



**ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY**



Academic Study Programme

Ecumenical Institute at Bossey



Make “every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace.”
(Ephesians 4:3)



Study courses

The study courses are conducted jointly with the Autonomous Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Geneva, which issues all the diplomas and certificates.

Bossey offers these programmes on the basis of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), established in 1989 by the European Commission and providing a way of measuring and comparing learning achievements and transferring them from one academic institution to another. ECTS credits are a value allocated to course units to describe the student's workload.

Complementary Certificate (CC) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Bachelor's degree in Christian theology or in a closely related discipline.

Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Master's degree, preferably in Christian theology or in a closely related discipline.

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students and professionals who are interested in ecumenical studies and have a suitable level of theological literacy.

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies

Intended for an international audience of young people (ages 20-35) interested and engaged in interreligious dialogue, religious leaders, students, lay persons and professionals with a suitable level of religious literacy and/or experience in the field of interreligious dialogue and engagement, especially among the three Abrahamic religions.

Intensive English Summer Course - English as a Tool for Ecumenical Formation

Offered for students who have been admitted to study at the Ecumenical Institute and who must enhance their English proficiency.

Doctorate in Theology (mention Ecumenical Studies)

The Doctorate in Theology (mention Ecumenical Studies) is jointly directed by the Autonomous Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Geneva and the Ecumenical Institute. It intends to offer eligible students the opportunity to acquire specialized research competencies in the field of ecumenism.

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students and professionals who are interested in ecumenical studies and have a suitable level of theological literacy. Running from mid-September until end of January. Accredited with 25 ECTS credits by the University of Geneva under the Swiss Higher Education programme for Continuing Education in accordance with the requirements of the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities, according to the following study modules:

Obligatory Modules

Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement (6 ECTS credits)

Offers an overview of the development of the modern ecumenical movement as well as an introduction to selected contemporary themes and challenges for the churches.

Workshop on Intercultural Biblical Studies (3 ECTS credits)

Gives an opportunity to deepen exegetical competence and learn about the ecumenical relevance of traditional, modern, contextual and confessional interpretations of the Bible through practical exercises.

Workshop on Practical Ecumenical Theology (3 ECTS credits)

Provides an opportunity for reflection on the experience of communicating and translating theology practically into prayer, and the possibilities and difficulties of praying together.

Ecumenical Study Visits (2 ECTS credits)

Provides an opportunity to reflect on the practice, organization and spiritual life of the major different Christian traditions. Usually the study visits include: the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy (CH), the Vatican, the Taizé Community and local parishes of the Reformed Church in Switzerland.

Intensive Thematic Seminar (3 ECTS credits)

Offers space for a critical analysis and in-depth study

of a question of contemporary ecumenical relevance determined and designed specifically for each academic year.

Modules of Choice

The students have to choose one module among the following (8 ECTS credits each)

Ecumenical Biblical Hermeneutics:

Introduction and study of exegetical research with regard to the vision of reconciliation and human unity in general and the vision of the Christian churches in particular.

Ecumenical Missiology:

Introduction and study of theology of mission and research on reflections concerning mission in the ecumenical movement.

Ecumenical Social Ethics:

Introduction and study of areas which pertain to the challenges arising from the complexity and plurality of globalized societies and the exploration of ecumenical ethical responses.

Ecumenical Theology:

Introduction and study of the search for overcoming division between churches, fostering mutual recognition and ecclesial communion.

The Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement and modules of choice are evaluated through exams and research papers.



Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Master's degree, preferably in Christian theology or in a closely related discipline. Running from mid-September until end of June. Accredited with 60 ECTS credits by the University of Geneva, according to the following modules:

First Semester

(mid-September – end of January)

Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement

(6 ECTS credits)

Offers an overview of the development of the modern ecumenical movement as well as an introduction to selected contemporary themes and challenges for the churches.

Workshop on Intercultural Biblical Studies

(3 ECTS credits)

Gives an opportunity to deepen exegetical competence and learn about the ecumenical relevance of traditional, modern, contextual and confessional interpretations of the Bible through practical exercises.

Workshop on Practical Ecumenical Theology

(3 ECTS credits)

Provides time for reflection on experience of communicating and translating theology practically into prayer, and the possibilities and difficulties of praying together.

Ecumenical Study Visits

(2 ECTS credits)

Provides an opportunity to reflect on the practice, organization and spiritual life of the major different Christian traditions. Usually the study visits include: the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy (CH), the Vatican, the Taizé Community and local parishes of the Reformed Church in Switzerland.

Seminar on Research Methodology

(4 ECTS credits)

Offers the possibility to deepen knowledge in research techniques, conventions and methodologies and helps students to apply these to practical research work.

Course on Intercultural Theology

(4 ECTS credits)

Offers the study of selected topics of ecumenism in an interdisciplinary and intercultural manner.



Modules of Choice

Students have to choose one module among the following (8 ECTS credits each)

Ecumenical Biblical Hermeneutics:

Introduction and study of exegetical research with regard to the vision of reconciliation and human unity in general and of the Christian churches in particular.

Ecumenical Missiology:

Introduction and study of the theology of mission and research into reflections on mission in the ecumenical movement.

Ecumenical Social Ethics:

Introduction and study of areas pertaining to the challenges arising from the complexity and plurality of globalized societies and the exploration of ecumenical ethical responses.

Ecumenical Theology:

Introduction and study of the search for overcoming division between churches, fostering mutual recognition and ecclesial communion.

The Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement and modules of choice are evaluated through exams and research papers.

Second Semester

(mid-February – end of June)

Research Fellowship

(12 ECTS credits)

Is destined to offer insight into the practical work of an ecumenical organization or a specialized institution related to ecumenism.

Research Workshop

(4 ECTS credits)

Addresses specific questions and challenges of the research process and offers a regular and qualified accompaniment in the student's individual research design and drafting process.

Thesis

(14 ECTS credits)

A thesis (10 000 words) is written in one of the academic disciplines offered at the Ecumenical Institute and is defended at the end of the study period.



Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students and professionals who are interested in ecumenical studies and have a suitable level of theological literacy. Running from mid-September until end of January. Accredited with 25 ECTS credits by the University of Geneva under the Swiss Higher Education programme for Continuing Education in accordance with the requirements of the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities, according to the following study modules:

Obligatory Modules

Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement (6 ECTS credits)

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Intensive Thematic Seminar (3 ECTS credits)

Offers space for a critical analysis and in-depth study of a question of contemporary ecumenical relevance determined and designed specifically for each academic year.

"I may not have all the answers, you may not have all the answers, we may not have all the answers...but...everyone has something to teach and something to learn."

– Former Bossey student Daniel Reffner, UMC US

Modules of Choice

The students have to choose one module among the following (8 ECTS credits each)

Ecumenical Biblical Hermeneutics:

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Ecumenical Theology:

Introduction and study of the search for overcoming division between churches, fostering mutual recognition and ecclesial communion.

The Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement and modules of choice are evaluated through exams and research papers.



Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies

Intended for an international audience of young people (ages 20-35) interested and engaged in interreligious dialogue, religious leaders, students, lay persons and professionals with a suitable level of religious literacy and/or experience in the field of interreligious dialogue and engagement, especially among the three Abrahamic religions. Accredited by the University of Geneva under the Swiss Higher Education Programme for Continuing Education in accordance with the requirements of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS) with 10 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits to be achieved during a period of 6 weeks (3 weeks distance learning, 3 weeks residential) normally during July/August.

Study modules

Core Course on Judaism, Christianity and Islam (5 ECTS credits)

Offers an introduction to Christianity, Islam and Judaism: the history, the different traditions and streams, basic elements and teachings, the holy scriptures. A particular theme is explored each year from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim points of view seeking possible areas of intersection between the three Abrahamic religions.

Thematic Workshops (3 ECTS credits)

Gives an opportunity to discuss contemporary challenges with reference to the theme chosen for the year.

Practical Interreligious Workshops (1 ECTS credit)

Provides a reflected experience on historical-cultural modes of transmission and communication of religion in practice.

Interreligious Study Visits (1 ECTS credit)

Provides an opportunity to gain a reflected practical insight and overview on the practice, organization or spiritual life of the work of the three Abrahamic religions and selected institutions in the local Swiss context - places of prayer of the Abrahamic religious communities in Geneva (church, mosque, synagogue), the Ecumenical Centre, the United Nations Geneva headquarters.

The Core Course on Judaism, Christianity and Islam and Thematic Workshops are evaluated through research papers.

In addition to the accredited programmes, Bossey offers two new courses:

Bossey Online Course in Ecumenical Studies

The 10-week course offers succinct introductions into the classic dimensions of ecumenical studies. The programme is a ten-week online course that explores ecumenical studies in five modules that correspond to dimensions of ecumenical engagement: ecclesiological, biblical, ethical, interreligious,

missiological and societal. Each module dedicates two weeks to the theme through, a series of brief video lectures, required and optional readings for each week, discussion forum on key questions in relation to the module and online seminar sessions. Through specific assignments, students are guided in exploring ecumenical relations in their local context, sharing about it in a global cohort of students and deepen their understanding through theological study. Strengthening the students' agency and the students' capacity for theological discernment is vital in this study program.

Formation en théologie interculturelle

La réalité interculturelle tant de notre société que des communautés chrétiennes est aujourd'hui une donnée de base. Même si, comme l'affirme avec force

l'apôtre Paul, en Christ, « il n'y a plus ni Juif ni Grec, ni esclave ni libre, ni homme ni femme » (Gal 3,28), vivre l'interculturalité au quotidien et dans un cadre communautaire ne va pas de soi. Nous croyons que cette dimension interculturelle est une chance et pour tout dire une bénédiction. Mais celle-ci demande que nous nous y préparions en formant et équipant les responsables de communautés et toute personne intéressée.

C'est dans cet esprit que des représentants de plusieurs institutions se sont unis afin de mettre sur pied un cours qui, à partir des disciplines de la théologie, abordera les enjeux et les promesses d'un vivre ensemble interculturel en Église et en société. Le public cible sont les leaders, laïcs ou ministres, des Églises chrétiennes francophones de Suisse romande et de France voisine.

As ecumenical life continues...

"Bossey isn't just about learning ecumenism, it's about being formed in and catching the ecumenical spirit. This isn't something that you can learn from books and classes but is something that emerges within you as you encounter people who are different than you and build relationships across cultural, geographic, and religious borders."



“I experienced the paradox of Bossey, which is that I left both stronger in my identity ... and radically more open to the ideas of others.”

Are you curious as to why Christians of other traditions think differently from you on questions of faith?

Are you curious to understand why other Christians live their faith differently than you live yours?

Are you intrigued by the question of how Christians can help to make the world a better place to live in?

Are you intrigued by Jesus' prayer, “that all may be one, so that the world may believe”?

Are you interested in exploring how human beings can live together in peace?

If so, the Ecumenical Institute at Château de Bossey is the right place for you!



**ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY**

Part of the World Council of Churches and attached to the University of Geneva

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**World Council
of Churches**



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