

# Education plan

for

**Master's Programme in the History of Religions**  
**Masterprogram i religionshistoria**

**120.0 Higher Education**  
**Credits**  
**120.0 ECTS credits**

<b>Programme code:</b>	H1RHO
<b>Valid from:</b>	Autumn 2022
<b>Date of approval:</b>	2022-02-08
<b>Department:</b>	Department of Ethnology, History of Religions and Gender Studies

## Decision

This general syllabus was adopted by the Faculty Board of Humanities on 2022-02-08.

## Prerequisites and special admittance requirements

Degree of Bachelor of at least 180 credits in humanities or equivalent in social anthropology or human geography, including an independent project of at least 15 credits. English B/English 6 or equivalent.

## Programme structure

The Master's Programme in the History of Religions offers students the opportunity to deepen and expand their understanding of the formation, transformation, and impact of religious traditions on contemporary and historical societies and cultures. This deepened understanding is on the one hand effected through detailed, empirical studies on diverse examples of religious traditions, through advanced study on current academic discussions in the methods and theory of the study of religion, and through studying the relevant discussions on the history of the academic study of religion. Ultimately, the programme aims towards a historically and ethnographically grounded analysis of the social dimensions of religions, but also towards a deepened ability to interpret aesthetically, emotionally and intellectually challenging instantiations of the basis of human existence. Within the programme, the student is given the opportunity to specialization in historical-philological and ethnological-anthropological perspectives. Through its wide empirical, theoretical, and methodological foundation, the programme offers a solid grounding for further academic studies in the humanities and social sciences, and further offers advanced general analytical skills for a career outside of academia. Added to the trained skills in assembling, presenting, and critically analyzing large amounts of information, the programme further offers a substantial orientation in the religious plurality of the world. As such, the programme prepares students for works in research, education, foreign aid, media- and communication, assessments, diplomacy and museums. The programme qualifies students for studies at the doctoral level in the History of Religions.

The programme comprises of a total of four semesters of full-time study and includes both obligatory and optional courses. It is possible to finish the programme with a Degree of Master (60 credits). For full-time studies that ends with a Degree of Master (60 credits) the student follows the program for one year, and for Degree of Master (120 credits) the total study time is two years full-time. The first semester of the program comprises of the same set of courses, regardless of the student aims for the one or the two year program, and it is thus possible to commence the studies without having decided which degree to finish the program with.

For Degree of Master (60 credits), a minimum of 45 credits (including the thesis) must be taken in the main field of study of the History of Religions. For Degree of Master (120 credits), a minimum of 75 credits (including the thesis) must be taken in the main field of study of the History of Religions. Besides the

mandatory courses, the student is offered the opportunity to specialize through optional courses in other fields of study. The amount of available slots for optional courses is increased for those who follow the programme for the full two years. All given courses, besides the theses, comprises of 7,5 credits and are studied at a 50 % pace, where two courses are taken concurrently.

The language of instruction is English.

## **Goals**

### **Degree of Master (60 credits)**

#### Knowledge and understanding

The student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both an overview of the field and specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

#### Competence and skills

The student shall

- demonstrate the ability to integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues autonomously as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing to report clearly and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or employment in some other qualified capacity.

#### Judgement and approach

The student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development work
- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

### **Degree of Master (120 credits)**

#### Knowledge and understanding

The student shall

- demonstrate knowledge and understanding in the main field of study, including both broad knowledge of the field and a considerable degree of specialised knowledge in certain areas of the field as well as insight into current research and development work, and
- demonstrate specialised methodological knowledge in the main field of study.

#### Competence and skills

The student shall

- demonstrate the ability to critically and systematically integrate knowledge and analyse, assess and deal with complex phenomena, issues and situations even with limited information
- demonstrate the ability to identify and formulate issues critically, autonomously and creatively as well as to plan and, using appropriate methods, undertake advanced tasks within predetermined time frames and so contribute to the formation of knowledge as well as the ability to evaluate this work
- demonstrate the ability in speech and writing both nationally and internationally to clearly report and discuss his or her conclusions and the knowledge and arguments on which they are based in dialogue with different audiences, and
- demonstrate the skills required for participation in research and development work or autonomous employment in some other qualified capacity.

#### Judgement and approach

The student shall

- demonstrate the ability to make assessments in the main field of study informed by relevant disciplinary, social and ethical issues and also to demonstrate awareness of ethical aspects of research and development

work

- demonstrate insight into the possibilities and limitations of research, its role in society and the responsibility of the individual for how it is used, and
- demonstrate the ability to identify the personal need for further knowledge and take responsibility for his or her ongoing learning.

## **Courses**

### **Study route and obligatory courses**

#### **Semester 1**

Scientific Methods and Research Ethics, 7,5 credits, (main field of study Philosophy)

Theory and Method in History of Religions I, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

and

Specialization in Global History of Religions - historical-philological perspectives I, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

or

Specialization in Global History of Religions - ethnological-anthropological perspectives I, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

and

Specialization in Global History of Religions - historical-philological perspectives II, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

or

Specialization in Global History of Religions - ethnological-anthropological perspectives II, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

#### **Semester 2**

Thematic Study I, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

Other course 7,5 credits

and

History of Religions - Master's (60 credits) Course, 15 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

or

Other courses 15 credits

#### **Semester 3**

English for Academic Research, 7,5 credits, (main field of study English)

Theory and Method in History of Religions II, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

Other course 7,5 credits

Thematic Study II, 7,5 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

#### **Semester 4**

History of Religions - Master's (120 credits) Course, 30 credits, (main field of study History of Religions)

For detailed entry requirements, please refer to the syllabus for each course.

Other courses will be announced at [www.hum.su.se/kursutbud](http://www.hum.su.se/kursutbud) no later than 15 September/15 March.

The combined total of first-cycle courses may not exceed 7,5 credits (Degree of Master, 60 credits) or 15 credits (Degree of Master, 120 credits).

## **Degree**

The programme leads to a Degree of Master (120 credits) in the History of Religions, with the option to finish with a Degree of Master (60 credits) in the History of Religions.

**Misc**

When the programme is discontinued, students have the right to complete their studies in accordance with this syllabus within an additional period of two years after the nominal duration of the programme. This is subject to the restrictions specified in the syllabi for the courses included in the programme; alternatively, equivalent training will be offered.