

PHD IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Main Language of Instruction:

French English Arabic

Campus Where the Program Is Offered: CSH

OBJECTIVES

The PhD program at the Faculty of Religious Studies (FSR) offers comprehensive training in several disciplines: Theology, Christian Near East Studies, Muslim-Christian Relations, and Religious Studies Through Humanities. It aims to:

- Apply research skills and methodologies essential for crafting original PhD theses
- Equip graduates for careers in university teaching and research
- Adhere to the academic standards of the Saint Joseph University of Beirut, recognized by the Lebanese government.

The PhD program at FSR emphasizes interdisciplinary approaches and provides personalized and rigorous student supervision.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

- Proficiency in a second language is required for referencing foreign sources in research, or excellent proficiency in the language used for thesis writing in a specific context.
- Attainment of a minimum grade of 16/20 for the PhD thesis.

a) For candidates from outside USJ:

- Evaluation of the PhD thesis by 2 instructors.
- Participation in an interview and a written test based on a question derived from the thesis's problem statement.
- Assessment of applicants with a master's degree in another discipline to determine acceptability and any prerequisites required prior to enrollment.

b) For USJ candidates:

- Prior approval during their master's studies.
- An interview with the Director of the Doctoral School and the Academic Director of the FSR PhD program.

Candidates are selected following the review of their application, which should include:

- Lebanese Baccalaureate or an equivalent certification
- Officially recognized Bachelor's degree
- Transcript of Bachelor's degree grades
- Equivalence of any Bachelor's degree issued by private Lebanese universities or non-Lebanese universities
- Master's degree or equivalent certification
- Transcript of Master's degree grades
- Equivalence of any Master's degree or equivalent certification issued by private Lebanese universities or non-Lebanese universities
- Thesis proposal including: title, definition of the subject, problem statement and working hypotheses, brief bibliography, methodology and research techniques, provisional thesis outline, and work schedule. The proposal must adhere to scientific research methodology and be submitted to the FSR Scientific Board for evaluation
- PhD thesis with a minimum grade of 16/20

PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

The PhD program at FSR is structured to span 3 years, extendable to a fourth year (grace period). It comprises a total of 180 ECTS credits, to be completed over a minimum of 6 semesters and a maximum of 12 semesters, organized as follows:

Out of the 180 ECTS credits:

- 174 ECTS credits allocated by FSR include:
 - 6 ECTS credits for seminars
 - 54 ECTS credits for preparation and defense of the thesis proposal
 - 114 ECTS credits for colloquia, seminars, and preparation and defense of the thesis
- 6 ECTS credits for various interdisciplinary activities validated by EDSHS after the thesis proposal defense. The procedure is as follows: once the candidate has received administrative approval to submit their application, they must choose a research project topic that corresponds to one of FSR's fundamental disciplines (Theology, Christian Near East studies, Muslim-Christian Relations, and Religious Studies through humanities):
 - 1) Presentation of the thesis proposal to the Scientific Committee for approval.
 - 2) Upon review and acceptance of the proposal topic, potential requirement of a preparatory year to fulfill methodological and disciplinary prerequisites for drafting the provisional research project.
 - 3) Enrollment in the PhD program upon approval by the Scientific Committee and assignment of a Thesis Director.
 - 4) Participation in seminars and methodology workshops relevant to their research field (including 6 required credits).
 - 5) **Defense of the thesis proposal before two reviewers and the Thesis Director by the end of the second semester.**
 - 6) Progression to the PhD cycle (3rd semester) upon favorable evaluation from the Thesis Defense Committee, achieving a minimum grade of 15/20. In case of failure, candidates are granted a single additional semester to revise and defend their provisional project.
 - 7) Participation in doctoral days (3 credits) and seminars or conferences organized by EDSHS (Other 3-credit activity) from the third semester onwards.