

213

< 2013/05/07

เลขที่	2923
วันที่	๗ มิ.ย. ๒๕๕๖
เรื่อง	4-60



Ref 0517.33/00453

May 7th, 2013

President
 Rajamangala University of Technology Isan (RMUTI)
 Northeastern Campus (President's Office)
 744 Moo 6, Suranarai Road, Muang,
 Nakhon Ratchasima 30000

Dear Sir,

**Re: Announcement of International Master's Degree Program in Religious Studies,
 academic year 2013**

May I draw your attention to our announcement of Master's Degree Program in Religious Studies, academic year 2013 , Mahidol University, Thailand. Kindly find the announcement of the program in the enclosure.

I therefore would extremely appreciate your taking the time to announce this program to your colleagues and students. Interested candidates are encouraged to apply as soon as possible.

Thank you very much for your kind assistance in this matter.

With best wishes,

Wathinee Boonchalaksi

Wathinee Boonchalaksi, Ph.D.
 Dean, College of Religious Studies
 Mahidol University
wathinee.boo@mahidol.ac.th

M.A: F03/13
 Enclosure

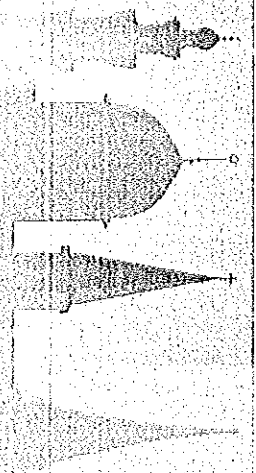
1324 ๒๖/๕/๕๖

ศาสตราจารย์ ดร. วาทีนีย์ บูณชลาक्षิ

๗ มิ.ย. ๕๖

Wathinee Boonchalaksi

นางสาว วาทีนีย์ บูณชลาक्षิ
วทศ.
6 มิ.ย. ๕๖



RATIONALE AND OBJECTIVE

Religious Studies in the International Master of Arts Program at the College of Religious Studies (CRS) is the scholarly study of religion seeking to understand religion as a cultural phenomenon in strictly value free terms; while at the same time appreciating believers' worldviews and value systems as vital components of their life experience. Religious Studies seeks to examine and understand the structure and function of religion in its social and cultural contexts. A variety of academic disciplines – history, sociology, anthropology, psychology etc – are used in the study of religion. This academically objective study of religion is rather unique or institutions in Southeast Asia.

CRS plans to become a center for the academic study and teaching of religion in Southeast Asia with a research and teaching focus on contemporary belief, practices, and development of Thai and Southeast Asian religion in regards to ethics, politics, the environment etc and of course in regards to personal spirituality. The International MA Program will aid students in understanding the dynamics of religious adaptation in response to modernization and globalization. It is hoped that education and research in the field of religious studies will help enhance the mutual understanding, cooperation, and respect among people of different religious traditions.

CRS produces graduates with appropriate professional ethics and work habits who are capable of understanding complex belief systems, practices and their socio-cultural context. Graduates are capable of reading and understanding religious and academic texts, conducting research, writing academic reports and papers, and serving as advisors on variety of cultural, political, economic etc issues in which religious belief forms an important part. CRS graduates can communicate and interact in different religious and cultural backgrounds and as well as in the secular modern world.

THE PROGRAM

The International Master of Arts Program aims to provide students with the opportunity to concentrate their studies and research on one of three tracks: Religious Studies, Buddhism and Society, and Buddhism & Islam focusing on the academic study of religion, religious belief and practice in contemporary society, and current moral issues. The program is designed to promote an academic approach to religion in multi-cultural settings.

The curriculum extends over four semesters or 18-months. The first two semesters are devoted to course work, to build a strong foundation for conducting independent research. The third semester is spent for Master's thesis and the degree candidates will have to submit a thesis before the end of the fourth semester to fulfill the requirements of the program.

The program requirements include successful completion of the course work and a thesis, under the close supervision of the College's academic staff. The program requires at least 24 credits for course work (8, 3 credit courses) and 12 credits for thesis. A minimum grade point average of 3.00 is required to receive the degree.

PROGRAM TO STUDY

First Semester : August – December 2013

- Core courses:
- August – October 2013 :
 - Foundation of Religious Studies: History and Theory
 - Core Concepts in Religious Studies
 - October – December 2013 :
 - Research Methods for Religious Studies

Second Semester : January – May 2014

- Required course & Elective courses :
- January – March 2014 :
 - (track 1/2/3) : One required course
 - (track 1/2/3) : One elective course
 - March – May 2014 :
 - (track 1/2/3) : One elective course

Third Semester : May – August 2014

- May – July 2014 :
 - (track 1/2/3) : Two elective courses
- July – August 2014 :
 - : Thesis 2

Fourth Semester: September 2014 – February 2015

- : Thesis 3

COURSES OFFERED

- Core courses:
- Foundations of Religious Studies: History and Theories
 - Core Concepts in Religious Studies
 - Research Methods for Religious Studies

Track 1: RELIGIOUS STUDIES

- Required courses:
- Geography of Religion
- Elective courses :
- Religion, Power & Politics
 - Religion Ethics of War & Peace
 - Religion and Healing
 - Religion and Cognitive Sciences
 - Religion and Science
 - Thematic Traditions : Christianity, Islam and Hindu
 - Women in Religious Traditions
 - Independent Studies in Religious Studies

Track 2: BUDDHISM and SOCIETY

- Required courses:
- Introduction to the Academic Study of Buddhism: History and Principles
- Elective courses:
- Issues in Contemporary Buddhist Society
 - The Buddhist Temple and Theravada Society
 - Buddhism and Visual Representations
 - Buddhism in Southeast Asia
 - Buddhism in East Asia
 - Buddhism in the West (outside Asia)
 - Thai Buddhism
 - Independent Studies in Buddhist Studies

Track 3: BUDDHISM and ISLAM

- Required courses:
- Dynamics of inter-religious Encounters
- Elective courses:
- Buddhist-Muslim Relations: Past and Present
 - Buddhism and Islam: A Comparative Study
 - Workshops on issues in Contemporary Buddhist-Muslim Relations
 - Secularism and Religious Reform Movements in Buddhism and Islam
 - Independent Studies in Buddhist Studies
- Thesis
- Conduct original research on the selected topic in the chosen major approved by the advisory committee, submit the completed thesis and publish research in standard journals or conference proceedings.



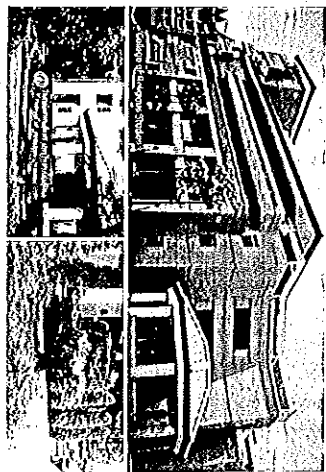
THE COLLEGE

The College of Religious Studies was established in 1999, located at the Nonthong Building, Salye Campus of Mahidol University.

The College is currently offering Bachelor's and post graduate degrees to produce competent teachers and scholars of religion to increase the academic understanding of religion and to serve modern needs of Thailand and the wider global community. The majority of our students enter graduate or professional school either immediately after graduate or the following year. Many of them find employment in various professions.

The College has established cooperative partnerships with many agencies, both governmental and non-governmental, in the effort to contribute to the wellbeing of the people and the nation.

In addition to the University Computing Center and Internet access for its staff and students, CRS provides its own computer facilities for staff and students. The College has a computer laboratory for teaching, data analysis and other needs of its staff and students. The CRS library contains over 12,000 titles of books, journals and academic materials on religion, philosophy and related subjects. The library provides training in the use of the Internet to access libraries and organization with religious and related materials throughout the country and abroad.





APPLICATION AND ADMISSION

Applicants should have at least a Bachelor's degree in sciences, social sciences, humanities or education. Applicants from non-English speaking countries are required to submit a document indicating the level of their English proficiency. Normally, a TOEFL score of no less than 500, or its equivalent, is necessary in order to keep a normal pace with the class lectures and discussions, and to manage a heavy reading load. 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. Please visit the website: www.grad.mahidol.ac.th for further details and application form.

2) College of Religious Studies Selection Process (for Thai and International applicants)
Applications must be submitted to the M.A International Program, College of Religious Studies. The selection process involves review of the application materials with the optional of written examination and interview. Along with a completed application form and two references, applicants must also include transcripts of their undergraduate or graduate course work and a pre-proposal for their Master's thesis. For academic year 2013, completed application forms and accompanying documents must reach the program by 13 June 2013. The final selection of the most qualified applicants will be announced by 21 June 2013. An application form can be downloaded from the website: www.crs.mahidol.ac.th
Only application form may be submitted through email.

SCHOLARSHIPS

Applicants are advised to seek their own financial support. Some potential sources of funding include bilateral and multilateral agencies such as the Ford Foundation, the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), UNFPA, UNICEF, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the World Health Organization (WHO), the World Bank's Graduate Scholarship Program, and etc.

TUITION, FEES AND OTHER EXPENSES

The tuition and fees for the entire program (18 months) is US\$ 7,000.- which must be paid as follows:

First semester: US\$ 3,500.- and Second semester: US\$ 3,500.- which includes: University education service fee, course registration fee for the entire program, University health insurance fee for two academic years and thesis registration fee. In addition, the recommended expenses: US\$ 300 for book allowance for the entire program and US\$ 600 for monthly stipend.

NON-DEGREE TRAINING OPPORTUNITY

The Program provides an opportunity for selected participants to undertake short-term training in one or more of the following blocks:

- Block 1 (August – October 2013) :**
 - Foundation of Religious Studies: History and Theory (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Core Concepts in Religious Studies (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
- Block 2 (October – December 2013) :**
 - Research for Religious Studies (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
- Block 3 (January – March 2014) :**
 - Geography of Religion (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Introduction to the Academic Study of Buddhism : History and Principles (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Dynamics of Inter-religious Encounters (Tuition : US\$ 850.-)
- Block 4 (May – July 2014) :**
 - Religion & Politics
 - Religious Ethics of War & Peace (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Religion and Healing (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Issues in Contemporary Buddhist Society (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Buddhism in Southeast Asia (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)
 - Secularism and Religious Reform Movements in – Buddhism and Islam (Tuition: US\$ 850.-)

Short-course participants will participate in the same classes as Masters degree students. Interested individuals are advised to contact the Program Director for more information on eligibility requirements. Application form can be downloaded from the website: www.crs.mahidol.ac.th and submitted through email directly to the program.

VISA AND HEALTH REQUIREMENTS

In the responsibility of the admitted applicants to acquire a non-immigrant visa to enter Thailand for study. Upon admission to the program will provide assistance in obtaining visa at the nearest Thai Embassy or Consulate. All applicants are required to submit a certificate of good health from a licensed physician based on a medical examination performed during the year of the application.

ACCOMMODATION

A variety of accommodation with facilities can be found in government hostels for campus. The residences of Buddhist monks students can be arranged at the college meditation training center.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

(August 2013 – February 2015)

Deadline for receiving application :	13 June 2013
Announcement of application selection :	21 June 2013
Orientation :	13 August 2013
First Semester :	August – December 2013
Second Semester :	January – May 2014
Third Semester :	May – August 2014
Fourth Semester :	September 2014 – February 2015

CONTACT ADDRESS

Program Director
M.A. International Program in Religious Studies
College of Religious Studies
Mahidol University
Science of Buddhism Center
Nakhon Pathom 73170
Thailand
Tel. : 02-806-2630/Ext. 2172, 3064
Fax : 02-806-2657
Email : inthevkr@mahidol.ac.th
milofshilinc@vcrs.com, crwww@mahidol.ac.th
Website: www.crs.mahidol.ac.th



MAHIDOL UNIVERSITY
College of
Religious Studies (CRS)

INTERNATIONAL
MASTER'S DEGREE PROGRAM
IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES,
2013