



# MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY

## College of Religious Studies (CRS)



### Doctor of Philosophy Program in Religious Studies (International Program)

## RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES

Religious Studies in the International Ph.D. Program at the College of Religious Studies (CRS) is the scholarly study of religion seeking to understand religion as a cultural phenomenon in strictly value free terms while at the same time appreciating believers' world views and value systems as vital components of their life experiences. Religious Studies seeks to examine and understand the structure and function of religion in its social and cultural contexts. A variety of academic disciplines – history, sociology, anthropology, psychology etc. – are used in the study of religion. This academically objective study of religion is rather unique at institutions in Southeast Asia.

CRS plans to become a center for the academic study and teaching of religion in Southeast Asia with a research and teaching focus on contemporary belief, practice, and development of Thai and Southeast Asian religion in regards to ethics, politics, the environment etc and of course in regards to personal spirituality. The International Ph.D. Program will aid students in understanding the dynamics of religious adaptation in response to modernization and globalization. It is hoped that education and research in the field of religious studies will help enhance the mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect among people of different religious traditions.

CRS produces graduates with appropriate professional ethics and work habits who are capable of understanding complex belief systems, practices and their socio-cultural context. Graduates are capable of reading and understanding religious and academic texts, conducting research, writing academic reports and papers, and serving as advisors on variety of cultural, political, economic etc issues in which religious belief forms an important part. CRS graduates can communicate and interact in different religious and cultural backgrounds as well as in the secular modern world.





## PROGRAM TO STUDY

Program calendar (18 month period)

### (Academic year I)

**First Semester :** August – December

**Core courses :**

- Foundation of Religious Studies: History and Theory
- Core Concepts in Religious Studies
- Research Methods for Religious Studies

**Second Semester:** January - May

**Required course & elective courses**

- Track 1/2/ 3: One required course
- Track 1/2/ 3: Two elective courses

**Summer Session: May – July**

**Elective courses**

- Track 1/2/3: Two elective courses
- Thesis

### (Academic year II)

**First Semester:** August – December

- Thesis

**Second Semester :** January – February

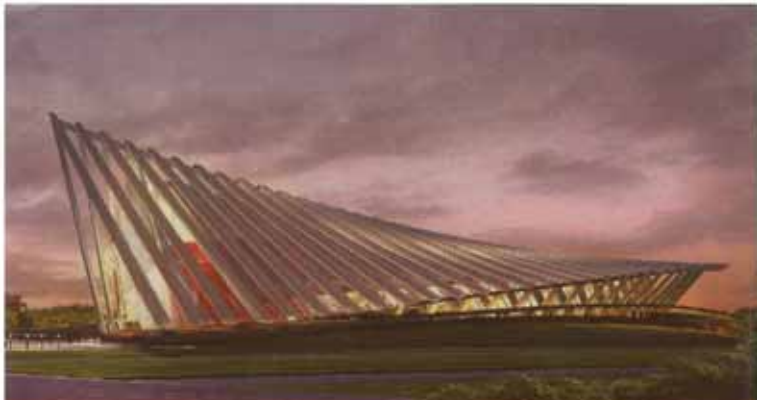
- Thesis

## SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants are advised to seek their own financial support. Some potential sources of funding include bilateral and multilateral agencies such as the United Nations, Ford Foundation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNESCO, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Bank's Graduate Scholarship Program, and etc.

## VISA REQUIREMENT

It is the responsibility of the admitted applicants to acquire a non-immigrant visa at the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate to enter Thailand for study



## TUITION, FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

Estimated tuition and fees for the entire program (18 months) is Baht 172,600.- (approx. US\$ 5,760.-) which includes: University education service fee, course registration fee for the entire program, University health insurance fee for two academic years and thesis registration fee.

In addition, recommended expenses: estimated amount of US\$ 600 for student's thesis preparation, US\$ 300 for book allowance for the entire program and US\$ 600 for monthly stipend.

## ACCOMMODATION

A variety of accommodation with facilities can be found in apartments near the campus.

Residence for Buddhist monk students can be arranged at the College monastic housing and training center.

## CONTACT ADDRESS:

Program Director  
M.A. International Program in Religious Studies,  
College of Religious Studies,  
Mahidol University,  
Salaya, Phutthamonthon,  
Nakhon Pathom 73170  
Thailand

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matthew.kos@mahidol.ac.th, miloshubina@yahoo.com,

Website: www.crs.mahidol.ac.th

## COURSES OFFERED

- Foundations of Religious Studies: History and Theories :
- Core Concepts in Religious Studies
- Research Methods for Religious Studies

### Track 1: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

#### Required course:

- Geography and History of Religion

#### Elective courses :

- Religion, Power & Politics
- Religious Ethics of War & Peace
- Religion and Healing
- Religion and Cognitive Sciences
- Religion and Science
- Theistic Traditions: Christianity, Islam and Hindu
- Women in Religious Traditions
- Independent Studies in Religious Studies

### Track 2: BUDDHISM and SOCIETY

#### Required course:

- Introduction to the Academic Study of Buddhism: History and Principles

#### Elective courses:

- Issues in Contemporary Buddhist Society
- The Buddhist Temple and Theravada Society
- Buddhism and Visual Representations
- Buddhism in Southeast Asia
- Buddhism in East Asia
- Buddhism in the West
- Thai Buddhism
- Independent Studies in Buddhist Studies

### Track 3: BUDDHISM and ISLAM

#### Required course:

- Dynamism of Inter-religious Encounters

#### Elective courses:

- Buddhist-Muslim Relations: Past and Present
- Buddhism and Islam: A Comparative Study
- Issues in Contemporary Buddhist-Muslim Relations (workshop)
- Sectarianism and Religious Reform Movements in Buddhism and Islam
- Independent Studies in Buddhism & Islam

#### Thesis

Conduct original research on the selected topic in the chosen major approved by the advisory committee, submit the completed thesis and publish research in standard journals or conference proceedings.

## APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Applicants should have at least a Bachelor's degree in sciences, social sciences, humanities or education. Applicants from non-English speaking countries are required to submit a document indicating the level of their English proficiency. Normally, A TOEFL score of no less than 500, or its equivalent, is necessary in order to keep a normal pace with the class lectures and discussions, and to manage a heavy reading load. Application for admission to the Program may be made through either of these two channels:

#### 1) Mahidol University Selection Process (for Thai applicants)

Applications must be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies.

The selection process involves a written examination and an interview. Please visit the website: [www.grad.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.grad.mahidol.ac.th) for further details and application form.

#### 2) College of Religious Studies Selection Process (for Thai and International applicants)

Applications must be submitted to the M.A International Program, College of Religious Studies. The selection process involves review of the application materials with the optional of written examination and interview. Along with a completed application form and two references, applicants must also include transcripts of their undergraduate or graduate course work and pre-proposals for their Master's theses. Completed application forms and accompanying documents must reach the program by mid - July

An application form can be downloaded from the website : [www.crs.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.crs.mahidol.ac.th)

*Only application form may be submitted through email*





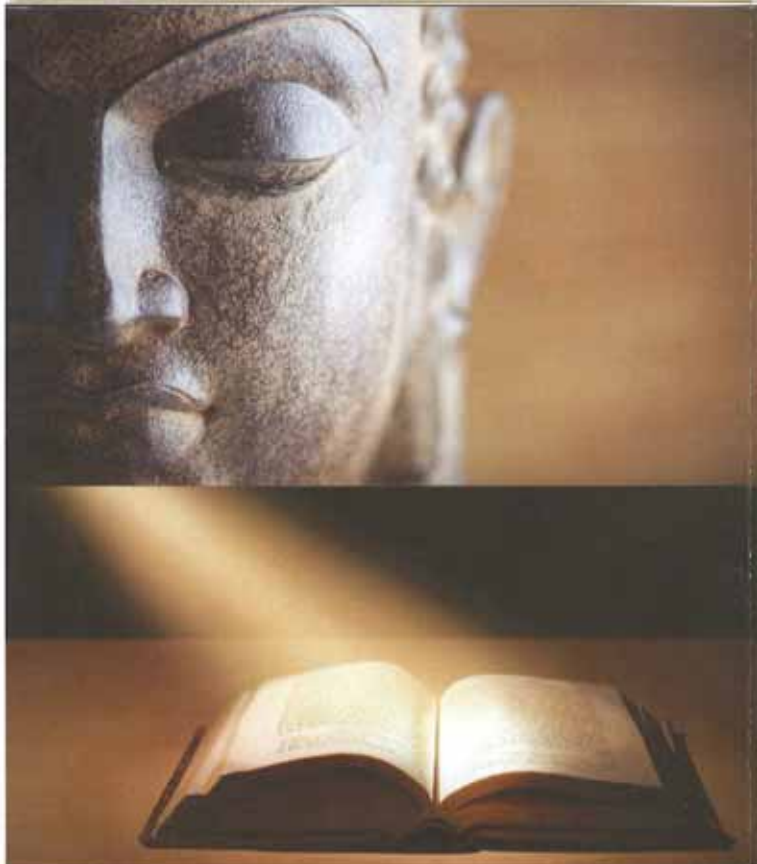
## THE COLLEGE

The College of Religious Studies was established in 1999, located at the Namthong Building, Salaya Campus of Mahidol University.

The College is currently offering Bachelor's and post graduate degrees to produce competent teachers and scholars of religion to increase the academic understanding of religion and to serve modern needs of Thailand and the wider global community. The majority of our students enter graduate or professional school either immediately after graduate or the following year. Many of them find employment in various professions.

The College has established cooperative partnerships with many agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, in the effort to contribute to the wellbeing of the people and the nation.

In addition to the University Computing Center and internet access for its staff and students, CRS provides its own computer facilities for staff and students. The College has a computer laboratory for teaching, data analysis and other needs of its staff and students. The CRS library contains over 12,000 titles of books, journals and academic materials on religions, philosophy and related subjects. The library provides training in the use of the internet to access libraries and organizations with religious and related materials throughout the country and abroad.



## THE PROGRAM

The International Master of Arts Program aims to provide students with the opportunity to concentrate their studies and research on one of three tracks: Religious Studies, Buddhism and Society, and Buddhism & Islam focusing on the academic study of religion, religious belief and practice in contemporary society, and current moral issues. The program is designed to promote an academic approach to religion in multi-cultural settings.

The curriculum extends over 18-months. The twelve months are devoted to course work in order to build a strong foundation for conducting independent research, students begin the work on their Master's theses during the rest of 6 months and the degree candidates will have to submit theses to fulfill the requirements of the program.

The program requirements include successful completion of the course work and a thesis, under the close supervision of the College's academic staff. The program requires at least 24 credits for course work (8, 3 credit courses) and 12 credits for thesis. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 is required.

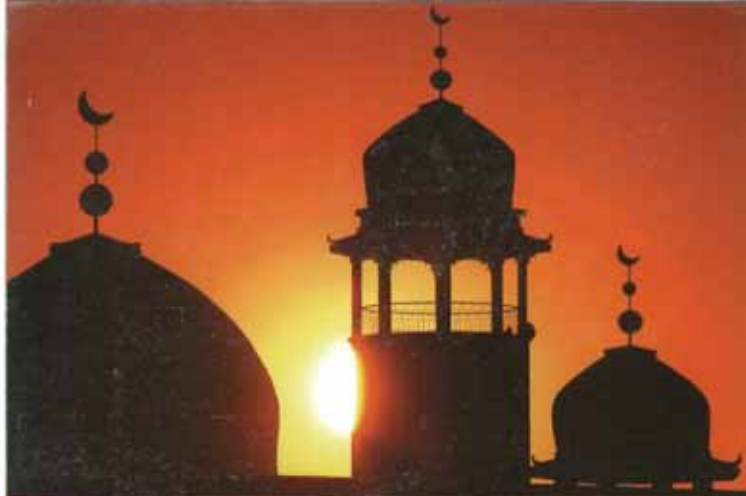




**MAHIDOL  
UNIVERSITY**

**College of  
Religious Studies  
(CRS)**

**International Master's Degree  
Program in Religious Studies**



## **RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVES**

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CRS plans to become a center for the academic study and teaching of religion in Southeast Asia with a research and teaching focus on contemporary belief, practice, and development of Thai and Southeast Asian religion in regards to ethics, politics, the environment etc and of course in regards to personal spirituality. The International MA Program will aid students in understanding the dynamics of religious adaptation in response to modernization and globalization. It is hoped that education and research in the field of religious studies will help enhance the mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect among people of different religious traditions.

CRS produces graduates with appropriate professional ethics and work habits who are capable of understanding complex belief systems, practices and their socio-cultural context. Graduates are capable of reading and understanding religious and academic texts, conducting research, writing academic reports and papers, and serving as advisors on variety of cultural, political, economic etc issues in which religious belief forms an important part. CRS graduates can communicate and interact in different religious and cultural backgrounds as well as in the secular modern world.

## TUITION AND FEES

Estimated cost for tuition and fees per student for the entire doctorate program in Thai Baht, on the basis of three year period (Personal expenses excluded)

	Plan 1	Plan 2		
	Master's degree with adequate background in Religious Studies	Master's degree with adequate background in Religious Studies	Master's degree in other fields or non-related fields background	Bachelor's degree (1st class-Honors) background
Tuition (Baht4,200/credit)	201,600.00	226,800.00	239,400.00	315,000.00
Fees (Baht10,700/year)	32,100.00	32,100.00	32,100.00	32,100.00
Total	233,700.00	258,900.00	271,500.00	347,100.00

## APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Application for admission to the Program may be made through either of these two channels:

### 1) Mahidol University Selection Process (for Thai applicants)

Applications must be submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The selection process involves a written examination and an interview. Final selection will be announced at the beginning of the following year before the first semester starts in August.

Please visit the website: [www.grad.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.grad.mahidol.ac.th) for further details, application form and online application.

### 2) College of Religious Studies Selection Process (for Thai and International applicants)

Applications must be submitted to the Ph.D. International Program, College of Religious Studies.

The program accepts the applications throughout the year. The selection process involves review of the application materials with the optional of written examination and interview.

An application form can be downloaded from the website: [www.crs.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.crs.mahidol.ac.th)

**Only application with completed documents will be considered.**



## SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants are advised to seek their own financial support.

## VISA REQUIREMENT

It is the responsibility of the admitted applicants to acquire a **non-immigrant visa** to enter Thailand for study. Upon admission, the program will provide assistance in obtaining a visa at the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate.

## ACCOMMODATION

A variety of accommodation with facilities can be found in apartments near the campus. Residence for Buddhist monk students can be arranged at the College monastic housing and meditation training center.

## ACADEMIC CALENDAR

The program academic schedule follows the two-semester system of Mahidol University:  
**First semester** : August - December  
**Second semester** : January - May

## CONTACT ADDRESS:

Program Director  
Ph.D. International Program in Religious Studies,  
College of Religious Studies,  
Mahidol University,  
Salaya, Phutthamonthon,  
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Website: [www.crs.mahidol.ac.th](http://www.crs.mahidol.ac.th)





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## ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

### Program Curriculum

The program consists of **Plan 1** and **Plan 2** : Applicants must select either Plan 1 or 2.

**Plan 1:** Research Only: Students are required to successfully pass the qualifying examination and complete dissertation research

**Plan 2:** Coursework and Research: Students are required to take prerequisite courses in Religious Studies, their coursework, qualifying examination and individual dissertation research

### Summary of Admission Requirements

Requirements	Plan 1 (Research Only)	Plan2 (Coursework and Research)
Previous degrees	Master's degree with adequate background in Religious Studies, with an overall GPA of 3.5 or higher	Master's degree in any field with minimum GPA 3.5 or Bachelor's degree (1 <sup>st</sup> class-Honors) in any field
Background in Religion / related field	Required	Desirable, but not required
Publications	At least one research article published in peer-reviewed journal	Desirable, but not required
English proficiency and computer skills	TOEFL (PBT of 500 or CBT of 173 or IBT of 61) or IELTS (5.5) and basic computer literacy is required	TOEFL (PBT of 500 or CBT of 173 or IBT of 61) or IELTS (5.5) and basic computer literacy is required





## THE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Philosophy Program in Religious Studies (International Program) provides students with the opportunity to concentrate their studies and research on one of two tracks: Buddhist Studies, and Religion in Southeast Asia.

The program aims to produce graduates with a thorough understanding of the academic study of religion capable of carrying out rigorous research in religious studies. It is hoped that through this understanding graduates can also contribute to human well-being and harmony among communities of different cultural traditions.

With the knowledge gained, the graduates could become competent teachers and researchers, and promoters of peace, interreligious understanding and cooperation to make the world a better place.

## COURSES OFFERED

Prior to the Ph.D. courses, a student with B.A. degree or with M.A. degree in a non-related field is advised to take **prerequisite courses** as follows:

- Foundation of Religious Studies : History and Theory
- Core Concepts in Religious Studies
- Research Methods for Religious Studies

### Ph.D. Core courses:

- Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion

### Track 1: BUDDHIST STUDIES

#### Required courses:

- Indian Buddhism
- Anthropology of Theravada Buddhism

#### Elective courses :

- Buddhist Philosophy
- Theory and Practice of Buddhist Meditation
- Buddhist Ethics
- Theravada Buddhist Teachings
- Buddhism, Power, and Politics in Southeast Asia
- Two Views of Mind: Buddhism and Brain Science
- Japanese Buddhism
- Independent Studies in Buddhist Studies
- Buddhist Hermeneutics and Critical Methods
- Buddhist Monasticism
- Modern Movements in Theravada Buddhism
- Working Pali

### Track 2: RELIGION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

#### Required courses:

- Living Buddhism in Southeast Asia
- Living Islam in Southeast Asia

#### Elective courses :

- Religion, Politics and Power in Southeast Asia
- Spirit Belief in Southeast Asia
- Contemporary Developments in Buddhist-Muslim Relations
- Modern Religious Movements in Southeast Asia
- Traditional Religions in Southeast Asia
- Southeast Asian Religious History
- Independent Studies in Religion in Southeast Asia

#### Qualifying Examination & Dissertation

Students of **Plan 1** and **Plan 2** must successfully pass the qualifying examination before proceeding to work on dissertation.

