

DIPLOMA IN INTERRELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND ECUMENISM

Proposal and Motivations

Restoration of unity among all humanity, which has one origin, one goal and end in God, whose providence all enjoy, was considered by the Second Vatican Council to be an important task of the Church when it called all her sons and daughters to engage in dialogue and collaboration with the followers of other religions (cf. *Nostra aetate*, 1).

In the same line of thought, restoration of unity among all Christians was considered to be one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council (cf. *Unitatis redintegratio*, 1). In its report on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the Conciliar Decree on Ecumenism, the Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity pointed out the urgent need for the ecumenical education of the laity, religious, seminarians, priests and bishops, and the need for inserting ecumenical initiatives in the organic pastoral programmes of dioceses.

Given the need for trained personnel in the Church to engage in interreligious and ecumenical dialogue, the proposed Diploma aims to educate seminarians, laity and religious to equip themselves with knowledge and skills to lead such initiatives in parishes and dioceses. Jerusalem, which is a spiritual centre for all three major monotheistic religions and the city where within a few kilometres one is able to enter into and pray with the various Churches and to meet with people of many Christian Churches, is uniquely placed for educating personnel in this field.

The STS is centrally placed in Jerusalem and already is involved in specialized education through conferences and lived experiences with the religions and the Churches. The group of international students of the Baccalaureate programme spend four years in this city and this Diploma in Interreligious Dialogue and Ecumenism will qualify and prepare them to offer the extra animation in interreligious and ecumenical initiatives around the world.

Formative Objectives

The Diploma envisages enabling and equipping graduates of Theology with a deeper capacity to engage in interreligious dialogue and ecumenical relations. The Diploma will add to the knowledge of Christian Theology, an in-depth knowledge of the other two monotheistic religions, namely, Judaism and Islam. The Diploma will also instruct regarding the various Churches and Communities in the Holy Land. Specifically, the Diploma will equip the student with:

- Adequate knowledge of the Catholic Church's Ecclesiology and its teachings on interreligious dialogue and ecumenical efforts
- Adequate knowledge of Judaism
- Adequate knowledge of Islam
- Adequate knowledge of the Eastern and Oriental Churches
- Adequate knowledge of Eastern Spirituality
- Adequate knowledge of the History of the Churches
- Experiential knowledge of some Holy sites of Judaism and Islam
- Lived experience of participating in the prayer traditions of Jews and Muslims
- Lived experience of participating in the prayer traditions of other various Christian Churches and Communities
- Experience of meeting and dialoguing with leaders of various Christian Churches and Communities

Target Group

This Diploma is planned for students of the 1st cycle of Theology who are completing their Bachelor Degree in four years.

Conditions for Admission

Any three-year graduate degree plus registration and attendance in a Bachelor Degree programme in Theology will be the minimum requirement.

Students who have completed a Bachelor Degree in Theology could also obtain this Diploma in a duration of three years over which the curriculum is planned.

Guest participants who do not have a formal degree but are interested could be admitted to the programme. These guest participants will not be awarded the Pontifical Diploma, but would be given a Certificate of Completion of Course by the Director of the programme.

The minimum number of participants for activating the Diploma course would be 15 and the maximum would be 50.

The candidates must submit an application in the time prescribed, along with certification of admission requirements. They should present a recommendation from the Parish Priest or from the Religious Superior. A personal interview will precede admission.

Curriculum

The Diploma will include lectures, guided study with assignments, group experiences and reports, conferences, workshops, and projects, adding up to 60 ECTS, equivalent to 1500 hours of work:

26 ECTS Lectures

9 ECTS Conferences, Workshops and Seminars

6 ECTS of Guided Study

15 ECTS Guided Experiences and Reports

4 ECTS Final Written Project Proposal for an Interreligious or Ecumenical Initiative

The Director of the Diploma will study the possibility of recognizing credits acquired (up to a maximum of 25) from well-known Theological Institutes or Institutes of Religious Studies.

Courses

The Diploma will have four modules. The first module will focus on the Catholic Church's Theology of Religions, Ecclesiology, Interreligious, and Ecumenical teaching. This module will have 17 ECTS. The three remaining modules will be focused on Judaism, Islam and the Christian Churches respectively. These modules will each have 3 ECTS of lectures, 2 ECTS of guided study, 3 ECTS of conferences, workshops and seminars, and 5 ECTS of guided experiences and reports. 4 ECTS will be assigned to the final assignment.

1st Module = 17 ECTS

Ecclesiology = 6 ECTS

Ecumenism = 3 ECTS

Theology of Religions and Missiology = 5 ECTS

Catechetics = 3 ECTS

2nd Module = 13 ECTS

Lectures on Judaism = 3 ECTS

Guided study on Judaism = 2 ECTS

Conferences, workshops and seminars on Judaism = 3 ECTS

Guided experiences of Judaism (places and prayer) and reports = 5 ECTS

3rd Module = 13 ECTS

Lectures on Islam = 3 ECTS

Guided study on Islam = 2 ECTS

Conferences, workshops and seminars on Islam = 3 ECTS

Guided experiences of Islam (places and prayer) and reports = 5 ECTS

4th Module = 13 ECTS

Lectures on History of the Churches = 3 ECTS

Guided study on the History of Eastern and Oriental Churches = 2 ECTS

Conferences, workshops and seminars on Eastern and Oriental Churches = 3 ECTS

Guided experiences of Eastern and Oriental Churches (places and prayer) and reports = 5 ECTS

Final written project proposal for an Interreligious or Ecumenical Initiative = 4 ECTS

Duration and Attendance

The Diploma could be earned in three years.

At least two-thirds attendance is required in all courses.

The courses will be offered during a three-year cycle in two semesters each (1st semester = September-December and 2nd semester = February-June) at the *Studium Theologicum Salesianum*, the Jerusalem Campus of the Faculty of Theology of the Salesian Pontifical University, 26, Shmuel Hanagid, Jerusalem 9107202, Israel.

Evaluation

An evaluation will be held at the end of each module and its activities. The final evaluation will be held after the successful completion of all four modules.

The final evaluation, which consists of a project elaboration written under the guidance of a tutor and evaluated by him, should have a minimum of 15 pages, and a maximum of 25 pages (not counting the bibliography).

Costs

The complete cost of the Diploma will be 500 Euros. Students of the STS can request and obtain a 40% discount.

Staff

Director: Rev. Dr. Gustavo Cavagnari (President of the STS)

Teaching Coordinator: Rev. Dr. William Russell

Scientific Commission: Rev. Dr. Gustavo Cavagnari, Rev. Dr. William Russell, Rev. Vincent John Bosco

Secretary: Rev. Sr. Angela Ridout (Registrar)

Teachers

Catechetics = 3 ECTS	Gustavo Cavagnari
Conferences, workshops and seminars on Eastern and Oriental Churches = 3 ECTS	Pier Giorgio Gianazza
Conferences, workshops and seminars on Islam = 3 ECTS	Invited experts
Conferences, workshops and seminars on Judaism = 3 ECTS	Invited experts
Conferences, workshops and seminars on Eastern and Oriental Churches and other Christian Communities = 3 ECTS	Invited experts
Ecclesiology = 6 ECTS	Pier Giorgio Gianazza Vincent John Bosco William Russell
Ecumenism = 3 ECTS	Franz Bouwen Vincent John Bosco William Russell
Final written project proposal for an Interreligious or Ecumenical Initiative = 4 ECTS	Commission of 2 professors
Guided experience of Islam (places and prayer) = 5 ECTS	Andrzej Toczyski Gustavo Cavagnari
Guided experience of Judaism (places and prayer) = 5 ECTS	Andrzej Toczyski Gustavo Cavagnari
Guided experience of Eastern and Oriental Churches and other Christian Communities (places and prayer) = 5 ECTS	Andrzej Toczyski Gustavo Cavagnari
Guided study of Islam = 2 ECTS	Pier Giorgio Gianazza Vincent John Bosco
Guided study of Judaism = 2 ECTS	David Neuhaus Marcie Lenk
Guided study on the History of Eastern and Oriental Churches and other Christian Communities = 2 ECTS	Pier Giorgio Gianazza William Russell
Islam = 3 ECTS	Pier Giorgio Gianazza Vincent John Bosco
Judaism = 3 ECTS	David Neuhaus Marcie Lenk Piotr Zelazko
Theology of Religions and Missiology = 5 ECTS	Bishop Michael Fitzgerald Paul Vadakumpadan

Equivalent Course List

Diploma Courses		
RA0312	Theology of Religions and Missiology	5 ECTS
RA0351	Lectures on Judaism	3 ECTS
RA0356	Lectures on Islam	3 ECTS
RA0852	Lectures on the History of the Churches	3 ECTS

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Baccalaureate Courses		
RA0302	Missiology	3 ECTS
RA0312	Theology of Religions	5 ECTS
RA303	Introduction to Judaism	3 ECTS
RA0304	Introduction to Islam	3 ECTS
RA0305	Studies on Islam 1	3 ECTS
RA0309	Studies on Islam 2	3 ECTS
RA0805	Church History 3	5 ECTS