

DIPLOMA IN BIBLICAL GEOGRAPHY & HISTORY

The Word of God is the soul of Theology. In the context of increased focus on the study of the Bible and the formation of Bible-study groups and *Lectio-Divina* groups in parishes and other settings, there is demand in the Church for trained facilitators and leaders. While the church has need of trained personnel for teaching the scriptures, even fewer people are able to bring the knowledge of the geography and history of the Holy Land to enliven the study of the Word of God. The Holy Land with its history and geography forms the fifth gospel that throws much light especially on the understanding of the four Gospels and the Old and New Testaments. Well-trained personnel will be able to explain to the faithful, the *Sitz im Leben* of the Old and New Testaments, particularly that of the incarnation, passion, crucifixion and resurrection of Jesus Christ, as well as the beginnings of the apostolic church. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims frequent the Holy Land each year, and there is a deep-felt need for trained spiritual leaders who can enlighten and make these pilgrimages true occasions of obtaining deep knowledge of the history of our salvation. Given the demand for experts who can provide a more tangible explanation of the scriptures with the aid of the geography and history of the Holy Land, the Salesian Pontifical University's Faculty of Theology in the Jerusalem Campus offers a Diploma in Biblical Geography and History.

Objectives:

The Diploma aims to provide the students:

- Adequate knowledge of Inspiration and Canon of the Scriptures
- Proficiency in the Books of the Old Testament
- Proficiency in the Books of the New Testament
- Exegesis of the Four Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles
- Competence in the Biblical Languages (Hebrew / Greek)
- Experiential knowledge of the Biblical Geography
- Expertise in Biblical History
- Didactical methods to lead Bible-study groups, seminars and workshops

Admission Requirements:

- Any three-year graduate degree
- Submission of an application in the time prescribed
- Certification of courses completed
- Recommendation of the Parish Priest/religious superior
- Personal interview

Curriculum:

Total of 60 ECTS (equivalent to 1500 hours of work)

Lectures, Conferences, Guided study, Assignments = 36 ECTS

Guided field trips + reports = 14

Projects = 5 ECTS

Final Evaluation = 5 ECTS

Courses

1. Introduction to the Bible = 5 ECTS
2. Gospels and Acts = 3 ECTS
3. Pauline and Apostolic letters = 3 ECTS
4. Old Testament Books = 3 ECTS
5. Christology = 3 ECTS
6. Biblical Language (Greek or Hebrew) = 3 ECTS
7. Biblical Geography = 4 ECTS
8. Biblical History = 4 ECTS
9. Biblical, Christian Archaeology = 2 ECTS
10. History of the Church in the Middle East = 3 ECTS
11. Workshop on Didactical Methods of teaching Bible = 3 ECTS

Duration:

1 year intensive

4 years (for those attending the Bachelor Degree in Theology at the STS)

Costs:

500/- Euros plus actual cost of travel for field trips

STS candidates for the Bachelor degree may avail a 40% discount

Staff:

Teaching staff:

BALLA Matteo, *sdb*, SThL

CAPUTA Giovanni, *sdb*, PhD, SThD

COUTINHO Mathew, *sdb*, MPh, M.Bioethics, ADPSc, SThD

GIANAZZA Pier Giorgio, *sdb*, SThD, PhL

GOH Lionel, *ofm*, SThD

JOHN BOSCO Vincent Raj, *sdb*, SThL

KULPA Karol, *sdb*, SSL

KUNCHERAKATT Stephen, *sdb*, SThD

MAROUN Khalil, *cm*, DEA, PhD

MICHAEL Biju, *sdb*, MA, MPh, PGDHRM, M. Bioethics, SThD

NEUHAUS David, *sj*, SSL, PhD

RUSSELL William, *m.afr.*, SThD

SSAKAMATTE, Aloysius, *m.afr.*, SThL

TOCZYSKI Andrzej, *sdb*, SSL, PhD
VERNET Joan Maria, *sdb*, SThD, SSL
VONCK Leopold, *m.afr*, SSL, SThD
WANJALA Moses, *sdb*, SThL
WONG, Andrew, *sdb*, SThL
WYCKOFF Eric John, *sdb*, DMin, SSL
ZELAZKO, Piotr, *dio.*, SSD

Teaching Coordinator: Rev. Dr TOCZYSKI Andrzej, *sdb*

Secretary: Rev. Sr. Angela RIDOUT, *sja* (Registrar)

Director: Rev. Dr. Biju MICHAEL, *sdb* (President/Principal)

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