



Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought

The 2024-2025 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 / Philosophy

Campus

Solbosch

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

Choose

The information and guidance counsellors at the InfOR-études [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>] service will help you choose your studies throughout the year.

Succeed

Take part in preparatory courses [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>] or get help to succeed [<https://www.ulb.be/en/studies-info-desk-1>], before or during your studies.

Get help

Apply for financial aid, look for accommodation or a student job, get support [<https://www.ulb.be/fr/aides-services-et-accompagnement/aid-services-and-support-1>] for your specific needs.

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.

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

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Jury President

Guillaume DYE

Jury Secretary

Guillaume DYE



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-PRELAM | MA-PRELA

Travail préparatoire au mémoire

MEMO-D419

Travaux préparatoires au mémoire

5 credits [mfe/tfe: 150h] 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

(optional)

Libre pensée et libre examen | Pierre-Frédéric DALED (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French

RELA-B425

(optional)

Droit des religions : statut des cultes et convictions | Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h] first term French

SOCA-D497

(optional)

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

- CLAS-B425 (optional) **Religions grecque et romaine** | David ENGELS (Coordinator) and Julie Dainville
 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French
- HAAR-B4060 (optional) **Religions de l'Amérique ancienne** | Sylvie PEPPERSTRAETE (Coordinator)
 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨️ French
- ORIE-B110 (optional) **Histoire du monde arabo-musulman médiéval** | Jean-Charles DUCENE (Coordinator)
 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French
- RELA-B4005 (optional) **Histoire du Judaïsme**
 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨️ French
- RELA-B430 (optional) **Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité)** | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator)
 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French
- RELA-D501 (optional) **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)
 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-PRELA

Mémoire

MEMO-D561

Mémoire

🕒 25 credits 📅 academic year 🗨️ French

Tronc commun

RELA-D402

Enjeux contemporains du religieux | Cécile VANDERPELEN (Coordinator) and Pierre-Marie Delpu

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨️ French

Modules d'option

An alternative chosen from the two following

Module fait religieux contemporain

Three courses chosen from the following

DROI-C5163
(optional)

Séminaire de problèmes contemporains de la laïcité | Vincent DE COOREBYTER (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h, tutorial classes: 12h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

POLI-D513
(optional)

Politique, religion et valeurs dans l'UE | François FORET (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-D500
(optional)

Monde musulman contemporain | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-Y410
(optional)

Religion et société dans le monde juif contemporain | Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

or

Module Diachronie de la religion

RELA-B435
(optional)

Histoire du christianisme (Moyen Age) | Christian BROUWER (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-B520
(optional)

Histoire de la franc-maçonnerie | Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)







🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-B550
(optional)

Philosophie asiatique | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (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-L5312 [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).

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[Travaux préparatoires au mémoire](#)

5 credits [mfe/tfe: 150h] 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

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

Modules d'option

One course chosen from the following

Module religions polythéistes

CLAS-B425

(optional)

[Religions grecque et romaine](#) | David ENGELS (Coordinator) and Julie Dainville

5 credits [lecture: 24h] second term French

HAAR-B4060
(optional)

Religions de l'Amérique ancienne | Sylvie PEPERSTRAETE (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  first term  French

Module Islam

ORIE-B445
(optional)

Religions et cultures du monde arabo-musulman : questions approfondies | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

RELA-D500
(optional)

Monde musulman contemporain | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

RELA-D501
(optional)

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

RELA-B430
(optional)

Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité) | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

RELA-B435
(optional)

Histoire du christianisme (Moyen Age) | Christian BROUWER (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

Module Histoire du judaïsme

RELA-B4000
(optional)

Judaïsme biblique et post-exilique

5 credits [lecture: 12h]  second term  French

RELA-Y410
(optional)

Religion et société dans le monde juif contemporain | Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

Module libre pensée, laïcité

POLI-D513
(optional)

Politique, religion et valeurs dans l'UE | François FORET (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

RELA-B420
(optional)

Libre pensée et libre examen | Pierre-Frédéric DALED (Coordinator)

5 credits [lecture: 24h]  second term  French

Master in Study of Religions and Secular Thought

Focus Diachronia of religion

Bloc 2 | M-PRELA | MA-PRELA

Mémoire

MEMO-D561

Mémoire

🕒 25 credits 📅 academic year 🗨️ French

Tronc commun

A total of 15 credits chosen from the following

RELA-B455
(optional)

Religion et cultures des mondes chrétiens | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-B520
(optional)

Histoire de la franc-maçonnerie | Jean-Philippe SCHREIBER (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-B550
(optional)

Philosophie asiatique | Baudouin DECHARNEUX (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-D502
(optional)

Loi et religions | Stefan GOLTZBERG (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨️ French

Cours spécifiques

RELA-D402

Enjeux contemporains du religieux | Cécile VANDERPELEN (Coordinator) and Pierre-Marie Delpu

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first 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
(optional)

Religions grecque et romaine | David ENGELS (Coordinator) and Julie Dainville

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

HAAR-B4060
(optional)

Religions de l'Amérique ancienne | Sylvie PEPERSTRAETE (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 first term 🗨️ French

Module Islam

ORIE-B445
(optional)

Religions et cultures du monde arabo-musulman : questions approfondies | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)

🕒 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-D500
(optional) **Monde musulman contemporain** | Guillaume DYE (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-D501
(optional) **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

RELA-B430
(optional) **Histoire du christianisme (Antiquité)** | Aude BUSINE (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

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

Module Histoire du judaïsme

RELA-B4000
(optional) **Judaïsme biblique et post-exilique**
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 12h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

RELA-Y4 10
(optional) **Religion et société dans le monde juif contemporain** | Thomas GERGELY (Coordinator)
⌚ 5 credits [lecture: 24h] 📅 second term 🗨️ French

Module libre pensée, laïcité

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

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