

MATER ECCLESIAE

HISTORY

The Higher Institute for Religious Sciences “Mater Ecclesiae” develops its academic activity based on the five-year system of studies, including the three year first cycle (culminating with a Baccalaureate in Religious Sciences = Bachelor’s Degree) and a two-year second cycle (culminating in a Licentiate in Religious Sciences = Master’s Degree) for both Religious and lay people seeking academic titles to teach religion or for research in philosophical-religious subjects.

The propelling core of the whole academic activity is the salvific mystery of Christ and of the Church. Dedicated to Mary Mother of the Church, the Institute answers the solicitations of our multiethnic society and offers the study of the various subjects having particular care for the ecumenical, intercultural and interfaith dialogue. Besides the Italian section, the Institute has an English section aiming to contribute to the training of people coming from different countries.

STUDENTS

The HIRS *Mater Ecclesiae* numbers more than 150 students who come from nearly 40 countries.

ENROLLMENT/ REGISTRATION

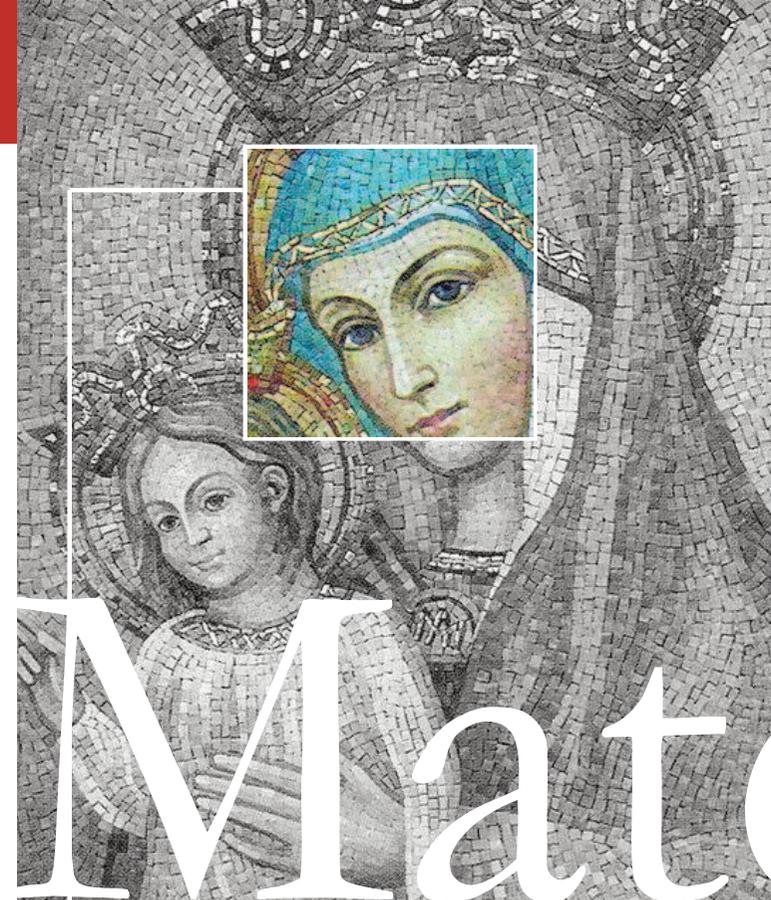
Enrollment starts in the first week of June for the following Academic Year and ends in the third week of September. One may also enroll at the beginning of the second semester during the last two weeks of January. Note that during the month of August, offices are closed in Rome.



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PONTIFICIA UNIVERSITÀ
SAN TOMMASO D'AQUINO

**HIGHER INSTITUTE OF
RELIGIOUS SCIENCES
MATER ECCLESIAE**



HIRS MATER ECCLESIAE

OVERVIEW

The Mater Ecclesiae Higher Institute of Religious Studies, associated with the Faculty of Theology of PUST, is a school of theological formation where students are trained to think through the faith, to exercise a believing reason. Since the task of thinking, loving and hoping is necessarily exercised in the context of the specific times and places where believers live out their religious and human experience, the *Mater Ecclesiae* Institute is aware of the importance of the universal dimension of formation, which is guaranteed by the international character of both the faculty and student body of the Institute. The Mater Ecclesiae Institute is interested in current and leading-edge religious questions, so as to foster reciprocal knowledge between various Christian communities, between Christians and those of other faiths, and between believers and all those searching for truth. Therefore, in addition to courses for the formation of religious men and women, catechists and pastoral workers, there are also theological and pastoral courses, and others on interreligious or intercultural questions, for ongoing formation and aggiornamento.

PROGRAMS

The academic degrees awarded by the Faculty of Theology of the Pontifical University of St Thomas Aquinas (PUST), of which the HIRS *Mater Ecclesiae* is a part, include:

- Baccalaureate in Religious Sciences (Bachelor's Degree) after a three-year of basic theological formation.
- Licentiate in Religious Sciences (Master's Degree) after a two-year course with three possible specializations:
 - Pedagogical-Didactical
 - Liturgical-Pastoral-Catechetical
 - Ecumenical Theology and Interreligious Dialogue

p.n. The Institute also offers a Course for Formators. Please see the Handbook of Studies and/or the dedicated leaflet.

BACCALAUREATE (180 ECTS)

I YEAR

Introduction to Study and Theology • Philosophy of Knowledge and Logics • Moral Philosophy • History of Ancient and Medieval Philosophy • Introduction to World's Great Religions • Introduction to the Sacred Scripture • Pentateuch and Historical Books • Introduction to the Fathers of the Church and History of the Church I • Introduction to Theology and Theological Method • Fundamental Theology • Fundamental Moral Theology • Spiritual Theology • Introduction to Canon Law • General Didactics;
Optional Courses: Biblical Hebrew • Italian Language • Computer Ability.

II AND III YEAR

Year A

Metaphysics • History of Modern and Contemporary Philosophy • The Synoptic Gospels and the Acts of the Apostles • The Epistles of St Paul and the Catholic Epistles • The Mystery of Living God • Theological Anthropology • Theological and Cardinal Virtues • Ecclesiology • Mariology • Church History II • General Sociology • General Didactics • Theology of Laity • Interdisciplinary Seminar.

Year B

Philosophical Anthropology • The Prophetic Books and the Psalms and Wisdom Books • The Johannine Writings • Christology • Eschatology • Sacraments I/II • Church History III • Bioethics • General Psychology • Social Doctrine of the Church • Ecumenism • Pastoral Theology • Introduction to Christian Worship • Church and Media • Interdisciplinary Seminar.

Comprehensive Final Exam • Final Paper.

LICENTIATE (120 ECTS)

The students of the two-year course of Licentiate will have customized plans of study that will be defined at the moment of the registration.

COURSE FOR FORMATORS

The Formator Course is aimed at facilitating the preparation of the future Formators.

The Course includes three areas of study: Spirituality, Human Sciences, Psychology. Seminars, workshops and practical exercises will complete the preparation of those enrolled.

The Course may last one year (two semesters) or two years (four semesters).

Enrollment requires possession of a valid title for university access or the approval of a special Commission of the Institute.

For each academic year students are expected to participate in 11 courses and a seminar.

At the end of the Course, a certificate of attendance is provided.

