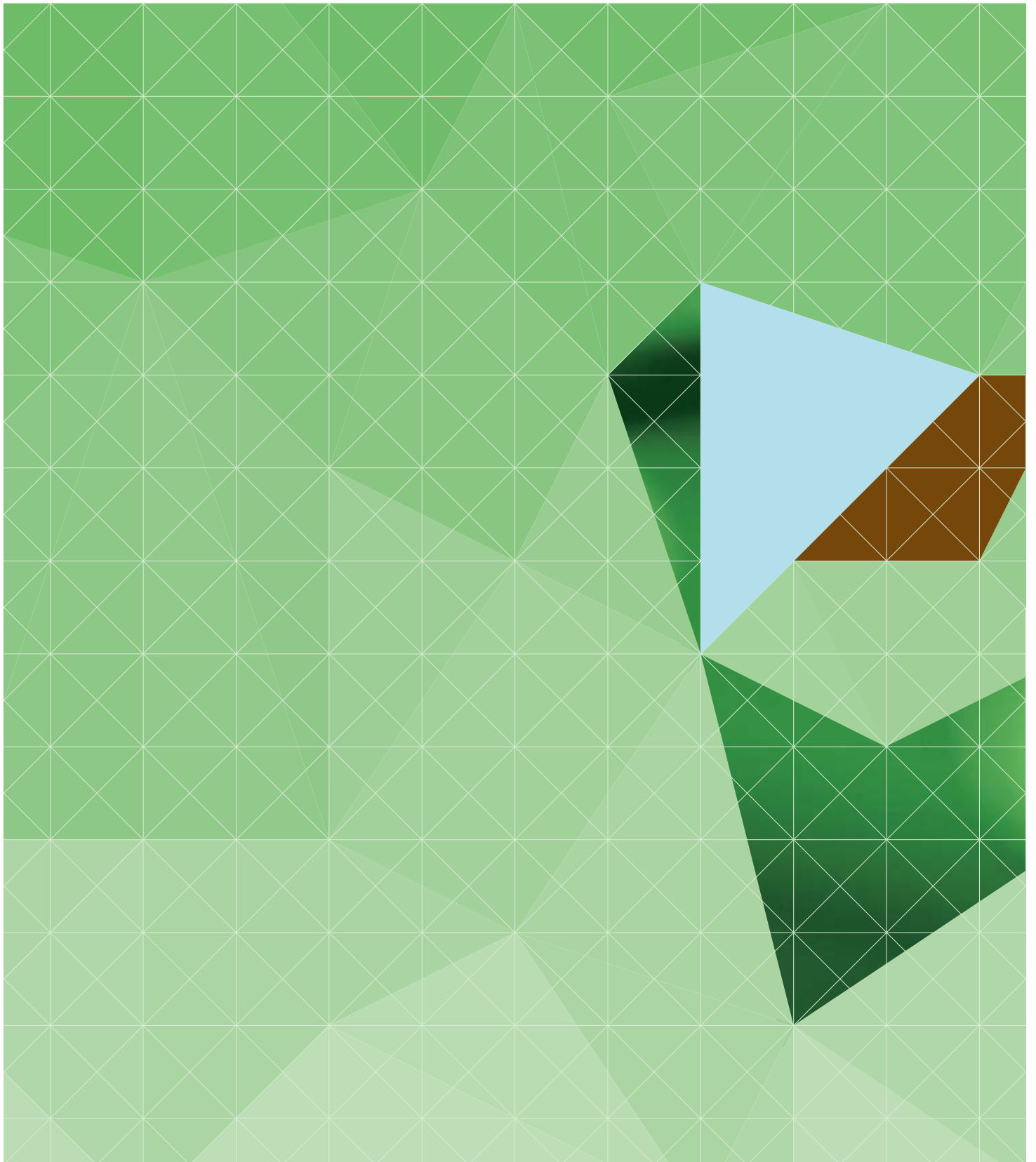


PROGRAMME DESCRIPTION 2009:
**MASTER PROGRAMME - RELIGION, SOCIETY AND
GLOBAL ISSUES**



Introduction

The following document presents the Master's programme Religion, Society and Global Issues. This Master's programme aims at providing insights into and knowledge of various relationships between religion and society in an increasingly global and multicultural world.

The Master's programme Religion, Society and Global Issues is a two-year academic course of study, 120 ECTS, including a thesis of 50 ECTS. The Master's degree offers different specializations.

The Master's programme aims at providing education for positions within research and education, as well as within Norwegian and international institutions and organizations, where knowledge of religion in an international and global perspective is required. It is also relevant for positions of leadership within the public and private sector. The Master's degree qualifies for further studies on a doctoral level.



Requirements for Admission

- A bachelor degree or equivalent education
- A group of 80 ECTS within the social sciences or religious studies/theology, of which at least 20 ECTS are a concentration
- At least 20 ECTS within religious studies/theology for students with a background in the social sciences, and at least 20 ECTS within the social sciences for students with a background in religious studies/theology

Programme Aim and Structure

Programme Aim

The main aims for this programme are as follows:

- To provide knowledge of and insights into the role of religion in social cohesion and conflict in a globalised world. The study also aims at providing the ability to define and analyze different conflicts according to their sociological, cultural and religious presuppositions.
- to strengthen independent critical reflection, the ability to work methodically, and to give written presentations of the study material,
- to educate for positions within research and teaching,
- to develop skills which will enable students to work in the public and private sector at a national and/or international level, in aid organizations, international religious and/or secular organizations, and in various multicultural contexts.

The aims of the master programme will be realized through the participation in courses on the master's level and through writing a thesis (50 ECTS).

The programme Master of Religion, Society and Global Issues follows the rules for academic degrees, study programs, study plan, educational plans, modes of assessment, examinations, modes of evaluation, established by MF Norwegian School of Theology ("Forskrift om opptak, studier og eksamen").

Objectives

The study programme is based on courses in the social sciences and religious studies. An essential part of the programme is to give insight into the different ways by which religion is shaped by various local and regional social conditions. The study courses must be viewed in light of these premises. The programme aims at developing the knowledge acquired at the bachelor's level, in order to give a more profound understanding of the relationship between religion and society in a global perspective. This involves courses within ethics, sociology of religion, intercultural communication and diaconia.

The programme provides opportunities to specialize according to the students' own interests. At the same time, it has a common basis in the social sciences and religious studies. The study will be in dialogue with research

within theology and religious studies, and is scientifically legitimated by these disciplines. This dialogue will also contribute to an understanding of the different theories and methods employed by these disciplines.

Profile

The main perspectives of the programme focus on different aspects of the global and social characters and contexts of religion. The profile of the Master's programme can be summarized in the following way:

- The programme is based on religious studies/Christian theology. It views the activities of religious organizations and institutions both as sources of conflicts and as potential resources for peace making. The programme uses instruments from religious concepts of conflict measurement, reconciliation and peace work.
- The study is also based on the social sciences. The Master's degree is built on a common basis of obligatory courses and electives as fundamentals for both a study within the sociology of religion and a globally oriented study.

The programme is interreligious in its orientation. In the requirements for admission the study presupposes insights into one or more of the world religions and basic competence within religious studies. The study gives insight into different faith positions and into intercultural communication.

Individual study profile

Each student may profile her or his study programme by choosing elective courses and the topic of the thesis. The programme allows for relevant electives on the same level from other universities or colleges in Norway or abroad.

Internationalization

The programme Master of Religion, Society and Global Issues is an international Master's programme based on lectures held in English and literature published in English. It is possible for students to write their thesis and other works in Norwegian. The study focuses on the importance of globalization and internationalization in contemporary society, and it attempts to integrate the different subjects in a multicultural perspective. The programme also intends to provide the opportunity to study abroad part of the time.

Structure

The Programme Master of Religion, Society and Global Issues consists of 120 ECTS, including a thesis worth 50

ECTS. The study programme is built on different courses and the independent work on the Master's thesis. Each course consists of 10 ECTS. For each course, learning outcomes and competences are formulated emphasising the students' insights into central scientific problems. The competence aims are formulated independently for each subject. The learning outcomes are formulated on three levels; ability to basic, ability and good ability. The work to fulfil these learning outcomes will contribute to reaching the competence aims, and is the basis for evaluation. (Cf. Organisering, arbeidsformer og vurdering under, og emnebeskrivelsene samt vedlegget med Nivåspesifikke vurderingskriterier på 500-/600-nivå).

The objectives of the study will be fulfilled through courses on a Master's level, 70 ECTS, including a compulsory course in scientific methods (10 ECTS). The students will write a thesis worth 50 ECTS.

Courses

The following courses are compulsory in the study programme:

Religion in the Public Sphere (10 ECTS)

Religion, Culture and Global Issues (10 ECTS)

Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation (10 ECTS)

Scientific Methods (10 ECTS)

In addition, the students will choose between 3 elective courses (30 ECTS) from the following courses on a Master's level:

Religion and Migration

Religion and Gender

Human Rights and Religion

Environmental Issues

International Diaconia and Development

Intercultural Dialogue

Christian Churches and Theologies in the South

Islam

Or other relevant subjects on a Master's level from other study programs.



The Structure of the Study Programme (curriculum)

Normally, the students are expected to follow this curriculum (read from below):

10. sem	Thesis (50 ECTS)		
9. sem			Scientific Methods (10 ECTS)
8. sem	Elective (10 ECTS)	Elective (10 ECTS)	Elective (10 ECTS)
7. sem	Religion in the Public Sphere (10 ECTS)	Religion, Culture and Global Issues (10 ECTS)	Religion, Conflict and Reconciliation (10 ECTS)

Progression

The study is divided into two levels: obligatory courses within the study programme (500-level), and elective courses (600-level).

Learning and Teaching Methods

MF Norwegian School of Theology offers lectures and seminars taught in English. The students are expected to be present in the classes that are set up for the master programme. They are encouraged to form informal study groups among themselves. Contracted tuition and supervision is provided over the two last terms during the writing of the thesis.

Assessment methods

Courses can have a variety of course work/assignments (Book reports, essays, seminar presentations) which are to be completed during the lectures/seminars. At the end of the course there is final assessment (written examination, thesis and oral examination).

POSTAL ADRESSE

Det teologiske Menighetsfakultet
Pb 5144 Majorstuen
N-0302 OSLO

VISITING ADRESSE

Gydas vei 4, Majorstuen
Oslo

PHONE

T: +47 22 59 05 00
F: +47 22 59 05 05

E-MAIL

post@mf.no

www.mf.no

