

RUHR  
UNIVERSITÄT  
BOCHUM

RUB

 **ceres**  
Center for Religious Studies



Master's Program Religious Studies  
Double-major  
Examination Regulations 2025  
Module Handbook

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## 1. General Information

Important documents, including the examination regulations, the student checklist, and this module handbook, can be found on the webpages of the CERES MA degree program "Religious Studies": <https://ma.ceres.rub.de/en/program/documents/>

Further information on the degree program: <https://ma.ceres.rub.de/en/program/>

Contact the student council with any questions: <https://ma.ceres.rub.de/en/counseling/student-council/>

Information on CERES: <https://ma.ceres.rub.de/en/ceres/>

For further information and only after you have reviewed all materials under above link carefully, you may contact (email only):

- Dean of Studies PD Dr. Maren Freudenberg ([maren.freudenberg@rub.de](mailto:maren.freudenberg@rub.de))
- Assistant to the Dean of Studies Office Ms. Susanne Göhre ([susanne.göhre@rub.de](mailto:susanne.göhre@rub.de))
- Religious Studies Student Council ([fsr-relwiss@ruhr-uni-bochum.de](mailto:fsr-relwiss@ruhr-uni-bochum.de))

## 2. About the Program

The Master's program "Religious Studies" is divided into the fields of Systematics, History of Religion and Practical Religious Studies, as well as a module to improve your personal interests and skills.

In the field of *Systematics*, you are obliged to take two modules in *Systematic Religious Studies* (S11 and S12). In the field of *History of Religion* (R), you have the choice between three modules – Pre-modern History of Religion in Europe and West Asia (R11), Modern History of Religion in Europe, North America, and West Asia (R12) and History of Religion in Asia (R13) – out of which you must take two modules. The goal of the field *Practical Religious Studies* is to prepare students for the time after obtaining their MA degree. They can orient their studies either towards an extra-academic future (module AC for Applied Career) or towards an academic future (module SC for scientific career). Finally, the *Complementary Module* (C) allows students to specialize in an area of interest outside of Religious Studies proper – as long as the courses are still relevant to the discipline.

| Area  | Module abbreviation | Full module name  | Number of ECTS     |
|---|---------------------|---|--------------------|
| <b>Systematics</b>                                      | S11                 | Master's Introduction                                     | 6                  |
|   | S12                 | Theories and Methods in the Study of Religions            | 8                  |
| <b>History of Religion</b> (pick two modules)           | R11                 | Pre-modern History of Religion: Europe and West-Asia      | 16 (for 2 modules) |
|   | R12                 | Modern History of Religion: Europe, America and West-Asia |                    |
|   | R13                 | Asian History of Religion                                 |                    |
| <b>Practical Religious Studies</b><br>(pick one module) | AC                  | Applied Career Track                                      | 9                  |
|   | SC                  | Scientific Career Track                                   |                    |
| <b>Supplementary Area</b>                               | C                   | Complementary Module                                      | 11                 |
| <b>TOTAL</b>  |                     |   | 50 ECTS            |

*Overall, the double-major MA “Religious Studies” consists of 8 modules:*

- Two modules in *Systematic Religious Studies*. S11 consists of a four-hour mandatory lecture, whereas in S12 you can choose between different courses in the field of theories and methods (four courses must be selected – at least two on theories, at least one on methods; the fourth is optional. The courses on offer change every semester.
- Three modules in *History of Religion*. Eight courses in two modules (each module has four courses) must be completed – or one module completed twice.
- One module in *Practical Religious Studies* – either research-oriented (SC) or applied (AC). SC consists of a self-designed research project and a research report. AC consists of a course, an internship, and an internship report.
- One module in the *Supplementary Area* to strengthen and deepen your personal interests and competences, especially in the fields of languages and methods.

*The individual focus is set at all levels:*

- Within *Systematic Religious Studies*, you can set an individual priority through the different topics that are discussed in the various courses in S12.
- You can focus on particular geographical regions, time periods and religious traditions in *History of Religion*.
- *Practical Religious Studies* allows you to prepare either for an academic career (SC module), e.g. as a PhD student, or a career outside of university with a more applied dimension (AC module).
- The *Supplementary Area* provides the opportunity to deepen knowledge in qualitative, historical-philological or digital humanities methods in Religious Studies – or go beyond methodology into other disciplines and topics relevant for Religious Studies. Students taking the SC module are especially encouraged to focus on languages in the Complementary Module.

### 3. Study Schedule

| Semester | Systematic Approaches (S) | History of Religions (R)        | Applied Career Track (AC) | Scientific Career Track (SC) | Complementary (C)     |
|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 1        | Masters Introduction S11  | Pre-modern Europe/<br>West Asia |                           |                              |                       |
| 2        | Theory and Methods S12    | Modern Europe / West Asia       | Applied Career            | Scientific Career            | Complementary Courses |
| 3        |                           | Asia                            |                           |                              |                       |
| 4        |                           |                                 | Internship                | Research Study               |                       |

## 4. Outline of the Modules

### SYSTEMATICS

| MODULE S11: MASTER'S INTRODUCTION   |         |          |               |                 |                    |
|---|---------|----------|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| MA-2025-S11   | Credits | Workload | Semester      | Frequency       | Time Span          |
|   | 6 ECTS  | 180 h    | 1st semester  | Winter semester | 1 semester         |
| Courses   |         |          | Contact Hours | Self-Study      | Group Size         |
| Lecture (2 SWS/2 ECTS) + Exercise (2 SWS/2 ECTS)  |         |          | 4 SWS / 60 h  | 120 h           | around 25 students |
| Participation Requirements  |         |          |               |                 |                    |
| <p><b>formal:</b> Basic knowledge of systematics of Religious Studies (Module S1, S2 or S3 of the B.A. degree or equivalent)</p> <p><b>content:-</b></p> <p><b>preparation:</b> materials on Moodle.</p>  |         |          |               |                 |                    |
| Learning Outcomes   |         |          |               |                 |                    |
| <p><b>Subject-related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Introduction to the specialist discourse of general Religious Studies, orientated towards the social sciences and cultural knowledge</li> <li>• Knowledge of interdisciplinary perspectives in the subject of religion</li> <li>• Overview of the field of basic concepts in Religious Studies and systematic perspectives on the subject of religion</li> <li>• Overview of problems and questions of methodical approaches encountered within concrete research projects</li> <li>• Expertise to engage abstract questions with precise, in-depth studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Transfer of theoretical development and empirical research</li> <li>• Understanding of the distinction between an academic perspective and everyday discourse</li> <li>• Ability to relate and connect the fields of an academic perspective and everyday discourse</li> <li>• Enhancing knowledge and skills of independent research of scholarly literature</li> <li>• Knowledge of how to approach academic texts</li> <li>• Ability to deal with discipline-specific questions and to present their outcomes in written and oral form</li> </ul> |         |          |               |                 |                    |

## Content

The Masters' introductory module is intended to provide students with an orientation in the subject of Religious Studies in general and at Bochum (CERES) in particular. The conceptual aim of this module is to relate in-depth questions of the academic field of Religious Studies to detailed studies in the history of material religion through concrete research projects.

The module consists of lectures and an exercise. In the lectures, students are familiarized with systematic perspectives on the subject of religion. Essential aspects to be dealt with are:

- Emergence of the study of religion and the question of what religion is
- The cognitive dimension of religion: religious knowledge in the form of myths, dogmas or religious reflection
- The aesthetic dimension of religion: religious experience in the context of material culture
- The practical dimension of religion: rituals, magic and ethicized lifestyle as expressions of religious action
- The social dimension of religion: religious institutions and religion in different social forms
- The temporal dimension of religion: questions of evolutionary lines of development in religion

In the guest seminars that follow the lectures, CERES scholars will present their current research projects. The systematic perspectives dealt with in the lecture will be discussed in relation to concrete questions and sources of religious history. At the same time, students will be familiarized with research methods in Religious Studies and how they themselves might seek to apply them.

## Forms of Teaching

Course „Key Concepts“: lecture + exercise

## Forms of examination

Essay of 4.000 words

## Conditions for receiving Credit Points

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Regular participation in „Key Concepts“ + exercise (4 CP)
- Successfully passing the module examination (2 CP)

## Impact on final grade

none

## Module representatives and full-time lecturers

**Module representative:** Dean of Studies of Religious Studies

**Full-time lecturers:** see course catalogue

| MODULE S12: THEORIES AND METHODS IN THE STUDY OF RELIGIONS  |                          |                          |  |   |   |
|---|--------------------------|--------------------------|--|---|---|
| <b>MA-2025-S12</b>  | <b>Credits</b><br>8 ECTS | <b>Workload</b><br>240 h | <b>Semester</b><br>2nd semester            | <b>Frequency</b><br>Winter and summer semesters | <b>Time Span</b><br>2 semesters         |
| <b>Courses</b><br><br>2 x seminars  |                          |                          | <b>Contact Hours</b><br><br>2 x 2 SWS/30 h | <b>Self-Study</b><br><br>2 x 60 h               | <b>Group Size</b><br><br>20-30 students |
| <b>Participation Requirements</b>   |                          |                          |  |   |   |
| <p><b>formal:</b> Basic knowledge of systematics of Religious Studies (Module S1, S2 or S3 of the BA degree or equivalent)</p> <p><b>content:-</b></p> <p><b>preparation:</b> materials on Moodle</p>   |                          |                          |  |   |   |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>  |                          |                          |  |   |   |
| <p><b>Subject related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the theories and approaches within the humanities, cultural studies and social sciences to the subject of religion</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of methodological approaches within the humanities, cultural studies and social sciences to the subject of religion</li> <li>• The ability to distinguish between internal and external perspectives in Religious Studies</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increased reflectivity and the ability to interpret social phenomena from a critical distance</li> <li>• Acquisition of complex and abstract perspectives</li> <li>• The ability to deal with complex texts and arguments</li> <li>• Developing the ability to evaluate scholarly publications theoretically and methodically</li> </ul>  |                          |                          |  |   |   |
| <b>Content</b>  |                          |                          |  |   |   |
| <p>Religious Studies, like every subject, is characterized by a methodical and theoretical view of its subject. Both the methodology of Religious Studies and the formation of theories therein have been influenced by various other disciplines. The module serves an intensive examination of different theories and methods of scholarly research in religion. The focus is on the targeted application of individual theoretical or methodological approaches.</p> <p>In terms of theory, certain approaches can be developed in individual seminars: systems theory, postcolonialism, (post-)structuralism, semiotics, etc. It is also possible to take courses that explore different theoretical perspectives regarding certain aspects or contexts of application.</p> <p>The spectrum of methods relevant to religious studies includes courses on qualitative empirical research (such as objective hermeneutics, grounded theory, content analysis), discourse analysis, philological methods, digital humanities, and approaches to historical source interpretation and criticism.</p> <p>Students must attend at least two courses in the field of theories and at least one course in the field of methods.</p> |                          |                          |  |   |   |

**Forms of Teaching**

Seminars with compulsory attendance to practice scholarly discourse

**Forms of examination**

Term paper of 5.000 words

**Conditions for receiving Credit Points**

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Two seminars: Regular participation in the lectures (3 ECTS each)
- One seminar should be a theory seminar
- Successfully passing the module examination (2 ECTS)

**Impact on final grade**

Goes into the final grade and forms 33% of the subject grade

**Module representatives and full-time lecturers**

**Module representative:** Dean of Studies of Religious Studies

**Full-time lecturers:** see course catalogue

| MODULE R11: PRE-MODERN HISTORY OF RELIGION: EUROPE AND WEST-ASIA  |                   |                |                   |                             |                |
|---|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
| MA-2025- R11  | Credits           | Workload       | Semester          | Frequency                   | Time Span      |
|   | 6 ECTS or 10 ECTS | 180 h or 300 h | from 1st semester | Winter and summer semesters | 2 semesters    |
| Courses   |                   |                | Contact Hours     | Self-Study                  | Group Size     |
| 2 x seminars  |                   |                | 2 x 2 SWS/30 h    | 4 x 60 h                    | 20-30 students |
| Participation Requirements  |                   |                |                   |                             |                |
| <p><b>formal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic knowledge of the ancient and/or medieval history of religion in West Asia, parts of Africa and/or Europe</li> <li>• Basic knowledge of Ancient Near Eastern, Greco-Roman, Jewish, Christian, Islamic and/or Zoroastrian religions</li> <li>• Language skills: Hebrew, Latin, Ancient Greek, Akkadian, Sumerian, Arabic, (Old-) Persian and/or other after consultation with the lecturers</li> </ul> <p><b>content:-</b></p> <p><b>preparation:</b> materials on Moodle</p>  |                   |                |                   |                             |                |
| Learning Outcomes   |                   |                |                   |                             |                |
| <p><b>Subject related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the History of Religion in Europe, West Asia and/or parts of Africa from ancient times to the late-medieval period</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the pre-modern history of Ancient Near Eastern and/or Greco-Roman religions as well as Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and/or Islam</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the formation and history of interactions between religious traditions from pre-modern times up until the late-medieval period</li> <li>• Understanding of the dynamics of Ancient Near Eastern, ancient European and medieval History of Religious traditions in terms of their interaction with nonreligious social dynamics</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth knowledge of working with primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of different types of source interpretation</li> <li>• Strengthening of source interpretation skills</li> <li>• Sensitivity to kinds of symbolic reference</li> <li>• Sensitivity to the diachronic relativity of one's own and contemporary socialization</li> <li>• Ability to use appropriate presentation techniques</li> </ul> |                   |                |                   |                             |                |

## Content

This module deals with the History of Religion in Europe, West Asia and parts of Africa from premodern times to the late-medieval period. This module offers courses on the following range of topics:

- Developments and dynamics within Ancient Near Eastern and Greco-Roman religions as well as Zoroastrianism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam up until the late Middle Ages
- Formation of religious traditional networks and their interreligious interdependence
- Processes of religious transformation from antiquity to the late Middle Ages in the context of social and cultural historical dynamics

Within the framework of this module, students have the opportunity to specialize in a number of ways. This includes primarily the focus on a particular region as well as on one or more religious traditions within the thematic spectrum of this module. The requirements for participation in the individual courses vary, among other things, according to subject and language knowledge and are specified in the annotated course catalogue.

## Forms of Teaching

Advanced seminars

## Forms of examination

Active Participation and term paper of 8.000 words

## Conditions for receiving Credit Points

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Two seminars: Regular participation in the lectures (3 ECTS each)
- Successfully passing the module examination (4 ECTS) in one of two R modules

## Impact on final grade

Grade of the module examination goes into the final grade and forms 33% of the subject grade

## Module representatives and full-time lecturers

**Module representative:** Chair of the History of Religion of Judaism and Chair of the History of the Religions of West Asia

**Full-time lecturers:** See the respective current course catalogue

- Chair of History of Religion of Judaism
- Chair of History of the Religions of West Asia
- Honorary Professor for the History of Religions in the New World

## Other Information

The term paper must be written in one of two R modules.

## MODULE R12: MODERN HISTORY OF RELIGION: EUROPE, AMERICA AND WEST- ASIA

| MA-2025-R12  | Credits           | Workload       | Semester      | Frequency                   | Time Span      |
|--------------|-------------------|----------------|---------------|-----------------------------|----------------|
|              | 6 ECTS or 10 ECTS | 180 h or 300 h | from 1st sem. | Winter and summer semesters | 2 semesters    |
| Courses      |                   |                | Contact Hours | Self-Study                  | Group Size     |
| 2 x seminars |                   |                | 2x2 SWS/30 h  | 4 x 60 h                    | 20-30 students |

### Participation Requirements

#### formal:

- Basic knowledge of European, American and/or West Asian history of religion
- Basic knowledge of Judaism, Christianity and/or Islam
- Language Skills: Hebrew, Latin, Arabic, Turkish, Persian and/or other languages after consultation the representative lecturers

#### content:-

**preparation:** materials on Moodle

### Learning Outcomes

#### Subject related goals:

- In-depth knowledge of the History of Religion in Europe, America, West Asia and/or parts of Africa
- In-depth knowledge of the modern history of Judaism, Christianity and/or Islam
- In-depth knowledge of the interactions between Judaism, Christianity and Islam in modern times, as well as the influences of East and South Asian religions on religious developments in Europe, America, West Asia and parts of Africa
- Understanding of the dynamics of interaction between religious traditions and nonreligious social dynamics in modern times

#### Interdisciplinary goals:

- In-depth knowledge of working with primary and secondary sources
- In-depth knowledge of different types of source interpretation
- Strengthening of source interpretation skills
- Sensitivity of types of symbolic reference
- Sensitivity to the diachronic relativity of one's own and contemporary cultural socialization
- Ability to use appropriate presentation techniques

### Content

This module deals with the History of Religion in Europe, America, West Asia and parts of Africa from the early modern period to the present. This module offers courses on the following range of topics:

- Interreligious connections between different religious traditions in Europe
- Processes of religious transformation within the context of non-religious fields and functional systems in the modern period
- Developments and dynamics within the religious traditions of Judaism, Christianity and Islam as well as new religious movements
- Contemporary religiosity

Within the framework of this module, students have the opportunity to specialize in a number of ways. This includes primarily the focus on a particular region as well as on one or more religious traditions within the thematic spectrum of this module. The requirements for participation in the individual courses vary, among other things, according to subject and language knowledge and are specified in the annotated course catalogue.

### **Forms of Teaching**

Advanced seminars

### **Forms of examination**

Active Participation and term paper of 8.000 words

### **Conditions for receiving Credit Points**

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Two seminars: Regular participation in the lectures (3ECTS each)
- Successfully passing the module examination (4 ECTS) in one of two R modules

### **Significance of the note for the final grade**

Grade of the module examination goes into the final grade and forms 33% of the subject grade

### **Module representatives and full-time lecturers**

**Module representative:** Chair of the History of Religion of Judaism and Chair of the History of the Religions of West Asia

**Full-time lecturers:** cf. the respective current course catalogue

- Chair of the History of Religion of Judaism
- Chair of the History of Religions of West Asia
- Honorary Professor for the History of Religion in the New World

### **Other Information**

The term paper must be written in one of two R modules.

| MODULE R13: ASIAN HISTORY OF RELIGION   |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |
|---|--|--------------------------------------|---|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>MA-2025-R13</b>  | <b>Credits</b><br>6 ECTS or<br>10 ECTS | <b>Workload</b><br>180 h<br>or 300 h | <b>Semester</b><br>from 1st<br>semester | <b>Frequency</b><br>Winter and<br>summer<br>semester | <b>Time Span</b><br>2 semesters |
| <b>Courses</b>  |  |                                      | <b>Contact Hours</b>                    | <b>Self-Study</b>                                    | <b>Group Size</b>               |
| 2 x seminars  |  |                                      | 2 x 2 SWS/30 h                          | 4 x 60 h   | 20-30 students                  |
| <b>Participation Requirements</b>   |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |
| <p><b>formal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Basic knowledge of South, Central and/or East Asian History of Religion</li> <li>• Basic knowledge of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Confucianism, and/or Taoism</li> <li>• Language skills: Sanskrit, Tibetan, Chinese, Korean, Japanese and/or others after consultation with the representative lecturers</li> </ul> <p><b>content:-</b></p> <p><b>preparation:</b> materials on Moodle</p>   |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |
| <b>Learning Outcomes:</b>   |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |
| <p><b>Subject related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the History of Religion of South, Central and/or East Asia</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the History of Religion of Buddhism, Hinduism, Jainism, Confucianism, and/or Taoism</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of the historical interaction between different religious traditions in Asia</li> <li>• Understanding of the dynamics of the History of Religion in Asia in the interaction within the wider context of non-religious social dynamics</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In-depth knowledge of working with primary and secondary sources</li> <li>• In-depth knowledge of different types of source interpretation</li> <li>• Strengthening of source interpretation skills</li> <li>• Sensitivity for symbolic reference contexts</li> <li>• Sensitivity to the diachronic relativity of one's own and contemporary cultural socialization</li> <li>• Ability to use appropriate presentation techniques</li> </ul> |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |
| <b>Content</b>  |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |
| <p>This module deals with the History of Religion of South, Central and East Asia from antiquity to the present. This module offers courses on the following range of topics:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formation, development and dynamics of the religious traditions of South, Central and East Asia, especially Hinduism, Buddhism, Jainism, Confucianism and Taoism as well as later influences of Islam and Christianity</li> <li>• The interreligious interdependence of these traditional religious networks</li> <li>• Religious transformation processes from antiquity to the present in the context of dynamics of non-religious fields and functional systems</li> </ul>  |  |                                      |   |  |                                 |

Within the framework of this module, students have the opportunity to specialize in a number of ways. This includes primarily the focus on a particular region as well as on one or more religious traditions within the thematic spectrum of this module. The requirements for participation in the individual courses vary, among other things, according to subject and language knowledge and are specified in the annotated course catalogue.

### **Forms of Teaching**

Advanced seminars

### **Forms of examination**

Active Participation and term paper of 8.000 words

### **Conditions for receiving Credit Points**

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Two seminars: Regular participation in the lectures (3 ECTS each)
- Successfully passing the module examination (4 ECTS) in one of two R modules

### **Impact on final grade**

Grade of the module examination goes into the final grade and forms 33% of the subject grade

### **Module representatives and full-time lecturers**

**Module representative:** Chair of the History of Religion of Central Asia

**Full-time lecturers:** see course catalogue

- Chair of the History of Religion of Central Asia
- Chair of the History of Religion of East Asia
- Chair of the History of Religion in South Asia

### **Other Information**

The term paper must be written in one of two R modules.

PRACTICAL RELIGIOUS STUDIES

| MODULE AC: APPLIED CAREER TRACK   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
|---|-------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| <b>MA-2025-AC</b>   | <b>Credits</b><br>9ECTS | <b>Workload</b><br>270 h | <b>Semester</b><br>from 2nd semester | <b>Frequency</b><br>Winter and summer semester | <b>Time Span</b><br>2 semesters |
| <b>Courses</b>  |                         |                          | <b>Contact Hours</b>                 | <b>Self-Study</b>                              | <b>Group Size</b>               |
| seminars  |                         |                          | min.<br>1 x 2 SWS/30 h               | max. 240h                                      | around 20 students              |
| <b>Participation Requirements</b>   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <p><b>formal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Two completed MA semesters</li> </ul> <p><b>content:-</b></p> <p><b>preparation:</b> materials on Moodle</p>   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>  |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <p><b>Subject related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application of an understanding of Religious Studies in non-academic professions</li> <li>Communication of specialist knowledge to a non-academic and non-expert audience</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Application of one's own practical experience</li> <li>Application of one's expertise with regard to professional fields of practice</li> <li>Ability to work in a team and in a focused, results-orientated manner</li> </ul>   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <b>Content</b>  |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <p>This module is designed to prepare students for a career outside university. For this purpose, courses are offered which introduce different professional fields such as museums, education and public relations. Students are shown possibilities of where and how expertise in Religious Studies can be brought into professional practice. This is followed by an internship of at least two months in an organization. Finding and selecting an internship is done in consultation and close cooperation with the CERES internship office. Students are encouraged to take up an internship outside their local area, to combine it with a stay abroad and gain experience abroad.</p> |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <b>Forms of Teaching</b>  |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| Preparation courses for an internship, internship   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| <b>Forms of examination</b>   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |
| Internship report   |                         |                          |                                      |  |                                 |

### **Conditions for receiving Credit Points**

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Regular participation in the course Practical Religious Studies
- Completing an internship
- Preparation of an internship report

### **Impact on final grade**

Goes into the final grade and forms 33% of the subject grade

### **Module representatives and full-time lecturers**

**Module representative:** Dean of Students of Religious Studies

**Full-time lecturers:** see course catalogue

| MODULE SC: SCIENTIFIC TRACK  |         |          |                        |                             |             |
|--|---------|----------|------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------|
| MA-2025-SC   | Credits | Workload | Semester               | Frequency                   | Time Span   |
|  | 9 ECTS  | 270 h    | from 2nd semester      | Winter and summer semesters | 2 semesters |
| Courses  |         |          | Contact Hours          | Self-Study                  | Group Size  |
| Research seminar   |         |          | min.<br>1 x 2 SWS/30 h | max. 240h                   | 10 students |
| Participation Requirements   |         |          |                        |                             |             |
| <p><b>formal:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• two completed M.A. semesters</li> <li>• Advanced knowledge in relevant source languages</li> </ul> <p><b>content:-</b></p> <p><b>preparation:</b> materials on Moodle</p>   |         |          |                        |                             |             |
| Learning Outcomes  |         |          |                        |                             |             |
| <p><b>Subject related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of in-depth knowledge about possibilities and difficulties of empirical research on religious tradition networks</li> <li>• Reflection on the development process of “university knowledge” about religion, continuing from already learned theories of constructivism</li> <li>• Application of theoretical and methodological knowledge to a specific empirical research question</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Development of the competence to design a learning process of one’s own, that extends the previous knowledge within the framework of the self-organized and self-responsible research</li> <li>• Argumentative representation of research decisions taken on one’s own responsibility towards lecturers and students</li> <li>• Extension of the competence of scientific writing within the framework of a research paper capable of publication</li> <li>• Competent integration into a research group, showing the ability to explain one’s own topic</li> </ul> |         |          |                        |                             |             |

## Content

This elective module is designed to equip students with a strong initial basis from which to pursue an academic career. This is done firstly by offering career-promoting courses from the RUB Research School and the Writing Center. Students can learn skills for academic writing and for formulating research proposals, among other things. Secondly, students should already be involved in one of CERES' ongoing research projects during their studies, thus laying the foundations for a scholarly career, starting with doctoral study. The requirement for this elective module is a successful application for voluntary work in one of the research projects affiliated to CERES. The requirements regarding the material, systematic-theoretical and methodological knowledge and skills vary and are listed in detail in the call for proposals. The concrete research project will be discussed with the respective project management, but basically contains the following formal steps:

- Familiarization with the topic and processing of the relevant secondary literature
- Methodologically guided collection and evaluation of data
- Writing at least one research paper in the form of a publication-ready article

It is possible to expand the research project and one's own research into a Master's thesis. However, the Master's thesis must focus on different aspects and go beyond the research report or article that is credited as a module examination for this module.

## Forms of Teaching

Courses from the RUB Writing Center („Schreibzentrum“) and the RUB Research School, participation in colloquia and workshops

## Forms of examination

Research report of 10.000 words

## Conditions for receiving Credit Points

To complete the module successfully you need to fulfill the following requirements:

- Research report in the range of 10.000 words

## Impact on final grade

Goes into the final grade and forms 33% of the subject grade

## Module representatives and full-time lecturers

**Module representative:** Dean of Studies of Religious Studies

**Full-time lecturers:** see course catalogue

SUPPLEMENTARY AREA

| MODULE C: COMPLEMENTARY MODULE   |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
|--|---------|----------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| MA-2025-C  | Credits | Workload | Semester                        | Frequency                       | Time Span                       |
|  | 11 ECTS | 330 h    | 1st-4th semester                | Winter and summer semesters     | 1-4 semesters                   |
| Courses  |         |          | Contact Hours                   | Self-Study                      | Group Size                      |
| various  |         |          | depends on the selected courses | depends on the selected courses | depends on the selected courses |
| Participation Requirements   |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| <p><b>formal:</b> Depends on the selected courses</p> <p><b>content:</b> Depends on the selected courses</p> <p><b>preparation:</b> Depends on the selected courses</p>  |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Learning Outcomes  |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| <p><b>Subject related goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Acquisition and deepening of language skills for the relevant historical and regional specialization</li> <li>Developing additional competencies to contextualize religious dynamics</li> <li>Developing additional interdisciplinary competences</li> </ul> <p><b>Interdisciplinary goals:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Language skills</li> <li>Interdisciplinary additional competences and extension of the interdisciplinary horizon</li> </ul> |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Content  |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| <p>The supplementary area is to be used by students to acquire skills which are necessary or helpful for their individual focus of study. This may include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The acquisition or deepening of language skills</li> <li>Courses on cultural and social history of the historical areas of focus of the student</li> <li>Advanced courses on theories or methods without direct religious reference</li> </ul>  |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Forms of Teaching  |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Language classes, seminars, lectures   |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Forms of examination   |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |
| Depends on the selected courses  |         |          |                                 |                                 |                                 |

**Conditions for receiving Credit Points**

Depends on the selected courses

**Impact on final grade**

Not included in the final subject grade

**Module representatives and full-time lecturers**

**Module representative:** Dean of Studies of Religious Studies

**Full-time lecturers:** see course catalogue

## MASTER'S THESIS

| MASTER'S THESIS   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
|---|---------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>MA-2025</b>  | <b>Credits</b><br>20 ECTS | <b>Workload</b><br>600h | <b>Semester</b><br>4th semester | <b>Frequency</b><br>Winter or summer semester | <b>Time Span</b><br>1 semester |
| <b>Courses</b>  |                           |                         | <b>Contact Hours</b>            | <b>Self-Study</b>                             | <b>Group Size</b>              |
| None  |                           |                         | Ca 50h                          | Ca. 550h                                      | Individual                     |
| <b>Participation Requirements</b>   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| In both selected subjects together, modules of at least 70 CP must be successfully completed in accordance with the respective subject-specific regulations.  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Goals:</b>   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop and execute an independent academic study</li> </ul>  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Content</b>  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| The MA thesis must be completed within four months and should not exceed 200.000 characters (including spaces). Group work is not permitted. The research question must be developed independently and must come from the field of Religious Studies. |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Forms of Teaching</b>  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| /   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Forms of examination</b>   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| MA thesis of 200.000 characters   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Conditions for receiving Credit Points</b>   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| Master thesis graded at least with a "passed" (4.0)   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Impact on final grade</b>  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| The grade of the Master thesis comprises 40% of the overall grade.  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Module representatives and full-time lecturers</b>   |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Module representative:</b> Dean of Studies of Religious Studies  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Full-time lecturers:</b> individual supervisors  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| <b>Other Information</b>  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |
| Individual mentoring  |                           |                         |                                 |   |                                |