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Faculty of Theology:

Following the resolution of the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology on 27.01.2016 and the opinion of the Senate on 03.09.2016, the Presidential Board of the Georg-August-Universität Göttingen approved on 15.03.2016 the Examination and study regulations for the consecutive Master's degree programme „Intercultural Theology“ (§ 44 section 1 sentence 2 NHG (Lower Saxony Higher Education Act) in the version of the announcement on 26.02.2007 (Nds. GVBl. (Lower Saxony Law and Official Gazette) p. 69), last amended by Article 1 of the Act of 15.12.2015 (Nds. GVBl. (Lower Saxony Law and Official Gazette) p. 384); § 41 section 2 sentence 2 NHG; §§ 37 section 1 sentence 3 no. 5 letter b), 44 section 1 sentence 3 NHG).

**Examination and study regulations
for the consecutive Master's degree programme „Intercultural Theology“
of the University of Göttingen**

§ 1 Scope

(1) The provisions of the "General Examination Regulations for Bachelor's and Master's Programmes and Other Study Programmes at the University of Göttingen" (APO) in their respective valid version apply to the Master's degree programme „Intercultural Theology“.

(2) These regulations govern the further provisions for the completion of the Master's degree programme „Intercultural Theology“.

**§ 2 Aims of the study programme and professional fields; objectives of the examinations;
academic degree**

(1) ¹The goal of the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" is to enable graduates to do in-depth, scholarly work in intercultural contexts of theology. ²In accordance with this goal, the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" provides students with knowledge of theology, ecumenism and mission in different cultural contexts and trains the ability to engage in dialogue between different international cultural expressions of Christian theology as well as interreligious mediation competence within one culture (or several cultures). ³The degree programme qualifies students for professional activities that address theology in an intercultural way and make it fruitful by imparting subject-specific knowledge and methodological-analytical skills relevant to the professional field, and forms the basis for further studies in doctoral programmes.

(2) ¹The Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" enables students to more closely to reflect theologically,

- a. the intercultural character of the Christian message,
- b. the communication of the Christian message in different cultural contexts, and
- c. on the interactions of Christians with people of other faiths and worldviews, and

and to analyze the transformation processes associated with such encounters, taking into account their social, political and economic conditions. ²The Master's degree programme qualifies students for independent subject-specific and interdisciplinary scientific work and for the application of scientific knowledge in the field of intercultural exchange in theology, ecumenism and mission.

(3) ¹The degree programme makes the international horizon of intercultural theology fruitful by

- a. bringing together students from German or European contexts with those from non-European contexts, especially from the southern hemisphere,
- b. involving visiting scholars from these same contexts,
- c. supports dialogue using methods of digital teaching and learning,
- d. promotes the biographical-professional self-reflection of students in the course of their intercultural-theological education.

²In this respect, the intercultural course of study also promotes students with regard to their personality development and their ability to engage in civil society.

(4) The study of "Intercultural Theology" prepares students for work in mission and ecumenical organisations and in churches in Germany and partner churches abroad, as well as for work in church world alliances, non-governmental organisations, media, institutions of further education (adult education) and in academic institutions.

(5) The examinations during the Master's degree programme determine whether the student has acquired the specialised knowledge and competencies necessary for the study objectives, has an overview of the relevant specialised contexts, and has the ability to work according to scientific principles, to communicate research findings, and to reflect on and evaluate acquired knowledge with regard to application contexts.

(6) Upon successful completion of the master's examination, the university shall award the university degree "Master of Arts", abbreviated as "M.A.".

§ 3 Structure of the study programme; Standard period of study

(1) The programme begins in the winter semester.

(2) The standard period of study is 4 semesters.

(3) ¹The degree programme is conducted by the Faculty of Theology of the Georg-August-Universität in close cooperation with the University of Applied Sciences for Intercultural Theology (FIT) Hermannsburg. ²Courses offered take place both in Göttingen and in Hermannsburg. ³It is possible and recommended to take up residence on the campus of the FIT and to form a study community. ⁴The libraries of FIT as well as of the Foundation University are available for the entire duration of the study programme. ⁵On the basis of these examination and study regulations, the participating universities shall provide a range of courses that enables students to complete their studies, including all examinations, within the standard period of study; this does not apply to every possible course of study.

(4) ¹The degree programme comprises 120 credits (ECTS credits; abbreviated: C), which are distributed as follows:

- a. on the core subject studies 88 C,
- b. on the professionalisation area (key competencies) 12 C and
- c. on the Master thesis 20 C.

²The compulsory and compulsory elective modules are specified in a binding manner in the overview of modules (appendix I). ³For recommendation on the appropriate structure of the course of studies, please refer to the sample curricula enclosed in appendix II. ⁴The list of modules is published separately; it is part of these regulations insofar as the modules are listed in the overview of modules (appendix I).

(5) All courses and examinations offered in the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" are taught in English.

(6) ¹The third semester of the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology", in which, among other things, the module "Cross-Culture III" (M.IntTheol.11) must be taken, is carried out in the form of a project. ²The students develop a suitable problem with reference to their own main areas of study and interest, either from a research or application-oriented perspective, and carry out the project independently in a procedure agreed upon with a supervisor; the supervisor is to be chosen from among the teachers involved in the course of study. ³In doing so, links should be established with the thematic, methodological or regional focal points of the other modules of the degree programme. ⁴The form of independent development and elaboration of a more extensive and complex problem also serves as preparation for the later writing of the Master thesis. ⁵The project is dedicated to the structured analysis of an exemplary situational context and the elaboration of the religious or denominational and theological backgrounds and, in addition, the institutional contexts within the socio-cultural and socio-political framework. ⁶In particular, the intercultural and interreligious specifics are to be worked out against the background of the knowledge of religious studies and history acquired in the previous studies, whereby special attention is to be paid to the reflection of the difference between theory formation and concrete situational requirements. ⁷The project should be integrated into existing projects or be related to

current problems on site. ⁸It is particularly desirable that the project generates added value for intercultural work on site.

(7) ¹The third semester may also be spent at one of the partner universities and institutions of FIT or the foundation university. ²These are in particular:

- a. Gurukul Lutheran Theological College and Research Institute, Chennai, India,
- b. Karnataka Theological College, Mangalore, India,
- c. St. Ephrem Ecumenical Research Institute (SEERI), Kottayam Kerala, India,
- d. Orthodox Theological Seminary, Kottayam Kerala, India,
- e. University of Pune, India,
- f. Mekane Yesus Theological Seminary, Adis Ababa, Ethiopia,
- g. Ethiopian Graduate School of Theology, Adis Ababa, Ethiopia,
- h. The Graduate School of Theology, Ewha Womans University, Seoul, Korea,
- i. Osaka University, Osaka, Japan,
- j. Trinity Theological Seminary, Legon, Ghana,
- k. Near Eastern School of Theology, Beirut, Lebanon,
- l. Yerevan State University, Faculty of Theology, Yerevan, Armenia,
- m. University of Tartu, Estonia,
- n. Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Indonesia Bagian Timur Makassar (STT INTIM MAKASSAR), Indonesia,
- o. Tumaini University, Iringa University College, Tanzania,
- p. Lutheran Theological Seminary, Hong Kong, China,
- q. Belarusian State University, Saints Methodius and Cyrill Institute of Theology, Belarus.

³The choice of university or institution is made in accordance with the following provisions and takes into account, as far as possible, individual study emphases and study goals. ⁴A preparatory counseling interview is strongly recommended to all students. ⁵If more students choose one of the partner universities or institutions than there are study places available there, a selection procedure shall decide, in which the students must justify their preference in writing. ⁶The examination board shall determine the selection on the basis of the following criteria:

- a. individual study focus and study goals (max. 4 points),
- b. professional perspectives, internship (max. 4 points),
- c. personal reasons (max. 4 points).

⁷If there is a tie in rank, the average grade of the examination results achieved up to the time of application will be decisive; if there is still a tie, the decision will be made by drawing lots. ⁸During the semester at a partner university or institution, students complete the modules "Theology in Context" (M.IntTheol.10), "Cross-Culture III" (M.IntTheol.11) and parts of the module "Professional Perspectives in Intercultural Theology" (M.IntTheol.15).

(8) The degree programme is not suitable for part-time study.

§ 4 Professionalisation area

(1) ¹Students take the module "Language Instruction Course German" (M.IntTheol.04) and at least one of the offered elective modules in the professionalisation area. ²Students who are already proficient in German at an appropriate level can acquire 6 C in one of the other modules, e.g. in the elective module M.IntTheol.14 or in M.IntTheol.06 "Language Instruction Course". ³The range of elective modules allows students to choose from at least two options each.

(2) Unless otherwise specified, the elective compulsory modules take place as block courses at the University of Göttingen.

§ 5 Subject-specific types of examination

(1) In addition to the examinations permitted under the provisions of the APO, the following subject-specific examinations may be scheduled: Portfolio, evaluation report and essay.

(2) ¹A portfolio is a compilation of various achievements defined with regard to the learning objectives/competencies of courses. ²It contains the reflection of one's own learning process with regard to theoretical, methodological and application-related issues. ³The scope of a portfolio comprises a maximum of 20 pages.

(3) ¹An evaluation report is a written account of the course, result and supervision of a practical project. ²Its length amounts to a maximum of 15 pages.

(4) ¹An essay serves the independent critical reflection of central objects as well as the comprehension of the structure and argumentation of primary and secondary literature. ²Students choose the topic independently in consultation with the lecturers. ³An essay should comprise a maximum of 10 pages.

§ 6 Admission to the Master thesis

(1) As a prerequisite for admission to the Master thesis, modules totaling at least 72 C must have been passed.

(2) ¹Application for admission to the Master thesis must be made in writing to the responsible examination committee. ²The following documents must be enclosed:

- a. Evidence of fulfillment of the requirements mentioned in section 1,
- b. the proposed topic for the Master thesis,
- c. a proposal for the first supervisor and the second supervisor,
- d. a written confirmation of the first supervisor and the second supervisor, and
- e. a declaration that the master's examination in the same or a comparable Master's degree programme at a university in Germany or abroad has not been definitively failed or is considered definitively failed.

³The proposals according to sentence 2 letters b and c as well as the proof according to sentence 2 letter d are dispensable if the student assures that he or she has not found any supervisors. ⁴In this case, the responsible examination board shall appoint supervisors and determine the topic of the Master thesis. ⁵The candidate must be heard on the choice of topic. ⁶The right to propose a topic does not constitute a legal claim.

(3) ¹The examination board decides on admission. ²Admission shall be denied if the admission requirements are not met or if the master's examination in the same or a comparable Master's degree programme at a university in Germany or abroad has been definitively failed or is considered definitively failed.

§ 7 Master thesis

(1) ¹By means of the written Master thesis, the candidate shall prove that he or she is able to work on a problem within the specified period of time using the methods of his or her field, to develop an independent, academically founded judgment, to arrive at academically founded statements, and to present the results appropriately in terms of language and form. ²By passing the Master thesis, 20 C are acquired.

(2) ¹The preliminary topic of the Master thesis is to be agreed upon with the first supervisor to be proposed and submitted to the responsible examination board with a confirmation of the second supervisor to be proposed. ²The topic of the Master thesis shall be issued by the examination board, which shall establish rules of procedure for this purpose. ³The date of issue is to be recorded.

(3) ¹The time required to complete the Master thesis is 20 weeks. ²Upon application by the candidate, the responsible examination board may, in agreement with the supervisor, extend the processing time by a maximum of 6 weeks if there is an important reason that cannot be attributed to the candidate. ³An important reason is usually an illness, which must be reported immediately and documented by a medical certificate.

(4) ¹The topic can only be returned once and only within the first 4 weeks of the processing time. ²A new topic must be agreed upon immediately, but at the latest within 4 weeks at the latest. ³In the case of a repetition of the Master thesis, the return of the topic according to sentence 1 is only permitted if the person to be examined had not made use of this possibility in the first examination attempt.

(5) The Master thesis must be written in English.

(6) ¹The Master thesis must be submitted in duplicate to the responsible examination office by the deadline; a supplementary version must be submitted in text form in the format of a commonly used word processing program or in PDF format (unprotected) and an assurance must be given that the written version and the supplementary version submitted are identical. ²The time of submission is

to be recorded on file. ³When submitting the thesis, the candidate must assure in writing that he or she has written the thesis independently and has not used any sources or aids other than those specified.

(7) ¹The responsible examination office forwards the Master thesis to the first supervisor and the second supervisor as reviewers. ²Each reviewer assigns a grade.

(8) The duration of the evaluation procedure shall not exceed eight weeks.

(9) ¹The Master thesis may be prepared in the form of a group thesis. ²The contribution of the individual to be examined, which is to be assessed as an examination performance, must be clearly distinguishable on the basis of the specification of sections, page numbers or other objective criteria and must meet the requirements according to section 1.

§ 8 Retaking examinations to improve grades

A repetition of passed examinations for the purpose of grade improvement is excluded; the provision of § 16 a section 3 sentence 2 APO remains unaffected.

§ 9 Examination boards

(1) ¹The examination board shall consist of five members appointed by the respective group representatives in the Faculty Council of the Faculty of Theology, namely three members of the university teachers' group, one member of the staff group and one member of the students' group. ²An additional deputy shall be appointed from each group.

(2) The examination board shall elect a chairperson and a deputy chairperson from the group of university teachers.

§ 10 Overall result

(1) The master's examination is passed if at least 120 C have been acquired and all required module examinations and the Master thesis have been passed.

(2) The overall result "With distinction" is awarded if the Master thesis has been assessed with 1.0 and the grade point average of all examination performances is at least 1.5.

§ 11 Student Advisory Service

(1) Academic advising is provided by the lecturers involved in the degree programme, and advising in examination matters is provided by the Dean of Studies of the Faculty of Theology.

(2) The University's Central Student Advisory Service is responsible for general academic advising, especially for inter-faculty issues.

(3) Students should seek academic advising especially in the following cases:

- after failing examinations twice,
- in the case of deviations from the standard period of study,
- in case of a change of degree programme or university,
- before starting a semester abroad.

§ 12 Entry into force

(1) These regulations shall enter into force on 01.10.2016 following their publication in the Official Announcements I of the Georg-August Universität Göttingen.

(2) At the same time, the Examination Regulations for the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" in the version of the announcement of 14.09.2009 (Official Announcements no. 22/2009 p. 2035), last amended by resolution of the Presidential Board of 08.09.2010 (Official Announcements no. 21/2010 p. 1546), as well as the study regulations for the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" issued to supplement them in the version announced on 14.09.2009 (Official Announcements no. 22/2009 p. 2054), last amended by resolution of the Presidential Board on 08.09.2010 (Official Announcements no. 21/2010 p. 1548), shall cease to be in force.

(3) ¹Departing from section 2, students who began their studies before the present Examination and Study Regulations came into force and were continuously enrolled in the Master's degree programme "Intercultural Theology" shall be examined according to the provisions of the regulations as defined in section 2. ²In the case of examinations still to be taken, this does not apply to overviews of modules, catalogs and handbooks, unless the protection of the confidence of a student requires a different decision by the examination board. ³A deviating decision is possible in particular in cases in which an examination performance can be repeated or a compulsory or required elective module has been substantially changed or cancelled. ⁴The examination board may make general regulations in this regard. ⁵Upon application, students in accordance with sentence 1 shall be examined as a whole in accordance with the provisions of these regulations. ⁶Examinations in accordance with the provisions of the regulations within the meaning of section 2 shall be taken for the last time in the fourth semester after this amendment comes into force.

Appendix I Overview of modules for the Master's degree programme „Intercultural Theology“

1. Master's degree programme „Intercultural Theology“

At least 120 C must be earned in accordance with the following provisions.

a. Core subject studies

The following eleven compulsory modules totaling 88 C must be successfully completed:

M.IntTheol.01	„Processes of Translation, Inculturation and Intercultural Communication“	(7 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.02	„Christianity in an Intercultural Perspective“	(7 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.03	„Cross-Culture I“	(9 C / 6 WLH)
M.IntTheol.05	„Religions, Churches and Theology in Europe and the Western World“	(7 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.07	„Religions, Churches and Theology in Africa“	(8 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.08a	„Religions, Churches and Theology in Asia and the Middle East“	(8 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.09a	„Cross-Culture II“	(8 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.10	„Theology in Context“	(6 C / 4 WLH)
M.IntTheol.11	„Cross-Culture III“	(15 C / 1 WLH)
M.IntTheol.15	„Professional Perspectives in Intercultural Theology“	(8 C / 3 WLH)
M.IntTheol.16	„Research in Intercultural Theology“	(5 C / 1 WLH)

b. Area of professionalisation

Modules totaling at least 12 C must be successfully completed in accordance with the following provisions.

aa. The following compulsory module of 6 C must be successfully completed:

M.IntTheol.04	„Language Instruction Course German“	(6 C / 6 WLH)
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Insofar as students already have the knowledge of the German language imparted by the module M.IntTheol.04, another of the modules according to letters bb. or cc. must be completed instead of the module M.IntTheol.04.

bb. At least one of the following elective compulsory modules totaling 6 C must be successfully completed.

M.IntTheol.14-01	„Theories of Religion“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-02	„Concepts of Healing and Salvation in Ancient Religions (Paganism, Judaism, Christianity)“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-03	„The Early Christians in a World Full of Gods: Cultural Encounter and Religious Debate“	(6 C / 2 WLH)

M.IntTheol.14-05	„Ethical Expertise in the Horizon of Religion“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-06	„Literacy and Education in Religion“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-07	„Concepts and Theories of Religious Counselling“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-08	„Importance of Law and Legislation in Religions“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-09	„Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Europe“	(6 C / 2 WLH)

cc. One of the following modules worth 6 C may be taken as an optional additional examination:

M.IntTheol.06-01	„Introduction to Arabic Language“	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.IntTheol.06-02	„Introduction to Biblical Hebrew“	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.IntTheol.06-03	„Introduction to New Testament Greek“	(6 C / 6 WLH)
M.IntTheol.06-04	„Introduction to Latin“	(6 C / 6 WLH)

c. Master thesis

Successful completion of the Master thesis earns 20 C.

2. Courses offered in the area of key competencies

Students of other appropriate Master's degree programmes may take the following modules as part of the professionalisation area (key competencies):

M.IntTheol.14-01	„Theories of Religion“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-02	„Concepts of Healing and Salvation in Ancient Religions (Paganism, Judaism, Christianity)“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-03	„The Early Christians in a World Full of Gods: Cultural Encounter and Religious Debate“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-05	„Ethical Expertise in the Horizon of Religion“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-06	„Literacy and Education in Religion“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-07	„Concepts and Theories of Religious Counselling“	(6 C / 2 WLH)
M.IntTheol.14-08	„Importance of Law and Legislation in Religions“	(6 C / 2 WLH)

Appendix II Sample Curricula

Sem. Σ C	Core subject studies „Intercultural Theology“ (88 C)					Area of professionalisation (12 C)	
	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module	Module
1. Σ 29 C	M.IntTheol.01 „Processes of Translation, Inculturation and Intercultural Communication“ (Compulsory) 4 WLH 7 C	M.IntTheol.02 „Christianity in an Intercultural Perspective“ (Compulsory) 4 WLH 7 C	M.IntTheol.03 Cross-Culture I (Compulsory) 6 WLH 9 C			M.IntTheol.04 Language Instruction Course German (Compulsory) 6 WLH 6 C	
2. Σ 32 C (Σ 38 C)	M.IntTheol.05 „Religions, Churches and Theology in Europe and the Western World“ (Compulsory) 4 WLH 7 C	M.IntTheol.07 „Religions, Churches and Theology in Africa“ (Compulsory) 4 WLH 8 C	M.IntTheol.08a „Religions, Churches and Theology in Asia and the Middle East“ (Compulsory) 4 WLH 8 C	M.IntTheol.09a Cross-Culture II (Compulsory) 4 WLH 8 C	(1 C) M.IntTheol.15 Professional Perspectives in Intercultural Theology (Compulsory) 3 WLH 8 C		Voluntary additional examination: M.IntTheol.06 6 WLH / 4 WLH 6 C
3. Σ 28 C	M.IntTheol.10 „Theology in Context“ (Compulsory) 2 WLH 6 C	M.IntTheol.11 Cross-Culture III (Compulsory) 1 WLH 15 C			(7 C)		
4. Σ 31 C	Master thesis 20 C		M.IntTheol.16 Research in Intercultural Theology (Compulsory) 1 WLH 5 C			M.IntTheol.14 Theological elective compulsory module (Elective compulsory) 6 C	
Σ 120 C	88 C (+ 20 C)					12 C	