

Information: prospective and first-year students

Dear prospective and first-year students of the Department of Catholic Theology,

I would like to warmly welcome you on behalf of the faculty of Catholic Theology at the Johannes Gutenberg-University Mainz as new members of “*universitas* docentium et studentium,” that is, a community of teachers and students. This concept is the etymological and practical foundation of our institute; not only will your experience be a testament of it during upcoming semesters, but it will help orient your future even beyond your vocational calling.

For the vast majority of you, your decision to study at this University will mark a distinct period of personal and professional growth. This will vary ultimately depending on previous decisive experiences. The work ahead of you demands a significant increase in personal responsibility regarding the structuring of your daily routine, whether that be getting to class or preparing for exams. Also don't fail to consider the changes in your personal life, especially if you decide to live in Mainz. Experience shows that this transition is not always so simple. As an institute of higher learning (“*wissenschaftliche Hochschule*”), the University has evolved with respect to not only its own teaching and learning styles but also its academic norms, with and to which you will have to familiarize yourself and become accustomed.

To optimize this transition, our faculty has for many years been offering course guidance counseling. This is an important component of the role of our Student Service Office (“*Studienbüro*”). There you can find information relevant to all of your questions about organizing your studies and, particularly, designing your course schedule (“*Stundenplan*”). Furthermore, all of your academic exams will be organized there.

The small brochure before you is a further important resource designed to support and guide you in successfully taking the important first steps of your academic journey. Here, in addition to succinct information about the various courses of study, you will also find the internet address for study and exam regulations as well as various other information, which will help you to organize your studies.

The implementation of modular courses of study (“*modularisierten Studiums*”) has led to profound changes throughout the University. Because this is still an ongoing process for some departments, certain inconsistencies and organizational and functional problems will remain a constant possibility for the short term.

In particular, the Student Service Office of the Faculty of Catholic Theology endeavors to swiftly develop personalized solutions. Certainly this is not always possible, and so we ask for your understanding and patience.

With that, I wish you, future theologians, a good start to your studies in our department at the Johannes Gutenberg University and in the town of Mainz, which as “*aurea Moguntia*,” that is, golden Mainz has a long tradition being a focal point for

- Churches: visit the 1000-year-old cathedral (“*Dom*”) and countless other churches throughout the city
- Politics: the capital of the Roman province Germania Superior (“*Obergermanien*”), capital of the electorate of Mainz (“*Kurfürstentum*”) and the state Rhineland-Palatine (“*Bundesland Rheinland-Pfalz*”)

- Culture: go to the libraries – the University Library, the Martinus Library and the city's Public Library – and the numerous museums and theaters
- Social life (“Lebensfreude”): visit the wine bars (“Weinstuben”) and student pubs and learn the true(!) Mardi Gras – the *Meenzer Fassenacht*

Yours truly,

Thomas Berger (Head of the Student Advising Office)

The courses of study offered by the Department of Catholic Theology (“Studiengänge an der Katholisch Theologischen Fakultät”)

Comprehensive information can be found at: <http://www.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/637.php>

with additional downloads in their respective columns.

Full-time theology studies (“Theologisches Vollstudium”)

- **Magister / Magistra Theologiae**

Full-time studies, 10 semesters; academic modular exams

First study-segment

- a) Semesters 1-2: foundational work (“Grundlegung”) (exam-segment 1)
- b) Semesters 3-6: structure and expanded work (“Vertiefung”) (exam-segment 2)
- Semester 7-10: specialization (exam-segment 3)

During the third semester the master’s degree thesis out of a theology department of your choice.

Minor (“Beifachstudium”)

- **Catholic Theology course of study as a minor in the two-department Bachelor of Arts program**

First study-segment: foundational and introductory phases

4 semesters with 4 compulsory modules (“Pflichtmodulen”), each module with 2 semesters

Second study-segment: expanded work and specialized phase

2 semesters with 1 elective module (“Wahlpflichtmodul”) in expanded work and reflection of a theological question (choice from 2 modules) and with 1 elective module of specialization (choice from 9 modules)

Teaching certification training

- **Bachelor of Education:** Catholic religious education for high-school teaching degree (“Lehramt an Gymnasien”) (7 modules, each module with 2 semesters; 6 semester = 3 academic years; modular exam at the end of the second modular semester; academic credits (“Leistungspunkte” -LP-) are awarded for each module; a bachelor’s degree thesis (“Bachelorarbeit”) is possible in the sixth subject-semester (“Fachsemester”), if 120 LP have been already accumulated; → it is possible to complete this for the master’s degree thesis in other department. Continuation (consecutive study structure)
- **Master of Education:** Catholic religious education for high-school teaching degree (3 modules; each module with 2 semesters; 4 semesters = 2 academic years; modular exams at the end of the second modular semester; master’s degree thesis in the tenth subject-semester is possible); the bachelor’s degree thesis must have been completed in another department

- ***Additional examination certification program (“Zertifikatsstudiengang Erweiterungsprüfung”)***

The studies have been adapted for the educator-oriented undergraduate and graduate programs (“lehramtsbezogen Bachelor- und Masterstudiengang”). Within the framework of additional certifications, modules 1, 2, 3 and 4 from the undergraduate program and modules 11 and 12 from the graduate program are tested.

- ***Concentrated studies in the Bachelor / Master of Science in Economics***

The studies have been adapted for the educator-oriented undergraduate and graduate programs.

Explanations and comments

Below you can find basic information on course schedules (“Studienverlaufplänen”) relevant to the development schedules and exams.

- ***Course offerings***

The following generally apply:

SWS (“Stunden pro Woche”) = weekly hours in semesters for each subject

- V (“Vorlesung”) = lecture-style course (provides the imparting of concepts of a subject (“Fachwissenschaft”), which are the bases for the exam)
- PS (“Proseminar”) = introductory seminar (serves as a methodological introduction for the seminar-style courses and is a prerequisite requirement for examinations (“Prüfungen”); active coursework is required: written exam (“Klasur”) / oral exam (“Referat”) / presentation etc.)
- S = seminar (provides the advancement in a specific department and is a prerequisite requirement for examination; active coursework is required: usually a formal presentation along with a research paper)
- K = colloquium (supplementary discussion forums, during which advanced exchanges over concepts e.g. the contents of lectures)
- L (“Lektürekurs”) = reading course (furthered academic opportunities for advanced, subject-specific analysis with the aid of specific texts)
- Ü (“Übung”) = exercise [sometimes referred to as ‘drill’ or ‘practice’ courses] (various supplementary course offering for advanced, subject-specific work)

For all course offerings, you must register with JOGU-StIne. The registration for specific courses always follows the registration for the **module** that the courses are a part of.

Exams

Bachelor/Master/Magister/secondary-degree: a written or oral exam concludes each module. For the required scope, refer to the Module Handbook (“Modulhandbuch”) or examination regulations (“Prüfungsordnung”), respectively (see also “Exemplarischer Prüfungsverlaufsplan”). The cumulative grade depends on the collective results of all modular examinations.

The course schedule

The course schedules contain information regarding the chronological order of courses in terms of semester considering efficiency and also regulations. You can find details about currently offered courses on JOGU-StINe.

An up-to-date timetable overview is available on the homepage of the Student Services Office of the Catholic-Theological Department:

<https://www.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/stundenplan-fuer-alle-studiengaenge/>

The orientation at the start of the year helps **first-years undergraduate students** (“Studienanfängern im Bachelorstudiengang”) (**SJ** (“Studienjahr”) = **year of studies 1**; **K** (“Kernzeit”) = working hours (literally, “core time”), that is, without conflicting overlap; **W1/W2** (“Wahlzeit 1/2”) = elective hours 1/2, that is, without guaranteed conflicting overlap)

Please be aware of any eventual, last-minute changes because the teaching is planned nearly a year in advance.

The Office of Student Services

- Academic consultation and Examination Review Board: Dr. Thomas **Berger** (Chair) (tberger@uni-mainz.de; T. 39-22745, Forum 6, R 01-611)
- EDV (CampusNet – JOGU StINe) and Examination Review Board Bachelor/Master of Education/Magister Theologiae: Miss Christina Sofia **Gliwitzky** (gliwitzky@uni-mainz.de; T. 39-27097, Forum 6, R 613)

Come to a consultation at the beginning of each study segment (semesters 1, 3 and 7) in the Student Services Offices!

For the following cases, you should undoubtedly refer to the Student Services office:

- For problems with the interpretation of academic and/or examination regulation
- For problems with the creation of a schedule
- For problems with registration to modules or courses on JOGU-StINe (refer to Miss Gliwitzky)
- For problems with the registration for examinations
- For questions regarding the revocation from a prior registration for an examination
- For questions regarding the revocation or omission of exams particularly in cases of illness
- For the retrieval of previous exams

Language certifications as academic prerequisites

For the Magister Theologiae program

Excerpt from the Module Handbook:

§ 3 Languages

Language requirements

- (1) For the Catholic Theology course of studies, verified knowledge of the languages of the biblical and ecclesiastical tradition – Latin, Greek, Hebrew – is required in order to be able to deal with crucial, theological primary sources.
- (2) Linguistic proficiency can be verified through the submission of state-approved certification (“staatlicher bzw. staatlich anerkannter Zeugnisse”) (Latin, Greek, Hebrew). By the request of the student, the Examination Review Board determines to what extent such documents can be considered as proof of the language skill level required for the Catholic Theology program.
- (3) In the case that linguistic proficiency is deemed insufficient at the start of the course of study, it must be acquired during your time as a student. As a result, the requirement of Hebrew is disregarded for those who begin without a background in Latin and/or Greek. In such cases, you must only demonstrate a basic understanding of Hebrew equivalent to the scope of 4 SWS.
- (4) For the acquisition of demonstrable linguistic proficiency, the Catholic Theology course of studies offers several specific options. These courses may also be partially completed in between semesters:
 - Latin: The course lasts for two semesters per 4 SWS
 - Greek: The course lasts for two semesters per 4 SWS.
 - Hebrew: The course lasts for two semesters per 4 SWS.
 - Hebrew Elementary Level: The course lasts for a semester per 4 SWS.
- (5) The proof of linguistic proficiency should be acquired by the end of the first year of studies if possible. This must be done by the end of the first portion of study at the latest.
- (6) With exceptions in individual cases, up to two semesters may not be included as a part of the standard period of study, if the time was spent acquiring the requisite language skills in Greek and Hebrew.

For the course of study for *Catholic Theology as a joint degree in two-subject undergraduate dual-degree program* (“*Beifach im Zwei-Fächer-Studiengang Bachelor of Arts*”)

Excerpt from the examination regulations:

§ 2 Admission prerequisites (“Zulassungsvoraussetzungen”)

(2) ... Up until the end of the fourth semester, there are [moreover] additional linguistic requirements:

a) Fundamental proficiency in Latin. In the case that such a certificate is not produced, admission to the elective modules is not possible.

b) For the **elective module B 8** (expanded work in the Old and New Testament departments (“Vertiefung im Bereich des Alten und Neuen Testaments”) as the required basic proficiency in Greek.

The requirement of the necessary knowledge in Latin and potentially also Greek must be met before the end of the fourth semester by state-approved certification in accordance with state-approved credentials [credentials that have been a part of the university entrance qualification or other facilities (e.g. language offerings from the university or language courses that are specifically offered by the Faculty of Catholic Theology and last longer than a semester with 4 SWS)].

By the request of the student, the examination board determines to what extent such certificates could be considered as proof of linguistic ability.

For the course of study for *Catholic Religious Education Bachelor/Master of Education*

The appendix to the regulations for the examination of the undergraduate educator-oriented program for a high-school teaching degree at the Johannes Gutenberg University Mainz stipulates:

A. Subject-specific admission requirements

1. Certification of subject-specific linguistic proficiency:

For the studies of Catholic religious education as a part of a high-school teaching degree program, **advanced proficiency in Latin** and **fundamental proficiency in Greek** are required. The language proficiencies are prerequisites and necessary for admission into the educator-oriented graduate program for the high-school teaching.

Advanced proficiency in Latin:

either: Latinum certification or verified knowledge of **Latin** acquired during secondary education (“am Gymnasium”) or by means of another certified establishment (a university course, etc.)

or: **Language class** with the Faculty of Catholic Theology: **two** semesters for every four weekly hours.

Fundamental proficiency in Greek:

either: Verified knowledge of **Greek** acquired during secondary education or by means of another certified establishment (a university course, etc.)

or: **Language class** with the Faculty of Catholic Theology: **one** semester for every four weekly hours.

For the Catholic religious education teaching-oriented additional certification program

The stipulations of the language requirements for the undergraduate and graduate teaching-related certificate program apply to the Catholic religious education teaching program as a so-called “third subject” (“Drittes Fach”).

http://www.uni-mainz.de/studlehr/ordnungen/PO_Erweiterungspruefung_Lehramt_2012_05_30.pdf

For Catholic Theology as a concentration in the Bachelor of Science in Economics degree program

Knowledge in Latin and Greek is desired.

Every language course will be concluded with a written and an oral exam. The exams generally follow the language-exam regulations of the Catholic-Theological Faculty from 4 October 1982

(http://www.uni-mainz.de/studlehr/1807_katholische_theologie.php)

For the course offerings in languages: refer to [JOGU-StIne](#)

The teachers of the faculty – professors and divisions

The department offerings of Catholic theology are supported by the following professors, who can be reached with the provided internet addresses.

Biblical Theology

Old Testament: Prof. Dr. Thomas **HIEKE**

<http://www.at.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

New Testament: Prof. Dr. Konrad **HUBER**

<http://www.nt.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Historical Theology

Early church history and Patristics: Prof. Dr. Heike **GRIESER**

<http://www.uni-mainz.de/FB/kath/akg/index.php>

Church History in the Middle and Modern Ages/Religious Folklore: Prof. Dr. Claus **ARNOLD**

<http://www.historia.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Systematische Theologie

Fundamental Theology and Religious Studies: Prof. Dr. Alexander **LOICHINGER**

<http://www.fundament.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Dogma and Ecumenical Theology: Prof. Dr. Leonhard **HELL** <http://www.dogmatik.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Moral Theology: Prof. Dr. Stephan **GOERTZ**

<http://www.moral.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Social ethics: Prof. Dr. Gerhard **KRUIP**

<http://www.sozialethik.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Practical Theology

Religious Law, Ecclesiastical Legal History and State-Church Law: Prof. Dr. Matthias **PULTE**

<http://www.kirchenrecht.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Liturgics and Homiletics: Prof. Dr. Ansgar **FRANZ**

<http://www.liturgie.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Pastoral Theology: Prof. Dr. Philipp **MÜLLER**

<http://www.pastoral.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Pedagogy: Prof Dr. Stefan **Altmeyer**

<http://www.relpaed.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de/>

Philosophy

Philosophical Seminar (Prof. Dr. M. **DREYER** – representing: PDDr. Dr. Stefan **SEIT**)

<http://www.philosophie.uni-mainz.de/>

The Students of the Department of Catholic Theology

WARM WELCOME AND HAPPY FIRST SEMESTER!

We, the students of the Department of Catholic Theology (“Fachschaft Katholische Theologie”), wish you a warm welcome to Uni Mainz and stand happily by your side at the start of your experience here.

We have included a short overview about us and our work. Besides that, we already have important meetings for the semester, introduction events, the kick-off weekend (“Ersti-Wochenende”) and pub crawl (“Kneipentour”).

We wish you a great start for your first semester!

Your Fellow Students in Catholic Theology

We – that is the Catholic Theology **Student Council** (“Fachschaftsrat Katholische Theologie”). Theoretically the term “student” refers to all students of a major, but it is generally used to refer to the Student Council. Once per semester **all students of Catholic Theology convene as a general assembly** to select representatives among their own ranks. We, as your Student council, have several responsibilities:

- We are the **link** between the students on one hand and the instructors, institutes, and higher education committees (“hochschulpolitischen Gremien”) on the other.
- Our primary duty is the general first-semester and study advisory services, especially during the introductory week.
- The semester’s first weekend to get to know each other.
- Negotiation between students and teachers for disputed matters that cannot be resolved in personal discussions.
- Contact to the Catholic Student Parish - **KHG** (“Katholische Hochschulgemeinde”)
- Collaboration with student self-government, e.g. the Central Student Council (“Zentraler Fachschaftenrat”) and AStA.
- Discussion of general questions about academics, learning and the structure of the university, e.g. improvements of the Bachelor/Master program.
- Filling of the offices in academic self-governing, dispatch of student representatives in specific commissions in cases of recently vacated seats.
- And, of course, **reserved tables for regulars** (“Stammtische”), **Parties, Concerts** etc.

Once weekly we meet in the **Student Council Room** (“Fachschaftsraum”) for **Student Council Meetings** (“Fachschaftssitzung”). You are cordially invited to join us. If you are interested, please simply come by. You can join the Student Council whenever you wish and, if you so choose, even in the first semester. We are looking forward to it!

Your first semester

At first everything is certainly new and exciting for you. You first have to go once to orientation (“Unialltag”). We want to support you there and offer our help. Regardless whether it’s about planning your course schedule, examination or course registration and exams or simply asking for good nightlife tip, **just ask!**

There are different ways to get a hold of us:

- Check out our **Homepage** <http://www.kath.theologie.uni-mainz.de>! There we’ve put together important info for your studies
- or write us an **email** at fs-kath.theologie@uni-mainz.de or talk to us in the hallway if you see us
- or come to our meeting (the schedule will be announced)
- or swing by our **Student Council Room** (room number 01-610 in the hallway of the faculty); at least one of us will be there.