

COURSES OFFERED

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

- **Foundations of Religious Studies: History and Theories :**

Foundational theories explaining religion – comparative sociological psychological anthropological phenomenological – their respective founding “fathers’ and their historical era.

-**Core Concepts in Religious Studies**

Overview of the concepts central to the study of religion such as religion belief ritual myth texts scriptures God supernatural beings and events evil salvation afterlife.

-**Research Methods for Religious Studies**

Basic methodological tools and concepts for conducting research in Religious Studies.

Ph.D. Core courses:

- **Contemporary Approaches to the Study of Religion**

The latest in theoretical approaches to the study of religion developed from the foundational theories in sociology, psychological, anthropological, phenomenological

Track 1: BUDDHIST STUDIES

Required course:

- **Indian Buddhism**

History, teachings and practice of Buddhism in the Indian subcontinent from the death of the Buddha until its demise in the 12th century common era. Focuses on Early Buddhism and the emergence of Mahayana Buddhism

- **Anthropology of Theravada Buddhism**

Introduction to the works and theories of the most prominent anthropologists working in the field of Theravada Buddhism. Acquisition of knowledge and models for interpreting Southeast Asian religious complexity

Elective courses :

- **Buddhist Philosophy**

Systematic introduction into Buddhist philosophy with a focus on the works of Nagarjuna and Vasubandhu

- **Theory and Practice of Buddhist Meditation**

Buddhist meditation through selected texts, survey from historical and Theravada and Mahayana meditation masters

- **Buddhist Ethics**
Contemporary Buddhist ethics in light of the challenges posed by medical science, post-modernism, and globalization. Comparison of textual sources to historical and modern practices
- **Theravada Buddhist Teachings**
Development of Theravada teaching through time and space. Contemporary vernacular expressions of what are Theravada teachings. Utilizes English translations of the *Tipitaka* and Pali texts
- **Buddhism, Power, and Politics in Southeast Asia**
Representations and transformations of the concept of power in variety of domains of life of Southeast Asia: religion, ritual, social hierarchization and politics
- **Two Views of Mind: Buddhism and Brain Science**
A comparative analysis of scientific and Buddhist descriptions and understanding of mind
- **Japanese Buddhism**
A historical survey of the development of, and within, Japanese Buddhism. Examines the teachings and practices of major schools, major factors in their development and their relationship with other religious traditions
- **Independent Studies in Buddhist Studies**
Researching and writing a research paper in Buddhist Studies. The subject of the research paper will be determined by consultation between the student and professor.
- **Buddhist Hermeneutics and Critical Methods**
Critical approaches to Buddhism. Academic approaches to Buddhist Texts and culture and the principles and methodology of dialogue between Buddhism and other religions
- **Buddhist Monasticism**
The History of the Sangha in Theravada Buddhism, its relationship to the state and its administrative and pedagogical systems
- **Modern Movements in Theravada Buddhism**
- Modern movements in Theravada Buddhism, “Protestant Buddhism” and its relationship to the West, lay meditation centres, and prominent figures such as King Mongkut, Sondej Phra Maha Samanachao Kromphya Vajirananavarorasa, Sujib Punyanubhab, Buddhassa Bhikkhu

- **Working Pali**
Work on grammar and translation of Pali in order that students gain a working knowledge of the Pali language as expressed in the Tipitaka. Introduces the 'Western' method of language study.

Track 2: RELIGION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

Required course:

- **Living Buddhism in Southeast Asia**
Concentration on the current beliefs and practices of Buddhism in Southeast Asia, modernist reforms, reaction to the pressures from globalization in both majority and minority contexts
- **Living Islam in Southeast Asia**
Concentration on the current belief and practice of Islam in Southeast Asia, modernist reforms, fundamentalism, reaction to the pressures from globalization etc in both majority and minority contexts

Elective courses :

- **Religion, Politics and Power in Southeast Asia**
Interaction between Buddhism, Islam and Christianity in politics in Southeast Asia and its ramifications for the future of the ASEAN community
- **Spirit Belief in Southeast Asia**
Survey of the ever-present belief in spirits and supernatural beings and the associated practices within Southeast Asia. Spirit religions independently and as integrated systems within a Buddhism, Islam, and Christianity
- **Contemporary Developments in Buddhist-Muslim Relations**
Major contemporary developments involving Buddhists and Muslims, and highlight major trends in them. Identification of main factors in the cases of their coexistence and conflict.
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- **Modern Religious Movements in Southeast Asia**
Origin, history, teachings and practices of religious movements that arose and have been popular in Southeast Asia in the 20th and 21st centuries, such as Wat Phra Dhammakaya of Thailand, Kao Dai of Vietnam, Muhammadiyah in Indonesia and evangelical Christianity in Southeast Asia

- **Traditional Religions in Southeast Asia**
Religion of the tribal peoples primarily in the border regions of Thailand: Hmong, Yao, Liu, Kareni, Akha. Tribal religion interactions with Buddhism and Islam and modern conversions to Christianity

- **Southeast Asian Religious History**
History of religion in Southeast Asia from the earliest records until the present day. Attention to the rise and fall of Hinduism and its survival adapted forms in Southeast Asia, the ascendancy of Buddhism, the rise of Islam, and the coming of the Europeans and Christianity

- **Independent Studies in Religion in Southeast Asia**
Self-Study researching and writing a research paper on some aspect of Religion in Southeast Asia. The subject of the research paper will be determined by consultation between the student and professor

Qualifying Examination & Dissertation

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

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, complete 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 st 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

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants are advised to seek their own financial support.

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 field background	Bachelor's degree (1 st class-Honors) background
Tuition (Baht 4,200/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 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

Only application with completed documents will be considered.

VISA REQUIREMENTS

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:

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