Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought

The 2022–2023 programme is subject to change. It is provided for information purposes only.

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
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.be
+32 2 650 38 49
http://www.ulb.ac.be/facs/philo/
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-PRELA

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

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

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

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

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

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

Modules d'option

An alternative chosen from the two following

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

RELA-B425  Droit des religions : statut des cultes et convictions  Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

SOCA-D497  Sociologie du genre  David PATERNOTTE (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

or
Module Diachronie de la religion

*Three courses chosen from the following*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
<th>Course Title</th>
<th>Coordinator(s)</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Term</th>
<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CLAS-B425</td>
<td>Religions grecque et romaine</td>
<td>David ENGELS &amp; Julie Dainville</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>HAAR-B4060</td>
<td>Religions de l'Amérique ancienne</td>
<td>Sylvie PEPERSTRAETE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1st term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>ORIE-B110</td>
<td>Histoire du monde arabo-musulman médiéval</td>
<td>Jean-Charles DUCENE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELA-B4005</td>
<td>Histoire du Judaïsme</td>
<td></td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELA-B430</td>
<td>Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité)</td>
<td>Aude BUSINE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>RELA-D501</td>
<td>Philosophie en terre d'Islam</td>
<td>Guillaume DYE</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>Academic year</td>
<td>French</td>
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**Cours spécifiques**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Language</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ETHI-B405</td>
<td>Questions d’actualité en éthique appliquée</td>
<td>Pierre-Frédéric DALED</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1st term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>ETHI-B410</td>
<td>Ethique de l’information et de la communication</td>
<td>Thomas BERNS</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd term</td>
<td>French</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSYC-E433</td>
<td>Pratiques cliniques en institution</td>
<td>Philippe FOUCHET</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2nd term</td>
<td>French</td>
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</tbody>
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Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought
Focus: Moral secular support

Bloc 2 | M-PRELAM | MA-PRELA

Mémoire
MEMO-B500  Mémoire
25 credits  academic year  French

Tronc commun
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

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<tr>
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<th>Coordinator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>DROI-C5163</td>
<td>Séminaire de problèmes contemporains de la laïcité</td>
<td>Vincent DE COOREBYTER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>POLI-D513</td>
<td>Politique, religion et valeurs dans l’UE</td>
<td>François FORET</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA-D500</td>
<td>Monde musulman contemporain</td>
<td>Guillaume DYE</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA-Y410</td>
<td>Religion et société dans le monde juif contemporain</td>
<td>Thomas GERGELY</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

or

Module Diachronie de la religion

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<th>Coordinator</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>RELA-B435</td>
<td>Histoire du christianisme (Moyen Age)</td>
<td>Christian BROUWER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA-B520</td>
<td>Histoire de la franc-maçonnerie</td>
<td>Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RELA-B550</td>
<td>Philosophie asiatique</td>
<td>Baudouin DECHARNEUX</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Cours spécifiques

**ETHI-B415**  
**Bioéthique** | Jean-Noël MISSA (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 36h]  
第一学期  
法语

**RELA-D504**  
**Assistance morale laïque**  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
第一学期  
法语

**SAPU-L5312**  
**Vie finissante, santé communautaire : philosophies et religions** | Marc MAYER (Coordinator)  
5 credits [lecture: 24h]  
第二学期  
法语
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).

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MEMO-B400 | Travaux préparatoires au mémoire
5 credits | first term | French

Tronc commun

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

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

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

RELA-B470 | Histoire et épistémologie de l'étude des religions | Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)
5 credits [lecture: 36h] | second term | French

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

Modules d'option

One course chosen from the following

Module religions polythéistes

CLAS-B425 | Religions grecque et romaine | David ENGELS (Coordinator) and Julie Dainville
5 credits [lecture: 24h] | second term | French

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

Module Islam

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

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

Module Histoire du christianisme

- RELA-B430
  Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité) | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator)
  5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second 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
  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)
  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 and second terms  French
Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought
Focus: Diachronia of religion

Bloc 2 | M-PRELAI | MA-PRELA

Mémoire
MEMO-B500 Mémoire 25 credits academic year French

Tronc commun

REL-B455 Religion et cultures des mondes chrétiens | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator) 5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French
REL-B520 Histoire de la franc-maçonnerie | Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator) 5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French
REL-B550 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

CLAS-B425 Religions grecque et romaine | David ENGELS (Coordinator) and Julie Dainville 5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French
HAAR-B4060 Religions de l’Amérique ancienne | Sylvie PEPERSTRAETE (Coordinator) 5 credits [lecture: 24h] first term French

Module Islam

ORIE-B445 Religions et cultures du monde arabo-musulman : questions approfondies | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator) 5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French
REL-D500 Monde musulman contemporain | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator) 5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French
REL-D501 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

REL-B430 Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité) | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator) 5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French
Module Histoire du judaïsme

RELA-B400
Judaïsme biblique et post-exilique
5 credits [lecture: 12h]  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

Cours spécifiques

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