



STUDENT APPLICATION GUIDELINES

➤ Introduction

The Ecumenical Institute is the international centre for formation, encounter and dialogue of the World Council of Churches. Founded in 1946, the Institute brings together people from different church traditions, cultures and backgrounds for ecumenical and interreligious learning, academic study and personal exchange. The Institute is attached to the University of Geneva.

➤ Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies/ *le Certificat de formation continue en études interreligieuses*

The Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies/*le Certificat de formation continue en études interreligieuses* is accredited by the University of Geneva under the Swiss Higher Education Programme for Continuing Education in accordance with the requirements of the Rectors' Conference of the Swiss Universities (CRUS). It is intended to contribute to the issues of religious pluralism and intercultural acceptance in a society based on migration and globalization. It is aimed at an international audience of young people (between 20 and 35 years) interested and engaged in interreligious dialogue, religious leaders, students, lay persons and professionals with a suitable level of religious literacy and/or experience in the field of interreligious dialogue and engagement, especially among the three Abrahamic religions.

The course trains present and future interreligious dialogue actors towards the required skills to:

- study the issues at stake in interreligious dialogue and engagement through an interdisciplinary approach linking theory and practice and with a focus on a chosen theme
- understand the nature of the interreligious dialogue and engagement as well as its place in a local, national and international society
- strengthen knowledge on the three Abrahamic religions: Christianity, Islam and Judaism
- understand the past, present and future challenges of interreligious dialogue and engagement
- find constructive solutions linking theory to practice
- learn to encounter each other in mutual respect and to challenge stereotypes
- discover how religions respond to modern challenges

The study program comprises of a distance learning component (3 weeks: 2-22 July 2018) and an intensive residential period of study, research and community life (3 weeks: 23 July-10 August 2018). The residential period includes lectures, courses, workshops and study visits to places of interreligious interest. The taught courses are conducted by professors of the Ecumenical Institute and experts of the World Council of Churches in collaboration with the Autonomous Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Geneva and Jewish and Muslim partners. CAS in Interreligious Studies equates to a total of 300 hours of study, i.e. 10 ECTS credits. 1 ECTS (European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System) equates to 25-30 hours of work (teaching and personal study). The tuition language is English.

In 2018 the intensive residential three-week-period takes place at the Ecumenical Institute, Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland **23 July-10 August 2018** on the theme

Religions and Sustainable Development Goals – Perspectives from Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

The fee for the course is CHF 3'300,-. It includes tuition, accident and health insurance, study visits and full board and lodging costs. It does not include the costs for passport, visa (if required), or travel to the venue. The Ecumenical Institute is sensitive to particular food requirements of different faith traditions and facilitates these as much as possible within reasonable limits for those students who demonstrate a need in writing at the time of the admission.

➤ **General Application Form Guidelines**

- Applications must be filled in English.
- Please type or write clearly. If the application form is incorrectly completed or illegible, your application may not be processed.
- Your surname/family name is used to identify and match all materials sent with your application and for dealing with enquiries. **Please use only the full name given in your passport and identity documents.**
- Applications for all academic courses **must be accompanied by the supporting materials listed below.** The Ecumenical Institute uses multiple criteria when selecting students for admission including:
 - the applicant's grade average during his/her upper secondary and post-secondary studies;
 - the accreditation by the University of Geneva of the applicant's upper secondary and post-secondary studies;
 - the affinity between the applicant's motivation/plans and the interreligious teaching and research carried out at the Ecumenical Institute;
 - the need to create annually a balanced student body, especially in terms of geographic context, faith tradition and gender.
- The applicants are informed in writing about their admission. **The Ecumenical Institute does not respond to telephone and electronic enquiries about admission.**
- Applicants may complete a Scholarship Request Form, if they fulfill the conditions for financial support. The Scholarship Request Form should be returned together with the complete application. Scholarship awards are decided at the same time as course admissions.
- The closing date for applications is **9 April 2018** for the following summer course. You are advised to apply well in advance of the closing date. It is recommended to use a registered postal mail or delivery service as the Ecumenical Institute does not confirm receipt of individual applications.

➤ **Supporting materials**

- The completed application form must be accompanied by the supporting materials listed below in English/French/German/Italian language. Documents in any other languages must be translated by a registered translator into English. The supporting materials will not be returned to the applicant. **Please send only the required application materials unstapled and without using scotch tape.**

Note: Please, do not send **original** upper secondary and post-secondary studies certificates with your application. However, be informed that should you become admitted, originals must be presented to confirm the enrolment to the University of Geneva at the beginning of the studies. Failure to do so will result in loss of the CAS study place.

Applicants are required to submit the following documents with their application form:

- Two-page application form, fully filled, marking desired year for the study course;
- One (1) passport-size photograph (glued to the application form, loose photos not accepted);
- A copy of the upper secondary school certificate and transcript of records;
- A copy of a university bachelor's or master's degree certificate and transcript of records;
- Copies of certificates and transcript of records demonstrating at least 3 years of post-upper secondary school studies and professional experience **in case** absence of bachelor's or master's degree;
- A personal statement of min. 500 words exposing your motivation and plans and how studying at the Ecumenical Institute relates to these;
- A *curriculum vitae* (CV) listing your academic, professional and interreligious experience;
- A recommendation letter from an academic institution, a religious leader or a religious community, which confirms your interest and skills in interfaith dialogue and cooperation and indicates how your studies and experience at the Ecumenical Institute will be given the best possible use in the future (in a sealed envelope sent to the applicant by the referee);
- A financial plan including all expenses and income in relation to the course you apply for.
- A completed Scholarship Request Form, **in case you apply for financial support (all scholarships are partial).**

Applications are to be sent no later than 9 April 2018 to:

by postal mail: Academic Affairs Office, Ecumenical Institute at Château de Bossey
Chemin Chenevière 2, 1279 Bogis-Bossey, Switzerland

by email: Bossey_Admissions@wcc-coe.org

If sent electronically, first scan the complete dossier into one document!