

International Master of Theology

Protestant Theological **University**





Welcome by the rector

It is my great pleasure to welcome you to the International Master's Programme of the Protestant Theological University.

Our new research and living facilities in Groningen, drawing students from all over the world, will certainly benefit you. Here, a wide variety of cultural and theological backgrounds leads to a great amount of peer learning.

You will be surrounded by a team of expert teachers devoted to your academic success.

Our inter-contextual approach integrates knowledge, commitment, and spirituality in matters of Faith, Church and World Christianity.

If you like to develop theological knowledge and skills in a demanding and engaging atmosphere, you will soon feel at home.

Prof.dr. Mechteld Jansen
Rector PThU

About the PThU

The Protestant Theological University (PThU) is a specialised university for the theological study of the Christian Faith. The university is rooted in the protestant tradition and is located in Amsterdam and Groningen. Research and teaching focus on the Sources, Beliefs and Practices of the Christian Faith.

Theology

Characteristic of its theology is the commitment to the Protestant-Christian tradition, the concern for church and society and the profound knowledge of sources and traditions

Education and training for the ministry

The PThU has longstanding expertise with the academic training of Dutch ministers. The university is the official school of theology for the education and training of the ministry of the Protestant Church in The Netherlands, and also offers a programme for continuing education.

Social responsibility

Commitment to society is part of the mission of the PThU. The university preserves the knowledge of social, moral and political issues, nourished by the Christian tradition. This way, the university aims at keeping the protestant tradition alive.

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The International Master: A truly intercultural experience

The Master of Theology (in depth) is an English-taught intensive master's programme. It starts in September each academic year and lasts for one year (60 ECTS). The Master of Theology (in depth) is an international ecumenical programme with a contextual approach in all theological sub-disciplines. It offers multiple opportunities for intercultural encounter and interaction with students from all over the world. In the last three years we have admitted students from countries as varied as Bangladesh, China, Ecuador, Indonesia, Kenya, Myanmar, the Netherlands, Philippines, Romania, Samoa, South Korea, Taiwan, Tuvalu, United Kingdom, and Zambia. Our academic programme profits from the unique opportunities provided by this international community. Where will you be able to study theology in a small group, yet with students from three or four different continents?

The study programme covers introductory courses at a master's level, such as Intercultural Theology, Hermeneutics and the study of Biblical texts and Christian communities. The intercultural focus of the programme returns in the different courses so that the presence of students from many horizons becomes itself a resource in the learning process. Students can specialise in all the major theological disciplines such as Biblical Studies, Church History, Dogmatics, Ethics, Intercultural Theology, the Philosophy of Religion and various specialisations within the domain of Practical Theology. We offer specialised methodological and thematic courses and guided study appropriate to these disciplines. The programme is therefore uniquely suited as a second Master degree preparing for a teaching ministry and/or Doctoral Studies.

The International Master provides a great entry point into Western theology and culture for students from Asia, Africa

and Latin America. We are well equipped to help you build a bridge between your own context and the European Academy. For the same reason, a number of students from the West have chosen this particular one year programme because it provides an exposure to other expressions of World Christianity and intercultural theology. We love to help you deepen the three-way conversation between your own context and its challenges, Western theology, and the Christian Scriptures and tradition. Our teaching staff has extended experience in teaching and coaching students in an international academic setting.

The international students joining us for the International Master come from a variety of Church backgrounds. The PThU is the Theological University and Seminary related to the Protestant Churches in the Netherlands. In this International Masters we welcome a wide range of theological streams and expressions of faith. We invite students from all Protestant and particularly Reformed traditions as well as students representing evangelical and Pentecostal/Charismatic expressions of faith, and those engaged in more liberal theology or in the liberation theology movement.

The Protestant Theological University is a place where students and academics from ecumenical and evangelical persuasion meet and study Scriptures and Christian tradition together. We share the conviction that only if we meet as Christians from different cultural and social contexts and from different theological backgrounds can we grow in our understanding of the 'the breadth and length and height and depth, [of] the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that [we] may be filled with all the fullness of God' (Ephesians 4:18,19 NRSV).





Programme structure

The programme starts with three interdisciplinary courses: Hermeneutics, Sacred Texts and Community, as well as a course on Intercultural Theology. After these modules, you will specialise in one of the following disciplines:

- Biblical and Historical Theology
- Systematic Theology
- Practical Theology

Your specialisation depends on your field of interest and background. In the application procedure you will therefore have to state a clear motivation and sense of direction by means of an essay and an abstract for a final thesis or

project. This way we can tailor our supervision to your needs. The intercultural approach will be emphasized in each discipline. Students from the non-western world will get acquainted with western cultures and theologies, and vice versa.

The programme consists of lectures, seminars, tutorials, literature modules and a concluding thesis, to be defended publicly before graduation. After successful completion of the programme you will receive a Master of Arts degree in Theology, which will qualify you for further study at Ph.D. level.

The programme consists of three study routes:

1. Biblical and Historical Theology

Hermeneutics	5 ECTS
Sacred Text	5 ECTS
Community	5 ECTS
Contextual Theology: Intercultural Theology	5 ECTS
Exploration Course	5 ECTS
Methodology: Biblical and Historical Theology (The Lord's Prayer in Different Contexts)	5 ECTS
Selection from the following courses: > Specialisation course Church History > Specialisation course New Testament > Specialisation course Old Testament	5 ECTS
Literature study	10 ECTS
Thesis	15 ECTS

2. Systematic Theology

Hermeneutics	5 ECTS
Sacred Text	5 ECTS
Community	5 ECTS
Contextual Theology: Intercultural Theology	5 ECTS
Exploration Course	5 ECTS
Methodology: Systematic Theology (Theology of Love)	5 ECTS
Selection from the following courses: > Specialisation course Cross-cultural Theology > Specialisation course Ethics > Specialisation course Dogmatics > Specialisation course History of Christian Doctrine > Specialisation course Philosophy of Religion	5 ECTS
Literature study	10 ECTS
Thesis	15 ECTS

3. Practical Theology

Hermeneutics	5 ECTS
Sacred Text	5 ECTS
Community	5 ECTS
Contextual Theology: Intercultural Theology	5 ECTS
Exploration Course	5 ECTS
Methodology: Practical Theology (Doing research on practices of faith)	5 ECTS
Selection from the following courses: > Specialisation course Religious Communities in a Changing Civil Society > Specialisation course Pastoral Care in Different Cultural and Social Contexts	5 ECTS
Literature study	10 ECTS
Thesis	15 ECTS

Eui-Seok Lee has a Presbyterian background and holds a Bachelor of Theology and a Master of Divinity of Chongshin University. He graduated from the international master programme of PThU in 2015

'As a Master of Divinity student at Chongshin University in Seoul I was educated by PThU alumnus In-Sub Ahn, who had studied in Kampen. Concentrating on a master study abroad, the high standard of knowledge and profession of my mentor made me curious about the PThU. I wanted to study Dutch Church History and the fact that PThU is the official school of theology for the education and trai-

and Civilisation, for instance. The variety of perspectives opens my mind. Although the academic level is very high, the professors are kind and accessible. Students are able to ask questions which are answered quickly and in a clear way. Also students are invited to have a critical mind and soul. Many of the professors at PThU have worked and studied abroad themselves and know many themes. It is great to be

The variety of perspectives opens my mind

ning of the ministry of the Protestant Church in the Netherlands made this university ideal. Also leading in my choice were the excellence of the professors and the study programme at the PThU, the international context, and the possibility to study in English. For international students the programme offered by PThU has an intercultural dimension in all of its courses. Professors strongly suggest intercultural thinking. This is a unique point of the programme. Furthermore the courses offer students possibilities to discuss and learn from and about each other. How somebody from a country with a repressive government reflects on issues like God

at a place where all this knowledge comes together. During the second semester of my master studies in Groningen I concentrated on the 17th Century Dutch movement of the Further or Second Reformation as a part of the international movement of Pietism.'





András László Rád is Hungarian, living in the Transylvanian part of Romania. He holds a bachelor and a master degree from the Babes-Bolyai University in Cluj-Napoca (Romania) and is actually enrolled as a master student of the Protestant Theological Institute (Cluj-Napoca, Romania) and a PhD student of the the Babes-Bolyai University. He graduated from the international master programme of PThU in 2015

'During my BA in Cluj I found that our church does very well in certain areas, but there were also aspects I questioned. That's when I started to do research in other cultures. To develop not only my knowledge and myself but maybe to bring something home to my country as well. In Cluj I had a few professors who are really proficient in what they do and are very respected at the faculty. All of them studied in the Netherlands. The way in which they integrate new ideas, ways of teaching and ways of approaching topics made me think that it could be

programme. The knowledge is deeper, also because the required information is accessible at the well-equipped libraries of the PThU and its close partner institutions VU University and the University of Groningen. Living in the International Convivium also has a huge impact on how we study. The Convivium is not just living together, it's actually learning together. We are able to directly talk about issues that come up. Simply knocking on the door of fellow students to ask their opinion. As a result, we learn to know each other's background and understand more about

'It's more hands on, practical, it's information we can truly use.'

possible that they brought this from abroad. As soon as I got here I was faced with what I had expected. Studying is structured in a way that makes it possible for you to organise your schedule efficiently so you can truly make the information personal and process it. We study two or three classes at a time where we can really explore the core issues of those specific fields. It's more hands on, practical, it's information we can truly use. This is a real plus of the

the issues and themes others are confronted with in their country's context. It also works the other way around. I actually had to do a good soul searching to define myself to my colleagues. You start to rethink how to experience your own Christianity and try to adapt what you're learning here. Already now, when I talk to fellow students at home, they are amazed what novel information I am confronted with here, and this leads to an intense theological debate.'

International Convivium “Casa Mundo”

In close cooperation with the PThU the Ruimzicht Foundation (www.ruimzicht.nl) offers you the opportunity to live, during your studies in Groningen, in the international convivium Casa Mundo. A convivium (from Latin, literally meaning ‘sharing life together’) is a student community. Its residents deliberately choose to live in a group and to weekly reserve time for moments of reflection, a good conversation or a sociable activity.

Casa Mundo accommodates fifteen residents: seven Dutch and eight internationals. The composition is mixed: male and female, and each resident has his or her own room. The internationals are selected by the PThU, whilst the Dutch are senior students or have just started their first job and reside at the convivium for a longer period of time. Together, you will create a home for each other.

The global character of the convivium is evident: a world of its own, with a colourful mixture of cultures. Each resident contributes his or her own tradition and habits, and you become acquainted with different views and (religious) insights that may be completely different from yours. The communicative language between the residents is English. If you have the ability to face the unknown with an open and inquisitive attitude, along with a healthy sense of humour, you will gain new insights, special experiences and friendships.

Sitting around the table together is fundamental for the convivium. Eating together offers an opportunity to get to know each other better: it is a chance to connect. You have dinner together at least every Wednesday evening. This is the evening everybody stays at home and

participates. Dinner ends with a simple liturgical moment, each time prepared by someone else. This is followed by the home gathering. The structure of this evening varies and depends on what you agree upon. One time it may have a reflective character, another time you may discuss a current topic. It can also turn out to be a cultural or sports event. Apart from this weekly evening at home, you will see and meet each other regularly but of course each person has his or her own (study) programme, personal appointments and social contacts.

As in any regular household, practical matters need to be taken care of; this is no different in a convivium. It means you have to do the dishes or clean the living room on a regular basis. A good tradition within the convivium is to inaugurate new residents after a period of approximately three months. In a special ceremony you will become an official member of the convivium. This is an official event, but with a playful undertone.

Who is eligible for the International Convivium:

A resident of the international convivium:

- is enthusiastic about living in Casa Mundo
- will reserve time for the convivium
- is interested in others and is able to deal with diversity in faith, culture and inclination
- demonstrates a true interest in other cultures
- has an open, inquisitive nature, is trustworthy and able to put things into perspective

In the programme application form available at our website you will be able to indicate if you would like to live at Casa Mundo or at a general international students accommodation in the city of Groningen.”





Application

You can apply for admission to the international Master of Theology of the Protestant Theological University by completing the online application form available at our website (www.pthu.nl/en) and uploading the required documents.

The deadline for application is March 15 for non-European students and May 1 for European students. The final decision on admission will be communicated to you before the month of June.

Admission Requirements

Admission to the international Master of Theology requires:

1. A bachelor's degree in Theology or an equivalent diploma of a recognised academic institution.
2. A good command of English, to be demonstrated by:
 - a. a TOEFL score of 575 (Paper Based Test), 232 (Computer Based Test) or 90 (Internet Based Test);
 - b. an IELTS score of 6,5;
 - c. a TOEIC score of 720;
 - d. a Cambridge ESOL CAE 58-66.

If you have a lower score, meaning TOEFL 550 (PBT), 213 (CBT), or 79-80 (IBT), IELTS 6.0, TOEIC 670 or Cambridge ESOL CAE 52-57 you will be accepted, but you may be advised to take additional language classes in English. This is also the minimum score required to get accepted to the programme.

3. When applying for OT or NT studies: a proven bachelor's level of Hebrew or Greek. For Hebrew this means a study load of at least 15 ECTS, for Greek a study load of at least 20 ECTS (15 ECTS normal Greek studies, and 5 ECTS NT Greek). One ECTS is to be compared with a study load of 28 study hours.

Costs of study

The annual tuition fee can be found on our website: www.pthu.nl/en. Apart from this each student will need about 855 Euro per month for accommodation and living costs.

Students in need of a residence permit will need to proof sufficient financial means.

Scholarships

PThU offers a very limited number of scholarships each year. More information on these and other scholarships can be found on our website (www.pthu.nl).

Visa and residence permit

PThU offers application support to admitted candidates in need of a visa and/or residence permit.

Student exchange

The application procedure and deadlines for (Erasmus+) exchange students are different and can be found on the website of PThU.



More information

More information on the programme can be found on our website www.pthu.nl/en.

For questions related to the content of the programme please contact:

Ms. Titia Struik (Study Advisor)
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For questions related to the application procedure, scholarships, visa,

accommodation, medical insurance, and other practical matters please contact:

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