



NEW AKADEMIC PROGRAM



COLLEGE
OF INTERRELIGIOUS
STUDIES MÜNCHEN

Interreligious Studies COLLEGE

Academic year 2025/2026

College of Interreligious Studies München

Karlsstr. 34, 80333 München

About the College of Interreligious Studies München

The College of Interreligious Studies München, founded by the NGO OCCURSO - Institute for Interreligious and Intercultural Encounters, is a globally unique institution that combines life learning, personal as well as religious and/or spiritual development and academic reflection in interfaith dialogue. 12 Students from all over the world with different cultural and religious backgrounds live together for one (or two) year(s) in a family-like, interfaith and intercultural community in the monastery of St. Bonifaz in the heart of Munich and share personal and academic experiences in a comprehensive and intensive program.

In the light of current social and geopolitical developments worldwide, learning about interfaith skills is becoming increasingly important in contributing to a more harmonious and peaceful world. Therefore, the aim of this College is to enable participants to actively shape interreligious and intercultural (negotiation) processes both in theory and in practice. These skills are essential in order to reduce prejudice, overcome conflicts and create a more inclusive society based on mutual recognition and understanding. Today and in the future, the College aims to be a safe space for peace-building and reconciliation, where new relationships can be forged and trust is rebuilt. This is a lengthy and ongoing process to which the College contributes. The main concern is not a small one: knowledge of religious studies, interpretations skills, practicing and experiencing listening, interfaith experiences, relationship building and transforming knowledge into understanding will be the focus of this learning space for peace building in interfaith dialogue.

The Academic Programm: Interreligious Studies^{COLLEGE}

Interreligious Studies^{COLLEGE} deals with religious, societal, and intercultural aspects of interreligious competence. The course provides students with knowledge and competence of issues in a cultural and religious pluralistic world. Issues of peaceful co-existence, understanding of interreligious learning, practices and rituals are gained. The interdisciplinary approach will involve social science, theology, religious studies, intercultural pedagogical and practical internships in various religious groups and interreligious programmes.

The course duration is the academic year 2025/2026. Certificate "Interreligious Studies^{COLLEGE}" will be issued after completion (80 %).

Internships

In addition, the knowledge is deepened in internships: Through being an integral part of the House of Cultures and Religions Munich (HdKRM), the College Students take part in various dialogue activities in the city by completing internships in religious communities (100h), which are unfamiliar for them. In this way, the College Students contribute to establishing a connection between the life of the HdKRM and Munich's religions and thus have an impact on Munich's urban society. The internships in the (inter-) religious field are organized by the participants themselves according to their interests.

Furthermore, an exchange project with students from Oman is currently being planned in cooperation with the Al Amana Center both in Munich and in Muscat. Date and further information will be announced.

College Rounds, 'Interfaith Photovoice Project' and Individual Support

The College of Interreligious Studies München also offers a personal development program that takes place in weekly College Round Meetings. The active combination of personal dialogue through living together, sharing interfaith experiences and reflecting on these learning processes, combined with expert discussions, is part of this programme.

Through a year-long 'Interfaith Photovoice Project', students learn to see the world through the eyes of the 'other' in a continuous learning process where they identify their individual learning experiences and common concerns, photograph them, discuss them in several meetings and finally make them visible in an exhibition at the end of the College Year. Through authentic stories of 'real' people, knowledge is transformed into understanding, which in turn is the basis for recognition and empathy.

Furthermore, another collaborative project is also being prepared in the College Round for the House of Cultures and Religions Munich.

In addition to reflecting on the learning processes of interfaith dialogue, the pedagogical aim of these weekly meetings is to work on a community where everyone is allowed to be themselves, is valued, and a place is created where relationships are built and trust is established.

All students are supported in their personal and academic development by a College Supervisor. One of the ways in which this is done is through personal consultation hours.

Spiritual Practice

There are many opportunities for students to observe and / or experience different forms of spiritual practice, both during the semester and in the semester breaks. Depending on personal interest, these may include visit to different places of worship, church services, interfaith events, various forms of meditation and yoga nidra.

The interfaith events are designed to offer participants a variety of opportunities "to be enriched in the dialogue of religions". The meetings are designed to invite participants to give something by sharing their own religious experiences and to receive something from others.

Spiritual guidance (guests are explicitly welcome!) is offered from the religions of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, Bahá'í and Buddhism.

Intended Audience

The College is intended for people who are open and curious about encounters with people from other nations and cultures. It is open for students of all cultures, religious affiliations and genders. The courses are held by professors and lecturers from different cultural and religious backgrounds. The aim is to maintain a good balance between men and women, both within the College team and among the participants themselves.

Fees

Total rent including the entire College Programme and internet in one of the 12 flats (new and furnished, each with its own bathroom/WC and shared kitchen):

- In a single room between 675 and 875 euros (depending on the size of the room).
- In a double room per person for 650 euros.

Participation in the Oman Exchange Programme and the Summer School of the Crosscultural Religious Studies Project is voluntary and causes additional costs.

Application

To apply for place at the College of Interreligious Studies München, please send:

- a letter of application including your personal motivation.
- your Curriculum Vitae (academic bio)
- documents of your bachelor degree or alternatives

to the Supervisor of the College of Interreligious Studies: Melanie Fersi,
college-interreligious-studies@occurso.org

Venue

College of Interreligious Studies München, Karlsstr. 34, 80333 München

Ring at the small gate right of the church building “College of interreligious Studies” to enter.

About OCCURSO

OCCURSO is an institute that fulfils its tasks in research, education and the promotion of interreligious and intercultural encounters in cooperation with partners. The institute is legally structured as an association (e.V.) and is managed by a board of directors. The Advisory Board is a body of experts who advise the Institute in its work. Partners work with the Institute on an ongoing basis or for specific projects and can also be members. Spirituality and the life of faith have their place at OCCURSO. Partners, committed individuals and course participants bring their faith or their secular attitude to the encounter between religions and cultures. OCCURSO offers spaces for this and also strives in its research to create a fruitful interplay between different theological currents and theoretical approaches. This cooperation is facilitated by the contribution of ideologically neutral religious studies.

Programme

Day	Time	Module	Teacher
Friday, October 10, 2025	02:00 - 03:00 p.m.	Officially Welcoming	Melanie Fersi, M. A. Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
	03:00 - 04:00 p.m.	Introduction of the Certificate Interreligious Studies ^{COLLEGE}	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
	04:00 - 06:30 p.m.	ISM1 Key Concepts Interreligious Studies as Religious Studies	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
Saturday, October 11, 2025	10:00 a.m. - 01:30 p.m.	ISM2.1 Abrahamic Religions in Dialogue	Dr. Evelyn Reuter
date will be announced		ISM2.1 Abrahamic Religions in Dialogue	Eva Haller
Friday, October 17, 2025	06:30 - 8:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M.A.
Friday, October 24, 2025	04:00 - 06:30 p.m.	ISM2.2 Asian Religions in Dialogue	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
Friday, October 31, 2025	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, November 07, 2025	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, November 14, 2025	01:00 - 06:00 p.m.	ISM2.2 Asian Religions in Dialogue	Dr. Christian Hackbarth- Johnson
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, November 21, 2025	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, November 28, 2025	02:00 - 5:30 p.m.	ISM3.1 History of Interreligious Encounter	Brother Josef Götz OSB
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
	02:00 - 04:00 p.m.	ISM2.1 Abrahamic Religions in Dialogue	Gönül Yerli, M. A. Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, December 12, 2025	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, December 19, 2025	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, January 9, 2026	01:00 - 6:00 p.m.	ISM3.2 Theory and Concepts of Interreligious Dialogue	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M.A.
Saturday, January 10, 2026	10:00 a.m. - 05:30 p.m.	ISM3.2 Theory and Concepts of Interreligious Dialogue (6h)	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
Friday, January 16, 2026	03:30 - 08:30 p.m.	ISM9.2 Project and Reflections	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, January 23, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, January 30, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, February 06, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, April 17, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, April 24, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, May 08, 2026	10:00 a.m. - 12:15 p.m.	ISM5.2 Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Studies	Melanie Fersi, M. A.

	01:15 - 02:30 p.m.	ISM5.2 Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Studies	Joachim Schnitke
	02:45 - 06:30 p.m.	ISM5.2 Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Studies	Orinta Rötting, M. Phil
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, May 15, 2026	02:00 - 04:00 p.m.	ISM5.2 Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Studies	Nabiha Aqiqi
	4:30 - 6:30 p.m.	ISM5.2 Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Studies	Aykan Inan
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, Mai 22, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, May 29, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, May 29, 2026	03:00 – 06:30 p.m.	ISM6.2 Internal Law, Ethics, Agendas in Dialogue of Religions	Prof. Dr. Burkhard Berkmann
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Thursday, June 04, 2026		Conference: Houses of Religions	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting Dr. Tanja Mancinelli et. al
Friday, June 05, 2026		Conference: Houses of Religions	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting Dr. Tanja Mancinelli et. al
Friday, June 12, 2026	04:00 – 06:00 p.m.	ISM6.2 Internal Law, Ethics, Agendas in the Dialogue of Religions	Prof. Dr. Elisabeth Naurath
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, June 19, 2026	03:30 – 8:30 p.m.	ISM9.2 Project and Reflections	Melanie Fersi, M.A.
Friday, June 26, 2026	10:00 - 11:30 a.m.	ISM5.2 Interreligious Spirituality, Peace Studies	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
	01:00 - 06:00 p.m.	ISM6.1 Multi Religious and Cross-cultural Identities	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Saturday, Juni 27, 2026	11:00 a.m. – 02:00 p.m.	ISM6.1 Multi Religious and Cross- cultural Identities	Tanja Mancinelli
Friday, July 03, 2026	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Saturday, July 04, 2026	10:00 a.m. - 01:30 p.m.	ISM6.2 Internal Law, Ethics, Agendas in the Dialogue of Religions	Nabiha Aqiqi
	02:30 - 06:00 p.m.	ISM6.2 Internal Law, Ethics, Agendas in the Dialogue of Religions	Dr. Sabine Exner-Krikorian
Friday, July 17, 2026	02:30 - 06:00 p.m.	ISM6.2 Internal Law, Ethics, Agendas in the Dialogue of Religions (3h)	Prof. Dr. Markus Vogt
	06:30 - 08:30 p.m.	Weekly College Round	Melanie Fersi, M. A.
Friday, July 24, 2026	06:30 p.m.	Award of Certificate, Interfaith Photovoice Exhibition	Melanie Fersi, M.A. Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting et. al

03.08. - 08.08.2026 (voluntarily)	Monday - Friday	CROSSCULTURE Religious Studies Project, Summer School 2026, Paris- Lodron-Universität Salzburg	Prof. Dr. Martin Rötting et al.
--	-----------------	--	---------------------------------