Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought

Programme mnemonic
MA-PRELA
› Focus Moral secular support : M-PRELAM
› Focus Diachronia of religion : M-PRELAI

Studies level
Master 120 credits

Learning language
french

Schedule
office hours

Studies categories / subcategories
Human and social sciences / History, history of art, and archaeology and Human and social sciences / Philosophy

Campus
Solbosch

Programme objectives
Through a systematic comparative study of religion as a phenomenon, this Master programme provides participants with academic training in the study of religion using the tools of human sciences. The programme is based on the concepts of free thought and critical analysis. Students learn about the religions of the world and humanism, and have the opportunity to specialise in key disciplines in this field.

Programme’s added value
Classes are held at the Interdisciplinary Centre for Religious and Secular Studies (CIERL), which is home to over 50 academics specialised in religious and secular issues. It is located in a Brussels town house near the Bois de la Cambre park. The main lecture classes are given in the Centre’s specialised library, which allows immediate access to literature and research tools. This Master programme, which favours a neutral and scientific approach of the topics covered, is therefore at the cutting edge of contemporary analytical research. It is born out of a tradition that has been an integral part of ULB since its early days.

Succeed in your studies
ULB offers a number of activities and resources that can help you develop a successful strategy before or during your studies. You can make the transition to higher education easier by attending preparatory courses, summer classes, and information and orientation sessions, even before you start your studies at ULB.

During your studies, many people at ULB are there specifically to help you succeed: support staff in each faculty, (inter-)faculty guidance counsellors, tutors, and experts in academic methodology.

Job opportunities
Graduates of the Master in Religious and Secular Studies can find work in research, but they can also pursue a career in other sectors, such as information, diplomacy, or cultural affairs. A Master’s degree in Religious and Secular Studies is a valuable asset for any job that involves intercultural aspects: research; analysis of religious topics (press, media, political cabinets, law enforcement, municipal administrations, etc.); delegate or advisor for official associations active in secular moral support (in cities, hospitals, prisons, or the armed forces); etc.

Contacts
rela@ulb.ac.be
+32 2 650 38 49
http://www.ulb.ac.be/facs/philo/

Jury President
Thomas Berns

Jury Secretary
Jean-Philippe Schreiber
Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought

Focus Moral secular support

The programme covers two academic years (120 credits). It includes a common core of courses (30 credits), one of two optional modules—'Diachronic religious studies' or 'Contemporary religious studies'—(30 credits), one of two focuses—'Analysis of religious issues' or 'Secular moral support'—(30 credits), and a dissertation (30 credits).

In practice, courses are distributed as follows:

Religious and secular studies – theoretical lecture classes 40%
Religious and secular studies – seminars 25%
Dissertation 25%
Work placement 10%

### Bloc 1 | M-PRELA | MA-PLEA

#### Travail préparatoire au mémoire

**MEMO-B400**  
Travaux préparatoires au mémoire  
5 credits  
First term  
French

#### Tronc commun

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ORIE-B160</td>
<td>Initiation à l'étude de l'Islam</td>
<td>Guillaume DYE</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELA-B460</td>
<td>Introduction critique aux religions contemporaines</td>
<td>Baudouin DECHARNEUX</td>
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<td>RELA-B470</td>
<td>Histoire et épistémologie de l'étude des religions</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER and Anna-Maria Vileno</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA-D473</td>
<td>Anthropologie de la religion</td>
<td>Joël Noret</td>
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#### Modules d’option

**Module fait religieux contemporain**

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<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DROI-C5163</td>
<td>Séminaire de problèmes contemporains de la laïcité</td>
<td>Vincent DE COOREBYTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA-B420</td>
<td>Libre pensée et libre examen</td>
<td>Pierre-Frédéric DALED</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA-B425</td>
<td>Droit des religions : statut des cultes et convictions</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER</td>
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<tr>
<td>SOCA-D497</td>
<td>Sociologie du genre</td>
<td>David PATERNOTTE and Aurélie Aromatario</td>
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**Module Diachronie de la religion**

*Three courses chosen from the following*
CLAS-B425  Religions grecque et romaine  |  David ENGELS (Coordinator), Julie Dainville and Alain MARTIN  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

HAAR-B4060  Religions de l'Amérique ancienne  |  Sylvie PEPERSTRAETE (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

ORIE-B110  Histoire du monde arabo-musulman médiéval I  |  Jean-Charles DUCENE (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

RELA-B405  Histoire du Judaïsme  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

RELA-B430  Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité)  |  Aude BUSINE (Coordinator) and Estelle CRONNIER  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

RELA-D501  Philosophie en terre d'Islam  |  Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 24h]  academic year  French

Cours spécifiques

ETHI-B405  Questions d'actualité en éthique appliquée  |  Pierre-Frédéric DALED (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

ETHI-B410  Ethique de l'information et de la communication  |  Thomas BERNS (Coordinator) and Tyler REIGELUTH  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

PSYC-E433  Pratiques cliniques en institution  |  Philippe FOUCHET (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French
Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought
Focus: Moral secular support

Bloc 2 | M-PRELAM | MA-PREAL

Mémoire
MEMO-B500  Mémoire  25 credits  academic year  French

Tronc commun
RELA-B540  unknown term
RELA-D402  Enjeux contemporains du religieux  Cécile VANDERPELEN (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

Modules d’option

An alternative chosen from the following

Module fait religieux contemporain

Three courses chosen from the following
DROI-C5163  Séminaire de problèmes contemporains de la laïcité  Vincent DE COOREBYTER (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 12h]  second term  French
Poli-D513  Politique, religion et valeurs dans l’UE  François FORET (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French
RELA-D500  Monde musulman contemporain  Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French
RELA-Y410  Religion et société dans le monde juif contemporain  Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

or

Module Diachronie de la religion

Three courses chosen from the following
RELA-B435  Histoire du christianisme (Moyen Age)  Christian BROUWER (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French
RELA-B520  Histoire de la franc-maçonnerie  Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French
Cours spécifiques

ETHI-B415  Bioéthique  | Jean-Noël MISSA (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 36h]  |  first term  |  French

RELA-D504  Assistance morale laïque
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  |  first term  |  French

SAPU-LS312  Vie finissante, santé communautaire : philosophies et religions  | Marc MAYER (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  |  second term  |  French
Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought
Focus: Diachronia of religion

The programme covers two academic years (120 credits). It includes a common core of courses (30 credits), one of two optional modules —‘Diachronic religious studies’ or ‘Contemporary religious studies’—(30 credits), one of two focuses—‘Analysis of religious issues’ or ‘Secular moral support’—(30 credits), and a dissertation (30 credits).

In practice, courses are distributed as follows:
Religious and secular studies – theoretical lecture classes 40%
Religious and secular studies – seminars 25%
Dissertation 25%
Work placement 10%

Bloc 1 | MA-PRELA | MA-PRELA

Travail préparatoire au mémoire
MEMO-B400  Travaux préparatoires au mémoire
5 credits  1st term  French

Tronc commun
ORIE-B160  Initiation à l'étude de l'Islam  Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  1st term  French

RELA-B460  Introduction critique aux religions contemporaines  Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 36h]  2nd term  French

RELA-B465  Littératures bibliques  Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 36h]  1st term  French

RELA-B470  Histoire et épistémologie de l'étude des religions  Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator) and Anna-Maria Vileno
5 credits [lecture: 36h]  2nd term  French

SOCA-D473  Anthropologie de la religion  Joël Noret (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  1st term  French

Modules d'option

One course chosen from the following

Module religions polythéistes

CLAS-B425  Religions grecque et romaine  David ENGELS (Coordinator), Julie Dainville and Alain MARTIN
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  2nd term  French

HAAR-B4060  Religions de l'Amérique ancienne  Sylvie PEPPERSTRAETE (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  1st term  French

Module Islam

ORIE-B445  Religions et cultures du monde arabo-musulman : questions approfondies  Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  2nd term  French

RELA-D500  Monde musulman contemporain  Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  2nd term  French
A total of ten credits chosen from the following

**Module Histoire du christianisme**

**RELA-B430** | Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité) | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator) and Estelle CRONNIER
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
- first term  
- French

**RELA-B435** | Histoire du christianisme (Moyen Age) | Christian BROUWER (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
- second term  
- French

**Module Histoire du judaïsme**

**RELA-B4000** | Judaïsme biblique et post-exilique | Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 12h]  
- second term  
- French

**RELA-Y410** | Religion et société dans le monde juif contemporain | Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
- second term  
- French

**Module libre pensée, laïcité**

**POLI-D513** | Politique, religion et valeurs dans l'UE | François FORET (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
- second term  
- French

**RELA-B420** | Libre pensée et libre examen | Pierre-Frédéric DALED (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
- second term  
- French

**Cours spécifiques**

**CLAS-B105** | Approches méthodologique et critique des mythes de l'Antiquité classique et orientale | Julie Dainville (Coordinator) and Gilles ANDRIANNE
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
- first term  
- French

**RELA-D403** | Séminaire d'histoire des religions | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator) and Guillaume DYE
- 5 credits [seminars: 48h]  
- first and second terms  
- French

**RELA-Y475** | Religion et culture des mondes juifs | Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 36h]  
- first term  
- French
Bloc 2 | M-PRELAI | MA-PRELA

Mémoire

Mémoire  MEMO-B500
- 25 credits
- academic year
- French

Tronc commun

Religion et cultures des mondes chrétiens | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- second term
- French

Histoire de la franc-maçonnerie | Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- second term
- French

Philosophie asiatique | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- second term
- French

Modules d’option

Choisir obligatoirement le cours dans le module différent de celui choisi en Bloc 1

One course chosen from the following

Module religions polythéistes

Religions grecque et romaine | David ENGELS (Coordinator), Julie Dainville and Alain MARTIN
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- second term
- French

Religions de l’Amérique ancienne | Sylvie PEPERSTRAETE (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- first term
- French

Module Islam

Religions et cultures du monde arabo-musulman : questions approfondies | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- second term
- French

Monde musulman contemporain | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- second term
- French

Philosophie en terre d’Islam | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 24h]
- academic year
- French

A total of ten credits chosen from the following

Module Histoire du christianisme

Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité) | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator) and Estelle CRONNIER
- 5 credits [lecture: 24h]
- first term
- French
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<th>Module</th>
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<th>Coordinator</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<td>POLI-D513</td>
<td>François FORET (Coordinator)</td>
<td>5 credits [lecture: 24h]</td>
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<td>RELA-D402</td>
<td>Cécile VANDERPELEN (Coordinator)</td>
<td>5 credits [lecture: 24h]</td>
<td>first term</td>
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