

KU LEUVEN

**Can science bring you
closer to God?**

**THEOLOGY AND
RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

CONTENTS

01

Theology and Religious Studies, something for you?



Everything you would like to know.
What do theology students study?
Does the programme fit you?
What courses will you take?

p.8

02



What would your professional future look like?

A glimpse into your future options.
Are you being prepared for a specific job,
or can you still go in many directions?
What will you be able to do?
What fields and functions will you end up in?

p.30

03



Ready to get started?

An answer to your practical questions. What can you do to prepare? Which administrative steps do you need to take? When do you need to take care of what?

p. 34

04

Studying in Belgium?

What does studying in Leuven and living in Belgium look like?

p. 40



A university ranked in the top-100
in all global university rankings

#43

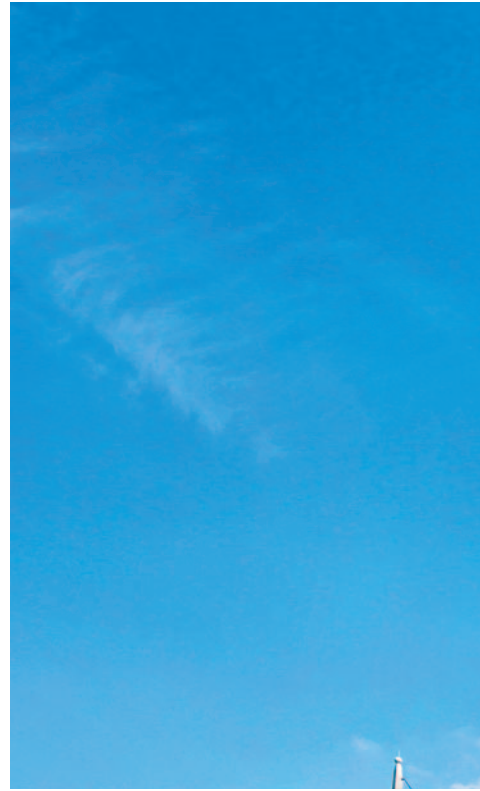
in the Times Higher Education
World University Ranking

#63

in the QS World University
Ranking

#78

in the Academic Ranking
of World Universities



Why KU Leuven

Founded in 1425, KU Leuven is home to brilliant minds set free to wonder, following their curiosity and putting their ingenuity to the test. Our 15,000+ international students can choose from more than 100 programmes taught in English. Classroom material is based on the work of more than 7,000 world-class researchers carrying out cutting-edge work in thoroughly modern facilities.

The pull to study at KU Leuven is strong, as the University enjoys a world top-50 ranking and a global reputation as a premier academic destination. But that education is made available to just about everyone willing to accept the challenge.

Students at KU Leuven pay some of the world's lowest tuition fees for a university of its calibre, ensuring that deserving talents from all economic backgrounds have access to a superb education. As a result, students from more than 150 countries now constitute a full 20% of the student body, with no one country dominating the international representation. This inclusive excellence has transformed the University into a global institution well positioned for success in the next 600 years.



The programme in 3 minutes

Religion is everywhere and related to all aspects of life. The Bachelor of Theology and Religious Studies is a programme unlike any other at KU Leuven.

Students from around the world come here to take advantage of the wealth of knowledge gained over 600 years of study and research in Leuven, the world's oldest Catholic university. That legacy is then translated into a modern research and teaching programme that speaks to students' desires to learn more about the state of theology and religious practice in the world today. This is truly a programme for those with a curious mind seeking knowledge and different perspectives.

The material taught in the programme is a rich tapestry that primarily focuses on theological thought reaching back to ancient scripture; this focus has made Leuven a world centre for scholarship around ancient religious texts. Christianity in its long history and many contemporary forms composes the core of the programme.

**What is the influence
of faith traditions on
today's society?**

**What does good religious
leadership mean today?**

Beyond Christianity, the curriculum touches on other religions, together with an introduction into aspects of theology as it is practiced around the world. Religious practice also constitutes a significant part of the programme, including its many intersections with theology.

Students encounter an extensive slate of other subjects that develops a rounded understanding of the domain. Philosophy composes a crucial part of the curriculum, allowing students to sharpen their own thinking. Other courses focus on ethics, history, anthropology, writing and research, ensuring our students are fully prepared to pursue a number of master's tracks following graduation.

Our students are unique in their composition and experience. Many of our students come to us having already completed a previous bachelor's degree and are thus admitted into the abridged programme.



#6

6th in the QS World University Ranking (subject Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies)

1432

Founded as Europe's oldest theological faculty

This results in one of the most diverse student bodies at KU Leuven, composed of men and women of all ages, working students and Erasmus students, and with students from more than 70 countries represented across the faculty. Our students are sometimes in the ministry themselves, including friars, priests and nuns, who study alongside students from many different religious and non-religious backgrounds.

The programme offers students many avenues of support, both in academics and in their own search for meaning and for spirituality.

Whatever their origins, our students find here a warm and caring faculty dedicated to understanding the greater mysteries of the world, and the smaller mysteries of becoming a successful student in Belgium.

If people are committed to more sustainability in the world, where will they find hope and inspiration?

Theology and Religious Studies, something for you?

Everything you
need to know



01



An evolving field

The Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies of KU Leuven (Catholic University of Leuven, Belgium) has its roots in a centuries-old tradition and has enjoyed international renown since it was founded by Pope Eugene IV in 1432. The faculty has always played a significant role in the development and dissemination of theological thought. Both as a Catholic theological faculty and as an integral part of an internationally renowned university, we are called to reflect critically and constructively on the Christian tradition of faith. Theologians from our faculty were amongst the most important contributors to Vatican II, and we set ourselves the task of carrying on their work of renewal whilst faithful to our Christian heritage.

Over fifty years ago, in 1968, the faculty established the Theology Programmes

in English. The group of international students who started in 1969 were pioneers, shaping the Theology Programmes in English into today's inclusive, international and inspiring community. Those first international students have paved the way for generations of students since. They chose Leuven because they were excited by the opportunity to shape new theology programmes and to experience Leuven's unique student culture.

Since 1969, the number of students has multiplied fivefold. Many institutions have alumni and alumnae from our faculty amongst their staff, and many graduates have assumed high-level functions in the Church and in Christian organisations. The curriculum has adapted to the modern world without losing its anchoring in the centuries of theological and religious insight gained within these walls.

What if there were no theologians?

- The absence of theologians would diminish many of the most foundational aspects of life.
- Theologians help to guide the development and evolution of religious doctrines. Their absence would lead to stagnation and fragmentation in religious beliefs and practices.
- Theologians carry out scholarly work on religious traditions, rituals, and histories. Without them, significant aspects of cultural identity and history would be lost to the ages.
- Theologians train religious leaders and educators. Without this influence, debates on bioethics, social justice and human rights would lack a critical moral dimension, and efforts toward interfaith religious tolerance and peacebuilding would suffer.
- Theologians unite communities around shared beliefs and practices. Without theologians, religious communities across the globe would lose the cohesion and direction that keeps their societies whole.



The Bible of Anjou

The Bible of Anjou, a unique 14th-century manuscript, continues to inspire. Using high-tech imaging techniques, KU Leuven researchers study details such as the relief and texture that the naked eye could never see. This allows them to gain a better understanding of the methods used by miniaturists to apply the gleaming gold leaf and vibrant colors. Will you dive into the Bible of Anjou, this inspiring manuscript and feast for the eyes?



Are you a good fit for this programme?

A genuine interest in understanding religious traditions, spirituality, and theology is key. Theology often involves exploring diverse religious traditions and belief systems, so being open to different perspectives is important.

Diploma requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Bachelor of Theology and Religious Studies, you must have access to academic higher education in the country where you completed your secondary education.

You can verify whether your secondary qualification meets the minimum eligibility criteria here:

www.kuleuven.be/eligibility-bachelor.

Students with previous academic formation may be eligible for admission to the Abridged Bachelor of Theology and Religious, with a reduced number of ECTS.

For the most recent – and only official – information on admission requirements, check:

www.kuleuven.be/bachelor-theology-religious-studies.

What does the Theology and Religious Studies programme look like?

The three-year Bachelor of Theology and Religious Studies explores the study of Christianity and other religions. As an intercultural programme with students from every part of the globe, it aims for a broad development of knowledge in all theological areas whilst encouraging specialisation in particular areas of interest. Students hone skills in research, communication, cultural engagement and inquiry, as well as developing their critical and creative writing skills.

The programme initiates students in all areas that together constitute Christian theology. Particular emphasis is placed on: developing a deeper understanding of the Christian

tradition and the history of the Church; improving students' abilities in modern and Biblical languages; philosophy and other human sciences; a critical broadening and maturing of faith in conversation with contemporary culture; stimulating an interest in the mutual relationships between the various Christian churches, and between Christianity and other world religions.

This solid basis is laid through challenging lectures, interactive seminars in small groups, and personal guidance in the writing of papers and essays to prepare students to enter into the world of independent theological research.

2

Separate approaches

Theology and religious studies are distinct disciplines; each offers a different perspective, yet they are closely related.

1 → Theology

You study various aspects of the Christian tradition:

- **Systematic Theology:** You focus on the central ideas of Christianity and their relationship with contemporary cultural, philosophical, and societal trends.
- **Ethics:** You delve into Christian thought on what is considered good and how this is shaped on personal, social, and political levels.
- **Biblical Studies:** You study and interpret biblical texts using historical-critical and literary methods.
- **History of Church and Theology:** You explore the origins and development of Christianity and how churches have evolved over the centuries.
- **Pastoral Theology:** You investigate how people today experience religion and spirituality and how they can be supported in this journey.

2 → Religious Studies

You become acquainted with various world religions and interreligious dialogue. You learn how to study religions in a scientific manner, for example, by critically engaging with sources.



Abridged Bachelor

The programme can be followed on a full-time or part-time basis (by EEA students). A reduced programme is available as an Abridged Bachelor of Theology and Religious Studies (between 45 and 120 credits); programme content and requirements will vary according to each candidate's previous academic formation.

The degree programme

THEOLOGICAL COMPONENTS

ECTS

At every stage, students take courses from the Theological Components, which are taught in alternate years throughout the programme. Students will eventually take every course from these components.

A. Biblical Studies

Old and New Testament Exegesis: Prophets	3
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Old and New Testament Exegesis: Psalms and Wisdom	3
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Old and New Testament Exegesis: John	3
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Old and New Testament Exegesis: Pentateuch	3
--	---

Old and New Testament Exegesis: Synoptics	3
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Old and New Testament Exegesis: The Apostle Paul, His Life and Letters	3
--	---

B. Systematic Theology

Dogmatic Theology: Christology and Trinity	6
--	---

Fundamental Theology: Faith and Revelation	6
--	---

Dogmatic Theology: Creation, Church, and Salvation History	6
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C. Theological Ethics

Sexual and Conjugal Morality	6
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Christian Political and Social Ethics	6
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Christian Ethics	6
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Check the details of your study programme online

www.kuleuven.be/programmes/bachelor-theology-religious-studies



	ECTS
<hr/>	
D. History of Church and Theology	
<hr/>	
History of Church and Theology: Ancient Church	6
<hr/>	
History of Church and Theology: Middle Ages and Early Modern Period	6
<hr/>	
History of Church and Theology: Contemporary Period	6
<hr/>	
E. Pastoral Theology	
<hr/>	
Catechetics	6
<hr/>	
Liturgy and Sacraments	6
<hr/>	
Pastoral Theology	6
<hr/>	

RELIGIOUS STUDIES COMPONENTS

ECTS

At every stage, students take two Religious Studies Components.

Introduction to Islam	4
<hr/>	
Introduction to Anthropology of Religion	4
<hr/>	
Introduction to Religious Studies	4
<hr/>	
Introduction to Judaism	4
<hr/>	
Introduction to Eastern Religions	4
<hr/>	
Introduction to Psychology of Religion	4
<hr/>	

PHILOSOPHICAL COMPONENTS

ECTS

At every stage, students take one Philosophical Component. BA1 students are required to take 'Historical Introduction to Philosophy'.

Historical Introduction to Philosophy	6
<hr/>	
Philosophical Anthropology: Continental Approaches	6
<hr/>	
Metaphysics	6
<hr/>	
Phenomenology	6
<hr/>	
Epistemology and Philosophy of Science	6
<hr/>	
Ancient Philosophy	6
<hr/>	
Medieval Philosophy	6
<hr/>	
Modern Philosophy	6
<hr/>	

GUIDED INDIVIDUAL WORK

ECTS

Introduction to Theology	14
<hr/>	
Seminar	6
<hr/>	
Essay	6
<hr/>	

ELECTIVES

ECTS

Students add electives to their programme to attain 180 credits in total. 16(+)

What will your classes look like?

At KU Leuven, there is a variety of teaching methods, sometimes in large groups, sometimes in smaller ones. The basics of many courses are taught in lectures. Group work, seminars, flipped classrooms ... all of these challenge you to get to work yourself. During these interactive working methods, you will get to know your fellow classmates quickly, you can ask questions and find the necessary support.



Lectures

Lectures provide insight into the content, ways of thinking and internal coherence of a subject. They offer the necessary framework for processing the material during self-study and in smaller study groups. Online polls, discussion forums and knowledge clips on specific parts of the material ensure active engagement. You can ask questions during the lessons, and professors often engage in discussions with students.



Excursions and study trips

During excursions and study trips you visit various religious communities. This allows you to test your acquired knowledge against contemporary realities and to experience the diversity of the religious and philosophical landscape. You learn about different forms of support (spiritual care) in institutions such as hospitals, prisons, and care homes, and you also visit various religious groups.

Combining studies with a student job is quite challenging and may affect your study results. When calculating your budget, we advise you not to count on income from a student job. The number of available jobs is limited, and most jobs require fluent knowledge of Dutch (or French), making it very difficult to find a student job.



Interactive lessons

You explore creative ways to engage with biblical stories. You observe and participate in social organisations and develop concrete projects for organisations focused on interreligious dialogue. During the writing of your thesis, you receive individual guidance from a supervisor and present your insights to your peers.



Independent assignments

You learn step by step how to look up information, write scientific texts and give presentations. Often, students can choose their own themes to explore and deepen under the guidance of a teacher.

Courses in the first bachelor's stage

Introduction to Theology

Every first-year bachelor's student participates in this course. It is subdivided into sections including: Reading the Bible, an Introduction to the Study of Theology, and an Introduction to Research in Theology and Religious Studies. This set of courses is designed to orient students and offer them insight into approaching theology as a science.

In the second year, students will refine their research and writing skills in one specific theological domain through a seminar course. In the third year, students will work with an academic supervisor to develop their own research paper where they will put forward an academic argument relying on their own research.



Theological Components

Biblical Studies

Biblical Studies courses offer students an introduction into historical and traditional means of understanding both Testaments in the Christian Bible.

Course instructors set the specific texts into cultural context, which permits students to better contextualise and analyse these texts.



Systematic Theology

This discipline combines historical and systematic theological reflection on religious experience and expressions of Christian communities. In the bachelor's programme, there are three main areas of focus: Christology and Trinity; Faith and Revelation; Creation, Church, and Salvation History.



Christian Ethics

The study of Christian Ethics connects the Christian tradition with concrete practices and ethical debates. Bachelor's students will be introduced to the broad field of ethical thought in the course Christian Ethics. Two additional courses, Sexual and Conjugal Morality and Christian Political and Social Ethics, offer students a glimpse into practical applications.





History of Church and Theology

In History of Church and Theology, students will learn how to locate major ecclesiastical developments and theological currents within a broader social context. Ecclesiastical events are covered in three periods: Ancient Church; Middle Ages and Early Modern Period; and the Contemporary Period.



Pastoral Theology

Students will learn about contemporary experiences and practices of Christian faith and about the church in its various functions (liturgy, catechesis, pastoral care).



Religious Studies

Religions

Students will be introduced to the history, identity, and texts of Judaism, Islam, and Eastern religions, and will gain a contemporary understanding of these holy traditions as living religions.



Methods

Students will become familiar with the central theories, methods, and key concepts used in religious studies and gain a critical understanding of definitions used throughout religion. In order to offer a full grasp of methods in religious studies, students will be introduced to both the anthropology of religion and the psychology of religion.



Philosophical Components

Beginning with an introduction to Western Philosophy from a historical perspective, students will gain a broad understanding of the domains of philosophy as they have developed through history and in conversation with the sciences, art, and religion.



— Planning to succeed

This schedule represents a typical week for a student. As you can see, studying is considered a full time job.

TU MO

MONDAY	
10.00 - 12.00	Study History of Church and Theology: Middle Ages
14.00 - 16.00	Introduction to the Study of Theology
16.00 - 18.00	Historical Introduction to Philosophy
TUESDAY	
9.00 - 11.00	Academic Writing in English for Theology and Religious Studies
16.00 - 18.00	Introduction to Research in Theology and Religious Studies



WE

WEDNESDAY

11.00 - 13.00 History of Church and Theology:
Middle Ages

14.00 - 16.00 Introduction to islam

16.00 - 18.00 Study time in the library

TH

THURSDAY

9.00 - 11.00 Old and New Testament Exegesis:
Prophets

14.00 - 16.00 Study time in the library

16.00 - 18.00 Christian Latin

18.00 - 19.00 Meeting fellow students in
the student lounge

FR

FRIDAY

9.00 - 11.00 Introduction to the Study of Theology

11.00 - 13.00 History of Church and Theology:
Middle Ages

14.00 - 16.00 Meeting Faculty's Programme Committee

SA

SATURDAY

10.00 - 12.00 Study time

14.00 - 16.00 Sports time

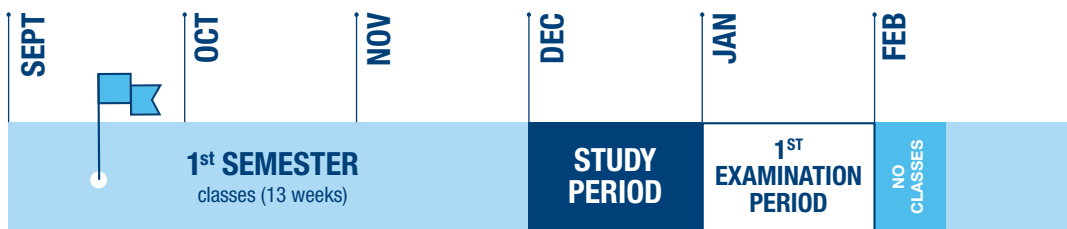
SU

SUNDAY

10.00 Pastoral work



One academic year in profile



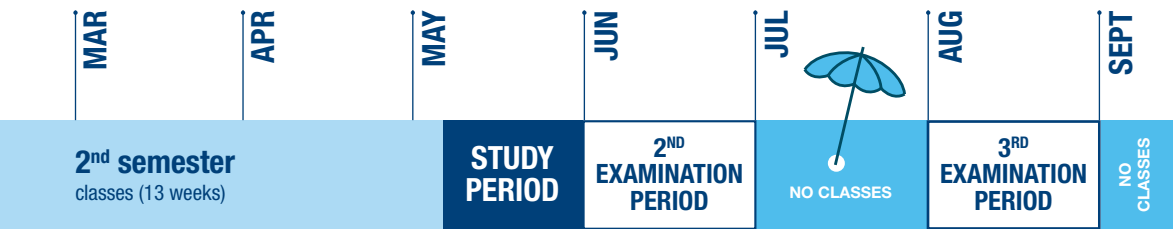
**Feedback
from your
study advisor**

Structure of the academic year

One semester consists of 13 weeks of classes, followed by a study period in which you can prepare yourself for your examination period. There are two semesters in one academic year.

Student guidance

Your first point of contact is the study advisor for your programme. If necessary, they will refer you to specialist services within KU Leuven. You will find that KU Leuven offers a great deal of personal autonomy, in that you will be responsible for initiating communications about well-being. But when you do reach out to us, you can count on personal guidance and care for all possible questions: study choice, study method and planning, subject-related questions, psycho-social well-being, your study path, etc.



Feedback from your study advisor

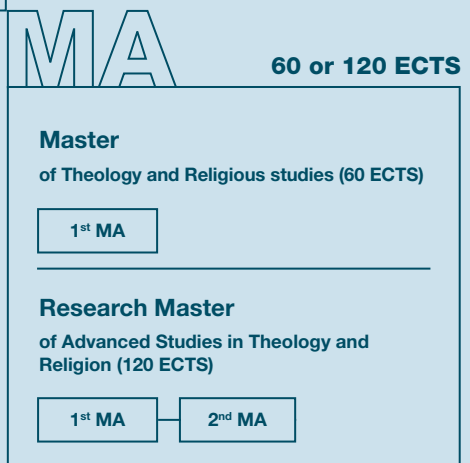
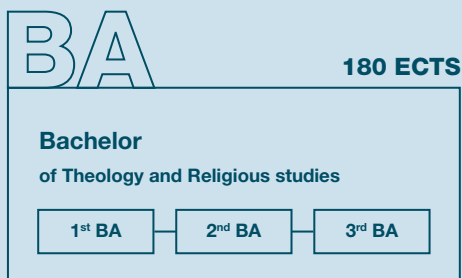
Feedback from your study advisor

Exams

You will take an exam for each course at the end of the semester in January and in June. These exams are quite difficult. You will get another chance to retake any failed exams during the third examination period in August-September. If you do pass all of your exams then you get to enjoy a long summer vacation!

Studying together

One of the best ways to avoid distractions and gain valuable feedback is by studying in groups. Studying together is increasingly popular. It inspires you and motivates you to study better, with your fellow students serving as a sounding board for challenges and helping you through difficult material. Group study locations are available in our libraries and faculty buildings.



Credits (ECTS)

Credits indicate the size of a course (e.g., 180 credits) or a course unit (e.g., 5 credits). One credit corresponds to 25 to 30 hours of study time (the time an average student should spend on that course unit: including class attendance, preparation, studying and research). A total of 60 credits corresponds to one year of full-time study.

Bachelor's-master's progression

Bachelor's programmes at KU Leuven are three-year degrees of 180 ECTS credits. Programmes are divided into three stages, one for each year of the programme. Consequently, students are expected to reach each stage in good order and in good time. This means that the first bachelor's stage is reached in one year of study, the second in two years, and the third in three. Each stage allows the University the opportunity to verify a student's progress and see whether there are any issues in the smooth progression towards earning the degree. Your course and examination schedules will be set based on your progression through the three bachelor's stages.

Whilst the bachelor's degree is to be completed in three years, undergraduate education in Belgium is considered to include a master's degree, which is a programme of 60 ECTS to be completed in one year or 120 ECTS to be completed in two years. This differs from many countries around the world where a master's is considered a part of graduate education.

The combination of a master's with the bachelor's degree ensures that students in Belgium reach a high degree of competency within their chosen academic field.

The master's also allows students to complete a master's thesis, which will serve as a demonstration of skill and ability after graduation. It is not strictly required to pursue a master's after attaining a bachelor's degree in Belgium, but it is expected and highly encouraged.

Extensive theological library

The library of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies is internationally respected as one of the world's best theological libraries. It contains over 1.3 million volumes and subscribes to more than 1,100 current journals. The library also has a wide range of bibliographical research facilities to support students.



The Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies has been granted permission by the *Congregatio de Institutione Catholica* to deliver the canonical degrees of *Sacrae Theologiae Baccalaureus*, *Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatius*, *Sacrae Theologiae Doctor*.

Students can obtain these degrees in combination with the civil, academic degrees offered by the faculty and regulated by Decree of the Flemish Community as long as they fulfil the conditions required by the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis Gaudium*.

After your bachelor's degree

Master of Theology and Religious Studies

60 ECTS

The goal of this one-year master's programme is to intensify the initial formation in theology and religious studies and to prepare students to engage in independent research in the various domains of theology and religious studies.

The programme comprises the following:

- Courses (44 ECTS): six courses of the common core curriculum (24 ECTS), one religious studies course (6 credits), and 14 ECTS electives.
- Master's thesis (16 ECTS): written under the supervision of a staff member from one of the research units. The thesis must deal with a subject in the field of religious studies or theology.

www.kuleuven.be/master-theology-religious-studies

Research Master of Advanced Studies in Theology and Religion

60 or 120 ECTS

The goal of the two-year Research Master is to facilitate independent academic research in the domains of theology and religious studies. The chosen major is reinforced with a highly specific research curriculum and a research master's thesis, preparing students for continued research at doctoral level. Students receive intensive research skills training and are encouraged to combine the in-depth research of their thesis subject with an all-round theological formation. Upon successful completion of their studies, they have received a broad formation, rather than a training specialising exclusively in one area.

The programme comprises the following:

- Courses (44 ECTS): six courses of the truncus communis (24 ECTS) and five electives (20 ECTS).
- A research master's thesis (40 ECTS): students write a thesis in two years' time, presenting the results of their original research. The thesis must provide a structured and coherent survey of the issue whilst including an evaluation of research already undertaken and demonstrating evidence of an awareness of problems related to the topic.
- Chosen major (36 ECTS): six major courses.

www.kuleuven.be/research-master-advanced-studies-theology-religion

What would your professional future look like?

All opportunities
with your degree



02



Bénédicte Lemmelijn, Dean of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies

With its strong international reputation, this faculty aims to be 'salt in the dough,' embracing diversity and openness to the broader context of theology and religious studies. Welcoming students from nearly 80 countries and many guest researchers, we are building a faculty that connects with both the global Church and a world searching for meaning beyond traditional religious frameworks. We approach this task with boldness, not fear.

Shengbo Mao, bachelor student

As a first-year student, I've been really impressed by the faculty's strong academic tradition and its openness to different perspectives. The wealth of resources here makes learning engaging and accessible. It's not just about studying, it's also about being part of a warm, diverse community that makes me feel welcome.

Bachelor student

The beautiful part of studying theology is that it incorporates everything in the world. It is about people, nature, the supernatural and, above all, love. Being a good theologian means that you have a better understanding of the world.





Your diploma is the starting point ... you shape your career

Graduates of the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies often go on to become teachers in religion or theology. Many will continue their studies all the way through the PhD level, which leads to a great variety of potential careers at every level of education.

Many graduates return to pastoral functions in their home communities or end up exercising different forms of leadership or aid in communities around the world.

Many possibilities exist to work in faith-based or secular NGOs that focus on social justice, community development and other social services. Helping individuals and families in need is one of the most rewarding career paths

available, one that ranks amongst the very highest in surveys of job satisfaction.

Another possibility is providing counselling services, whether or not they focus on spiritual or religious aspects. This may take the form of providing support and counselling to those experiencing grief and loss, often within hospital or hospice settings.

Many Catholic students enjoy the fact that a KU Leuven degree is recognised by the Catholic Church in Rome and can offer canonical degrees (*Sacrae Theologiae Bachelaureus*, *Sacrae Theologiae Licentiatius*, *Sacrae Theologiae Doctor*) combined with the civil degrees.

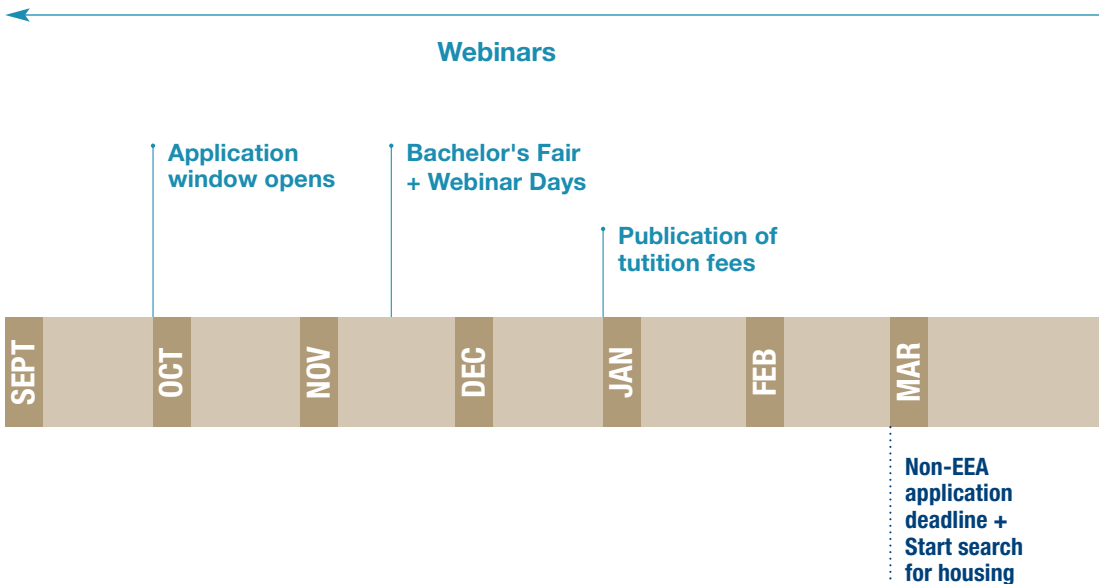
Ready to get started?

An answer to your practical questions



03

The year preceding enrolment



Application deadlines

The recommended deadline for this programme for non-EEA applicants is 1 March. EEA applicants and non-EEA applicants holding a Belgian residence permit can apply until 1 June. We also accept admission files that come in after the deadline, but candidates are responsible for evaluating whether they can still travel to Belgium and register in a timely manner.

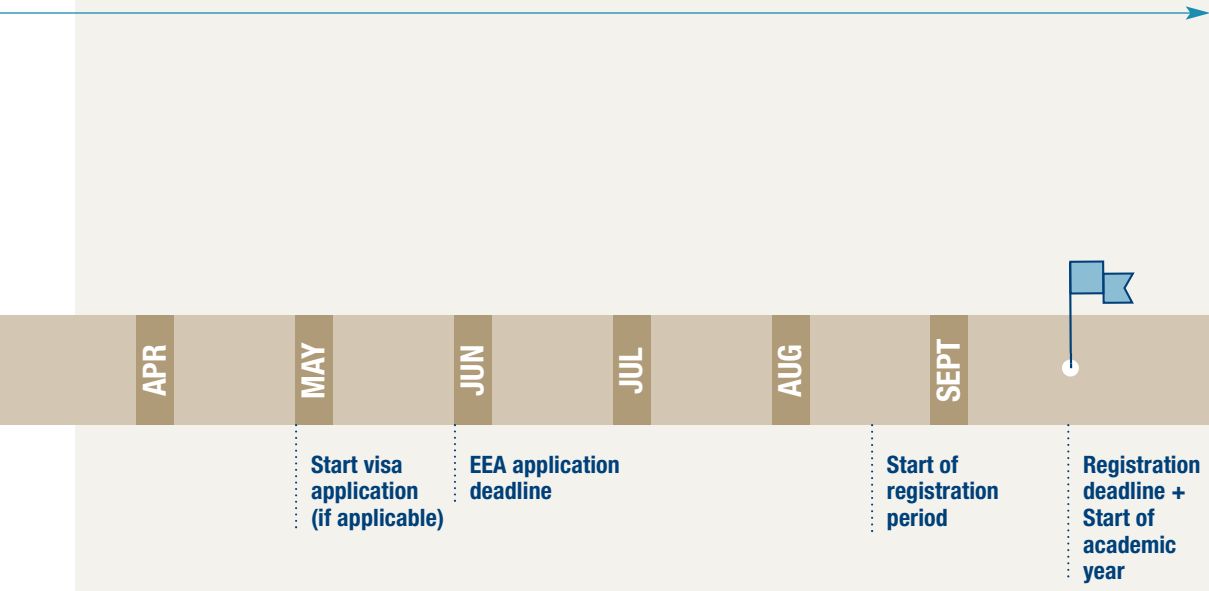
For the most recent - and only official - information on application deadlines check

www.kuleuven.be/application-windows

Bachelor's Fair

At this live info fair, you can ask all your questions about our international bachelor's programmes. Our staff will answer all your questions about studying in Belgium and KU Leuven, and you can also ask questions about your application or about admissions.

www.kuleuven.be/open-days



Webinars

KU Leuven offers webinars on a range of topics to aid you in the process of choosing a university, applying for a programme, searching for housing, obtaining a student visa and preparing your arrival. In November, we have a special two-day event called 'Webinar Days' where you have the unique opportunity to follow a webinar about your desired field of study. There is always room for your questions during the Q&A part of the webinar.

www.kuleuven.be/webinars

Tuition fees

It is worth noting that our tuition fees are more affordable than in many other European countries thanks to the generous government financing of the higher education system. Although all of our programmes are very affordable compared to equivalent universities around the world, the fees for any individual student are contingent upon their choice of academic programme and the nationality of the student. Consult tuition fees for your particular programme:

www.kuleuven.be/tuitionfees

Application procedure

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You will make a personal admissions account and upload the required documents.

At this stage, questions about application procedures are best directed to the Admissions Office. You can then submit your application once you are ready.

www.kuleuven.be/application

Students with a Flemish degree can consult:

www.kuleuven.be/register-flemish-degree

Visa application

As an internationally oriented university, it is our aim to support our international students the best we can. When coming to Belgium, you may need a visa or entry document.

The specific documents you will need, and the manner in which you request and submit them, will depend on your situation. Once you are admitted to study at KU Leuven, you will receive specific information and guidance for your situation from our international expert services.

www.kuleuven.be/immigration

Housing

Leuven offers a variety of different housing opportunities. The most important consideration is start looking for housing as soon as possible. Planning to start in September? Then the early part of the year is great time to get a sense of what will be available in the autumn, even if you have not yet received your acceptance letter.

Most students choose to rent a student room (known as a 'kot' in Dutch) in a privately-owned house with shared common spaces and facilities. Look for student accommodations that have earned the 'Kotlabel', which ensures that the landlord and the building comply with norms regarding the quality of living, fire safety, contract and student friendliness. If you need any help with this, you can contact Stuvo, the KU Leuven Housing Service, for assistance.

The University also owns and manages a number of student residences. A limited number of rooms in these residences are reserved for international students.

www.kuleuven.be/housing



Additional care

Everyone should be able to study, even if this seems less obvious due to a disability, learning disorder, medical problem, etc. You can make use of support facilities both during the academic year and during exam periods. Be sure to apply to have your status recognised in a timely manner so you can work with our disability officer to find solutions tailored to your needs.

www.kuleuven.be/studentswithadisability

Studying in Belgium?

Everything you need
to know about living and
studying in Belgium



04



Study in Leuven

Leuven is a true university city where student life stands central. As the oldest, largest and most academically diverse of our campuses, Leuven attracts an eclectic set of international students following a wide array of academic pursuits. There is no defined campus in Leuven; instead, University buildings and student residences are spread throughout the compact city. This setup is facilitated by Leuven's reputation as a safe place to live and socialise, ensuring that students feel free to enjoy an academic experience rich in possibility, from the quiet and calm of the University Libraries to the lively comradery of our student clubs. The large international student community in Leuven revolves around the Pangaea intercultural meeting centre but extends to every corner of this historic campus. In all these ways and more, Leuven can justifiably be said to deliver the true student experience.

Living in Belgium

Belgium is a safe and peaceful country steeped in history and fully engaged in our modern world. Featuring an advanced economy with special emphasis on medicine and medical technology, Belgium is one of the world's leaders in education, design and shipping. Belgium straddles the line between French and Germanic cultures, but Belgian people generally speak English quite well, so there is no need to learn another language. Belgium is the gateway to Europe. There are fast train connections to major European cities like London, Paris or Amsterdam. The nearby Brussels region is home to many of the world's most dynamic companies in addition to many governmental and international organisations. Thousands of students in Leuven look for internships and jobs in Belgium's intellectual economy that includes some of the most innovative companies in Europe, many of them spin-offs from KU Leuven itself.

Chat with our student ambassadors

Ever wonder what the real KU Leuven student experience is like? Ask those who know! Our student ambassadors are current KU Leuven students who are happy to share their personal experiences studying at our University. There are ambassadors from all over the world, making it likely that you can find one from your own country and culture. Whatever your situation, you can use our handy ambassador webpage to find a student whose experiences might match your own.

www.kuleuven.be/studentambassadors

Your home away from home

There are many ways for us to help you feel at home:

- We offer an **online community** that allows you to connect with future fellow students before arriving in Belgium. Come head here to get to know others, find out more information about the University and get excited about what's to come!
- The **Buddy Programme** gets you connected with a student who knows the University and the town well. A buddy is a local student volunteer with whom you can share your international experience during your time in Leuven (and long after). They can help you from the start with practical matters and introduce you to student life in Belgium.
- Every year, the KU Leuven **Welcome Desk** at Brussels Airport offers a friendly face to arriving international students. The desk is set up two weeks before the start of the academic year in September and is open from early morning until late evening. Staff members and volunteers help incoming students get to campuses, make sure they know their way around and assist them with any other urgent questions.
- The **Orientation Days and Freshers' Days** help you get settled in and invite you to learn more about the University and the city. Activities include tips and tricks on studying and living in Belgium, guided city tours, cultural visits and lots of other opportunities to meet fellow students. You will also learn more about the structure and content of your study programme, how to use online tools to plan your lessons and exams, etc.

Bachelor of Theology and

Religious Studies

All around the world, religion drives how people live, work, pray, marry and pass on. It is the roadmap for the human experience, and yet it varies widely depending on one's religious point of view. Explore the many ways people have come to know the divine and connect with their fellow human beings throughout history and across the planet.

KU Leuven. Inspiring the outstanding.

KU LEUVEN



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