

# PROGRAM GUIDE

## *Master of Philosophy in Religious Sciences*

### ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The Master of Philosophy in Religious Sciences at IUDI is a research-based degree that prepares learners for pursuing a PhD or employment in research. The program provides learners with an advanced education in an interdisciplinary study of religion and allows learners to craft their own research-based papers through independent study with professors. The program emphasizes critical thinking and analytical skills and integrates IUDI's distinctive development focus to train leaders in the transformation of communities through expert scholarship and a passion for Truth.

### ABOUT US

#### **IUDI's Vision**

IUDI's vision is to be a catalyst for transformational development in Francophone Africa.

#### **IUDI's Mission**

IUDI provides accessible and innovative distance education in key areas of development, empowering leaders to address the holistic needs of their communities.

#### **IUDI's Educational Model**

IUDI offers fully online education following an asynchronous model, enabling learners to study flexibly and at their own pace. With no rigid class schedules, our approach allows for seamless integration of studies with life, family, and work commitments.

#### **IUDI's Curriculum**

At IUDI, we focus our curricula on empowering leaders with all the tools they need for transformational impact. Our carefully crafted programs provide a strong foundation in academic writing, research principles, and development tools. Our coursework is highly engaging and puts you in the driver's seat of your learning journey. Dive into great texts, dissect relevant case studies, and unleash your potential through hands-on capstone projects. Our curricula foster critical thinking, servant leadership, and a vision for transformational development.

#### **Accreditation**

IUDI is accredited by the Ministry of Higher Education in Cameroon, a recognition of our commitment to maintaining high academic standards. We collaborate closely with the University of Maroua to ensure that our programs meet rigorous academic requirements. This partnership enables us to leverage our combined expertise and resources, delivering a comprehensive and enriching educational experience for our learners.



## ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS AND POLICIES

### **IUDI's Credit and Grading System**

Our grading system is based on the model from Cameroon's Higher Education Ministry, which is similar to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS). In this system, each credit equals about 25-30 hours of coursework, including time spent in tutorials, doing practical work, studying by yourself, and preparing for exams. This credit system is flexible and makes it easier for learners to move between universities in Cameroon and other countries.

At IUDI, we grade learners on a 4.0 GPA system. This is a standard grading system used both in Cameroon and abroad. A 4.0 GPA means excellent work, while a 2.0 GPA is usually the minimum grade needed to pass.

### **Continuous Enrollment**

IUDI enrolls learners on a continuous basis. Learners can start their program at any time. With no fixed application deadlines or enrollment cycles, prospective learners have the flexibility to start their educational journey when it suits them best. This approach promotes accessibility, accommodating individuals with diverse schedules and commitments. It also streamlines the admission process, ensuring efficient evaluation and enrollment.

### **Academic Progress**

Learners are expected to make consistent academic progress in their courses. Learners must contact their mentor if they need to make adjustments to their degree plan. If a learner needs to pause their studies for an extended period, they must contact their mentor to put their studies on hold until they are able to restart again.

### **Financial Policy**

At IUDI, we prioritize a financially accessible education. Tuition fees are calculated per credit unit, reflecting the workload and value of each module. This flexible approach empowers learners to manage their financial commitments based on their course load. Payment is expected at the start of each module, ensuring continuous access to course materials. We provide multiple payment options, including online portals, bank transfers, and installment plans. Late payments may result in financial holds impacting resource access and module registration. Our aim is to support learners in their educational journey while maintaining a fair and sustainable financial system.

*Note: This policy is subject to periodic review and revision to meet the needs of our learners and institution.*

## YOUR EXPERIENCE

### **Technology Requirement**

At IUDI, we emphasize the integration of technology in our educational environment, necessitating learners to have a personal computer or laptop meeting basic specifications, as well as a webcam and microphone for online engagement. Furthermore, a stable and reliable internet connection is required for seamless participation in our online learning environment.



### **Technical Support**

At IUDI, we are dedicated to providing timely technical support to assist learners with their technology-related challenges. Our online learning management systems serve as a central hub for accessing course materials, submitting assignments, and engaging in meaningful discussions with instructors and peers. We are committed to creating a technologically inclusive environment that empowers learners to thrive.

### **Communication**

As part of our commitment to fostering effective communication, learners are provided with an IUDI email, exclusively for educational purposes and internal communication within the university community.

### **Digital Campus**

At IUDI, Moodle serves as our digital campus, enabling us to deliver dynamic and interactive online education. It provides a centralized interface for accessing course materials, engaging in discussions, submitting assignments, and interacting with mentors and peers. With Moodle, learners can navigate their courses, track progress, and communicate effortlessly within a secure and supportive virtual environment. To ensure a smooth experience, IUDI offers a comprehensive orientation on how to effectively use Moodle, empowering learners to maximize their online learning potential.

### **Transferability of Prior Coursework**

At this time IUDI does not accept coursework or credit transfers.

### **Module Progression**

At IUDI, our learning modules are thoughtfully designed groups of courses that provide a comprehensive educational experience. Learners can start with any course within the module and must complete all courses to unlock the next module with a new set of courses. Completion of a module prompts payment for the subsequent module, ensuring a seamless progression through the program. Each module focuses on a specific area of study, fostering critical thinking and practical skills under the guidance of our dedicated faculty.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

*The following is an outline of the courses required for the Master of Philosophy in Religious Science degree program. IUDI retains the right to change or modify its curriculum as needed.*



## MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY IN RELIGIOUS SCIENCES DEGREE PROGRAM

Modules	Courses	Credit Units	Total Credit Units
Orientation	Orientation	0	0
Foundations	Introduction to Online Studies	3	
	Survey of Post-Colonial Africa	5	
	Introduction to Critical Thinking	5	
	Introduction to Development	4	17
Academic Writing	Academic French or Academic English	5	
	Citation Styles and Formatting	5	10
Core	Introduction to the Old Testament	4	
	Introduction to the New Testament	4	
	Biblical Interpretation	4	
	Ethical Leadership	3	
	Effective Communication	3	18
Advanced	Research Seminar 1	10	
	Research Seminar 2	10	20
Academic Research	Ethical Research	5	
	Research Methods	5	10
Dissertation	Survey of a Dissertation	5	
	Dissertation	40	45
			<b>120</b>



## COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

### MODULE 1: ORIENTATION

#### **Orientation**

*Course Description:*

This orientation seminar introduces learners to the central values, mission, and tenets of IUDI education. Learners will gain tools to use IUDI's online platforms, learning systems, and resources effectively.

*Course Objectives:*

- Understand IUDI's mission, vision, and history.
- Demonstrate proficiency in using IUDI's online platforms, learning systems, and resources.
- Understand IUDI's university policies.

### MODULE 2: FOUNDATIONS

#### **Introduction to Online Studies**

*Course Description:*

This course prepares learners for success at online, asynchronous education. Learners will gain vital study skills, mobilize technological tools, and apply communication skills to online platforms to equip them for their studies. Furthermore, learners will develop a personalized learning plan and set goals for educational success.

*Course Objectives:*

- Define online learning and explain its benefits and challenges.
- Select and use appropriate technologies and resources for online learning.
- Understand online safety and ethics.
- Develop effective strategies for time management and staying motivated in online studies.
- Apply communication skills in online settings, such as email and discussion platforms.
- Develop a personalized learning plan.
- Reflect on personal goals and dreams for education and beyond.

#### **Survey of Post-Colonial Africa**

*Course Description:*

This course dives deep into understanding the concept of colonialism, its profound impact on Africa, and its enduring legacy shaping the socio-political and cultural landscape of the continent. Learners will engage in critical analysis of the political, economic, and social challenges in post-colonial Africa, influenced by colonial rule. The course fosters a deeper comprehension of the complex interplay between colonialism, African culture, identity, and the pathways towards sustainable growth and development in Africa's future.

*Course Objectives:*

- Define colonialism and explain its impact on Africa.
- Understand the nature and legacy of colonialism in Africa.



- Analyze the political, economic, and social challenges and opportunities facing post-colonial Africa.
- Evaluate strategies for sustainable development in post-colonial Africa.
- Reflect on the impact of colonialism on African culture and identity.

### **Introduction to Critical Thinking**

#### *Course Description:*

This course empowers learners with robust critical thinking skills, enhancing their ability to identify, analyze, and evaluate information effectively. It delves into the fundamental role of critical thinking across an array of personal and professional settings. The course fosters lifelong learning and the ability to evaluate information with a thoughtful and informed manner.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Define critical thinking and explain its importance in work, research, and daily life.
- Understand the impact of biases and fallacies in thinking processes.
- Apply critical thinking skills to a variety of tasks, including reading, writing, and problem solving.
- Evaluate the quality of information and arguments.
- Communicate ideas clearly and effectively.

### **Introduction to Development**

#### *Course Description:*

This course is designed to introduce the key principles and theories of international development. Learners will explore the historical evolution of development work, evaluate strategies used by various entities, and examine the impact of development on social factors. This course will provide learners with the knowledge and skills they need to make a difference in the world.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Define the key principles and theories of international development, including development economics, globalization, poverty reduction, and sustainability.
- Understand the historical evolution of the concept and practice of development.
- Evaluate the strategies and approaches used by various entities (nations, NGOs, international bodies) in promoting development.
- Analyze the impact of development on social factors and the role of technology in development work.
- Reflect on the ethical considerations in development work and the future trajectories of development in light of current global trends and challenges.

## **MODULE 3: ACADEMIC WRITING**

### **Academic French\***

#### *Course Description:*

This course equips learners to gain proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking French. Learners will also focus on academic writing skills for graduate studies, mastering the writing process. Learners will leave this course well prepared for the writing assignments at IUDI.



*Course Objectives:*

- Demonstrate proficiency in French grammar, vocabulary, and writing mechanics.
- Read and understand French texts.
- Write and speak French fluently.
- Understand the academic writing process of outlining, summarizing, drafting, and editing.
- Reflect on personal learning experiences in French.

**Academic English\***

*Course Description:*

This course equips learners to gain proficiency in reading, writing, and speaking English. Learners will also focus on academic writing skills for graduate studies, mastering the writing process. Learners will leave this course well prepared for the writing assignments at IUDI.

*Course Objectives:*

- Demonstrate proficiency in English grammar, vocabulary, and writing mechanics.
- Read and understand English texts.
- Write and speak English fluently.
- Understand the academic writing process of outlining, summarizing, drafting, and editing.
- Reflect on personal learning experiences in English.

\*Students will choose to take one of these courses.

**Citation Styles and Formatting**

*Course Description:*

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of various citation styles and formatting methods. Through hands-on exercises, learners will apply citation rules accurately and consistently in their academic writing. By the end of the course, learners will emerge proficient in applying citation styles and formatting rules accurately to their academic papers.

*Course Objectives:*

- Understand rules and conventions of the Chicago (Turabian) citation style and apply them appropriately and consistently in academic writing.
- Explore citation management tools and software and use how to use them responsibly.
- Define and recognize plagiarism and understand how to avoid it.
- Problem-solve common citation and formatting scenarios.

**MODULE 4: CORE**

**Introduction to the Old Testament**

*Course Description:*

This course offers an immersive study of the pivotal themes, narratives, and figures of the Old Testament. It provides learners with a firm grasp of the text's historical, geographical, and cultural milieu, along with an examination of its diverse genres and key compositions. The course unravels the intricate history of the Old Testament's



formation and transmission. Additionally, it prompts thoughtful reflection on the text's enduring influence on contemporary religious thought, societal norms, and practices. The course blends textual analysis and historical contextualization with personal reflection, equipping learners with a rich understanding of this fundamental religious text.

*Course Objectives:*

- Identify and analyze key themes, narratives, and figures in the Old Testament.
- Understand the historical, geographical, and cultural contexts of the Old Testament.
- Understand the major genres and prominent compositions of the Old Testament.
- Understand the history of the formation and transmission of the Old Testament.
- Reflect on the enduring relevance of the Old Testament in contemporary religious thought, practices, and societal norms.

### **Introduction to the New Testament**

*Course Description:*

This course offers an immersive study of the pivotal themes, narratives, and figures of the New Testament. It provides learners with a firm grasp of the text's historical, geographical, and cultural milieu, along with an examination of its diverse genres and key compositions. The course unravels the intricate history of the New Testament's formation and transmission. Additionally, it prompts thoughtful reflection on the text's enduring influence on contemporary religious thought, societal norms, and practices. The course blends textual analysis and historical contextualization with personal reflection, equipping learners with a rich understanding of this fundamental religious text.

*Course Objectives:*

- Identify and analyze key themes, narratives, and figures in the New Testament.
- Understand the historical, geographical, and cultural contexts of the New Testament.
- Understand the major genres and prominent compositions of the New Testament.
- Understand the history of the formation and transmission of the New Testament.
- Reflect on the enduring relevance of the New Testament in contemporary religious thought, practices, and societal norms.

### **Biblical Interpretation**

*Course Description:*

The course introduces learners to the key principles, methods, and significant developments of biblical interpretation. Learners will critically analyze interpretative approaches and assess their impacts on theological beliefs and practices. This course also addresses the importance of sound biblical interpretation and provides guidance on responding effectively to errors in biblical interpretation and application.

*Course Objectives:*

- Understand and apply key principles and methods of biblical interpretation.
- Identify key historical and intellectual movements and figures in biblical interpretation and analyze their impacts.
- Analyze principles and methods of interpretation.
- Evaluate the importance of biblical interpretation in shaping theological beliefs and practices.





- Reflect on how to effectively respond to errors in biblical interpretation and application.

### **Ethical Leadership**

#### *Course Description:*

This course equips learners with actionable insights in the practice of ethical leadership. It intertwines the theoretical and the practical, allowing learners to explore key principles of moral philosophy and ethics and apply them directly to leadership contexts. The curriculum emphasizes the transformational impact of ethical leadership on organizational culture, behavior, and decision-making, while imparting strategies to navigate complex ethical dilemmas and intercultural dynamics. The course will hone communication skills, enabling learners to effectively convey ethical considerations and leadership strategies.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Define ethical leadership and articulate its importance in shaping organizational culture, influencing behavior, and guiding decision-making processes.
- Understand and apply key principles and theories of moral philosophy and ethics in leadership.
- Evaluate and respond to ethical dilemmas in leadership, considering multiple perspectives, communication styles, and intercultural dynamics.
- Communicate effectively about ethical issues and leadership strategies.
- Reflect on personal leadership styles and practices, identifying areas for growth and self-awareness in ethical decision-making.

### **Effective Communication**

#### *Course Description:*

In this course, learners will delve into the world of communication, discovering its importance in personal and professional settings. The course covers the essentials of verbal, non-verbal, written, and digital communication, preparing learners for a range of communication situations. The course focuses on active listening, empathy, and cultural sensitivity as well as conflict resolution and negotiation skills. The course encourages learners to improve their communication style and grow in self-awareness.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Define effective communication and articulate its importance in various contexts.
- Understand and apply key principles of verbal, non-verbal, written, and digital communication.
- Understand and apply conflict resolution and negotiation skills.
- Demonstrate active listening skills, empathy, and cultural sensitivity in communication scenarios.
- Reflect on personal communication styles and practices, identifying areas for improvement.



## MODULE 5: SEMINARS

### **Research Seminar 1 & 2**

#### *Course Description:*

These courses are designed to allow learners to craft independent research projects with guidance from IUDI's faculty. Learners will submit substantial papers in their topic of study that show mastery of research skills and academic writing. The seminars emphasize scholarly discussions and constructive feedback. These courses foster professionalism and prepare learners for their dissertation work.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Formulate, present, and implement detailed research proposals.
- Critically evaluate and synthesize relevant scholarly literature to situate the research topic within the existing body of knowledge, identifying gaps, debates, and potential research contributions.
- Communicate research findings effectively in writing, demonstrating clarity, coherence, and logical organization of ideas.
- Engage in scholarly discussions with peers and faculty, providing and receiving constructive feedback.
- Foster professionalism, ethical conduct, and responsible research practices, including time management, self-motivation, and accountability.
- Prepare for the dissertation phase through project management and research *skills development*.

## MODULE 6: ACADEMIC RESEARCH

### **Ethical Research**

#### *Course Description:*

This course delves into the fundamental principles and guidelines that govern research methodologies across diverse disciplines. Learners will explore complex ethical dilemmas and considerations that arise during the research process. Learners will navigate and resolve challenges encountered in research, enabling them to ethically conduct their own research. By engaging in this course, learners will emerge with the knowledge, skills, and mindset necessary to uphold ethical standards and integrity in their research practices.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Understand the ethical principles and guidelines governing research methodologies.
- Develop awareness of ethical dilemmas and considerations that arise during the research process.
- Apply ethical decision-making strategies to resolve ethical challenges in research.
- Demonstrate ability to apply ethical guidelines and regulations to real-world research scenarios.
- Exhibit responsible and ethical behavior throughout the research process.
- Reflect on personal values, biases, and assumptions that may impact research.



## Research Methods

### *Course Description:*

This course explores various research methodologies to equip learners for successful academic endeavors. This course emphasizes the development of well-structured research proposals, effective data collection techniques, and appropriate analytical techniques. Throughout the course, learners will hone effective oral and written communication skills for presenting research methods and findings. The course prepares learners to make a meaningful impact in their chosen field.

### *Course Objectives:*

- Develop robust research skills and deepen understanding of research methods and applications.
- Formulate well-structured research proposals to address research questions effectively.
- Develop a well-structured research proposal.
- Learn and apply data collection techniques relevant to different research methods.
- Analyze and interpret research data using appropriate analytical techniques.
- Enhance oral and written communication skills for presenting research methods and findings.

## MODULE 7: DISSERTATION

### Survey of a Dissertation

#### *Course Description:*

This course is designed to help learners prepare for their own dissertation writing by examining the works of other dissertations. Learners will evaluate the strengths, weaknesses, methodologies, and research designs of a variety of dissertations. Learners will gain tools to apply to their own research and dissertation writing. Through collaborative discussions and guided exploration, learners will cultivate a more profound appreciation for the scholarly contributions made through the dissertation process.

#### *Course Objectives:*

- Critically analyze and evaluate the research design employed in a selection of dissertations.
- Explore the theoretical frameworks and conceptual underpinnings utilized in a variety of dissertations.
- Assess the methodological rigor of selected dissertations.
- Synthesize research findings presented in the dissertations, identifying patterns, themes, strengths, and weaknesses.
- Learn from common mistakes and shortcomings of dissertation writing.
- Gain skills, tools, and resources for personal dissertation work.

### Dissertation

#### *Course Description:*

The dissertation is an intensive course where learners engage deeply with key theories, concepts, and debates within the field. Learners will formulate an original research question and undertake rigorous analysis of relevant primary and secondary sources. Applying suitable theoretical and methodological tools, learners will craft an evidence-based argument that proficiently counters alternative interpretations. Learners will



develop scholarly writing, adhering to disciplinary standards and effectively communicating complex ideas. This course will test independence and resilience, culminating in a substantial original contribution to their field under the guidance of a faculty advisor.

*Course Objectives:*

- Display an in-depth understanding of the key theories, concepts, methodologies, and debates in your field.
- Develop a significant research question that contributes to the existing scholarship in your field.
- Analyze primary and secondary sources relevant to the research topic.
- Apply appropriate theoretical and methodological tools to the analysis of phenomena, texts, and traditions.
- Develop a cogent argument that is grounded in evidence and that effectively addresses counter arguments or alternative interpretations.
- Produce scholarly writing that adheres to disciplinary standards and that effectively communicates complex ideas to a scholarly audience.

## **For More Information**

IUDI's team is dedicated exclusively to helping you achieve your academic goals. We are committed to excellence service and continuous improvement. If you have inquiries or concerns, please email us at [support@iudi.org](mailto:support@iudi.org).