.	Hours	Type	
Phase IX — Doctoral research development						
Research Project Development I	TDP-116	First development phase: data collection, preliminary analysis and presentation of progress to the academic committee.	5	125 h	Research	
Tutorial III — Advanced Research Mentoring	TDP-117	Personalized guidance on research methodology, chapter review and preparation of scientific articles.	4	100 h	Research	
Phase X — Intercultural and interreligious engagement						
Intercultural and Interreligious Dialogue	TDP-118	Intercultural theology, comparative missiology, cultural anthropology applied to theology and ministry in multicultural contexts.	4	100 h	Contemporary	
Phase XI — Educational and philosophical foundations						
Core Principles I — Philosophy of Education	TDP-119	Philosophy of theological education, critical pedagogy, models of ministerial formation and applied university didactics.	3	75 h	Historical	
Tutorial IV — Final Research Mentoring	TDP-120	Review and consolidation of the central chapters of the postdoctoral project with guidance for academic presentation.	3	75 h	Research	

Semester 5 — Contemporary Hermeneutics and Culmination						19 credits
Course Name	Code	Description	Cr.	Hours	Type	
Phase XII — Completion of advanced research						
Research Project Development II	TDP-121	Second phase: data analysis, argumentation development, internal peer review and preparation of the thesis draft.	5	125 h	Research	
Tutorial V — Culminating Research Mentoring	TDP-122	Final accompaniment in writing the postdoctoral document, conclusion refinement and preparation for the defence.	4	100 h	Research	
Phase XIII — Contemporary theological interpretation						
Contemporary Theological Hermeneutics	TDP-123	Current hermeneutical horizons: Gadamer, Ricoeur, analogical hermeneutics, phenomenology and their impact on theology.	5	125 h	Biblical	
Research Project Development III	TDP-124	Refinement of the postdoctoral work, feedback integration, derived journal article and preparation of the final version.	5	125 h	Research	

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Semester 6 — Final Culmination and Defence						20 credits
Course Name	Code	Description	Cr.	Hours	Type	
Phase XV — Final completion of research						
Research Project Development IV	TDP-125	Definitive writing of the postdoctoral document: executive summary, annotated bibliography and research appendices.	6	150 h	Research	
Tutorial VI — Doctoral Thesis Mentoring	TDP-126	Comprehensive final review with mentor and committee, form and content adjustments, defence protocol and formal submission.	6	150 h	Research	
Phase XVI — Academic contribution and defence						
Public Thesis Defence	TDP-127	Presentation and defence of the postdoctoral project before an external examining panel; evaluation of originality, rigour and contribution to the theological field.	8	200 h	Research	

Each academic credit corresponds to 25 hours of academic work (contact hours + independent study). Total programme hours: 3,000 hours. Programme structured across 16 phases over 6 semesters.