



**ECUMENICAL INSTITUTE
CHÂTEAU DE BOSSEY**



Academic Study Programme

Ecumenical Institute at Bossey



Ecumenical education and formation in a multicultural environment...

To face the challenges of living in increasingly pluralistic societies, in a world of economic and cultural globalization, climate change, neglect of human rights and attempts to justify growing violence in the name of religion, the churches need leaders with a deep knowledge of ecumenism, confessional and cultural diversity, and sensitivity to other religious traditions.

A part of the World Council of Churches and attached to the University of Geneva, the Ecumenical Institute offers five distinct study courses on the graduate level. Each year the Institute welcomes a group of no more than 60 students from around the world and from many different Christian traditions for ecumenical or interreligious studies.

Under the guidance of a culturally and confessionally diverse faculty, the students engage in academic studies. They learn from one another and experience their oneness in Christ in an intensive community setting through

common prayer, group and individual study and personal encounters. The students come to an understanding of the diversity of the various Christian and religious traditions. They learn to engage with diversity in creative, sensitive and productive ways. Many have borne witness later that their time at the Ecumenical Institute was life-changing. Their prejudices have been questioned, their identity strengthened and transformed.

The Ecumenical Institute is a unique place for ecumenical education and formation. The content of the teaching focuses on the challenges for the churches in the 21st century and the responses the modern ecumenical movement offers. The methodologies include academic teaching, intense research as well as distance and experiential learning.

Bossey is a place to experience.

Welcome!

*Rev. Dr Fr Lawrence Iwuamadi
Academic Dean, Ecumenical Institute at Bossey*



...and in a unique place

The Château de Bossey stands in the Swiss countryside between the Jura Mountains and Lake Geneva. Since the Middle Ages, this region has been known locally as “terre sainte” (holy land) due to its particular Christian history. Located 15 km from Geneva, the Château is close to the headquarters of international ecumenical organizations, United Nations agencies and the University of Geneva. It is a hotel and conference centre that combines accommodation, modern meeting rooms and a welcoming environment for seminars, conferences and events aimed at both individuals and groups. The facilities of the campus include two chapels, a library, ten fully-equipped meeting rooms and 90 bedrooms. The self-service restaurant caters daily breakfast, lunch and dinner for students and all other guests.

Community life is very important for the style of teaching at the Ecumenical Institute. In addition to common class sessions, one of the main places for living community is Petit Bossey, a charming old mansion approximately 350 meters away from the Château, where the students are lodged. In addition to two sitting rooms for encounter and discussion, there are many opportunities for leisure activities including

volleyball, table tennis, cycling, relaxing in the garden, and walking, jogging or hiking in the surrounding countryside.

At the heart of the students' life at Bossey is regular common prayer in the main chapel, where students discover their differences in faith and find ways to stand together in the presence of God.

Service learning is another element which strengthens community life in Bossey. Care of creation and different types of community service raise sensitivity for the needs of others.

The campus hosts the library of the World Council of Churches, which holds about 100,000 volumes and 900 specialized periodicals. It includes a unique and comprehensive collection on ecumenism and the history of the ecumenical movement as well as collections in specialized areas such as biblical hermeneutics, contextual theologies, missiology, as well as social ethics and interfaith dialogue. The library also gives access to various electronic sources, for example, e-books, e-journals and online databases in the field of religious studies.

*Rev. Dr Fr Ioan Sauca
Director, Ecumenical Institute at Bossey*

Make "every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace."

(Ephesians 4:3)



Study courses

The study courses are conducted jointly with the Autonomous Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Geneva, which issues all the diplomas and certificates.

Bossey offers these programmes on the basis of the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS), established in 1989 by the European Commission and providing a way of measuring and comparing learning achievements and transferring them from one academic institution to another. ECTS credits are a value allocated to course units to describe the student's workload.

Complementary Certificate (CC) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Bachelor's degree in Christian theology or in a closely related discipline.

Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Master's degree, preferably in Christian theology or in a closely related discipline.

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students and professionals who are interested in ecumenical studies and have a suitable level of theological literacy.

Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies

Intended for an international audience of young people (ages 20-35) 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.

Intensive English Summer Course - English as a Tool for Ecumenical Formation

Offered for students who have been admitted to study at the Ecumenical Institute and who must enhance their English proficiency.

Doctorate in Theology (mention Ecumenical Studies)

The Doctorate in Theology (mention Ecumenical Studies) is jointly directed by the Autonomous Faculty of Protestant Theology of the University of Geneva and the Ecumenical Institute. It intends to offer eligible students the opportunity to acquire specialized research competencies in the field of ecumenism.



Complementary Certificate (CC) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Bachelor's degree in Christian theology, or in a closely related discipline. Running from mid-September until end of January. Accredited with 30 ECTS credits by the University of Geneva, according to the following modules:

Obligatory Modules

Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement (6 ECTS credits)

Offers an overview of the development of the modern ecumenical movement as well as an introduction to selected contemporary themes and challenges for the churches.

Workshop on Intercultural Biblical Studies (3 ECTS credits)

Gives an opportunity to deepen exegetical competence and learn about the ecumenical relevance of traditional, modern, contextual and confessional interpretations of the Bible through practical exercises.

Workshop on Practical Ecumenical Theology (3 ECTS credits)

Provides space for reflection on the experience of communicating and translating theology practically into prayer, and the possibilities and difficulties of praying together.

Ecumenical Study Visits (2 ECTS credits)

Provides an opportunity to reflect on the practice, organization and spiritual life of the major Christian traditions. Usually, the study visits include: the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy (CH), the Vatican, the Taizé Community

and local parishes of the Reformed Church in Switzerland.

Modules of Choice

Students have to choose two modules among the following (8 ECTS credits each)

Ecumenical Biblical Hermeneutics:

Introduction and study of exegetical research with regard to the vision of reconciliation and human unity in general and of the Christian churches in particular.

Ecumenical Missiology:

Introduction and study of the theology of mission and research into reflections on mission in the ecumenical movement.

Ecumenical Social Ethics:

Introduction and study of areas pertaining to the challenges arising from the complexity and plurality of globalized societies and the exploration of ecumenical ethical responses.

Ecumenical Theology:

Introduction and study of the search for overcoming division between churches, fostering mutual recognition and ecclesial communion.

The Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement and modules of choice are evaluated through exams and research papers.



Master of Advanced Studies (MAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students who have completed a university Master's degree, preferably in Christian theology or in a closely related discipline. Running from mid-September until end of June. Accredited with 60 ECTS credits by the University of Geneva, according to the following modules:

First Semester

(mid-September – end of January)

Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement **(6 ECTS credits)**

Offers an overview of the development of the modern ecumenical movement as well as an introduction to selected contemporary themes and challenges for the churches.

Workshop on Intercultural Biblical Studies **(3 ECTS credits)**

Gives an opportunity to deepen exegetical competence and learn about the ecumenical relevance of traditional, modern, contextual and confessional interpretations of the Bible through practical exercises.

Workshop on Practical Ecumenical Theology **(3 ECTS credits)**

Provides time for reflection on experience of communicating and translating theology practically into prayer, and the possibilities and difficulties of praying together.

Ecumenical Study Visits **(2 ECTS credits)**

Provides an opportunity to reflect on the practice, organization and spiritual life of the major different Christian traditions. Usually the study visits include: the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy (CH), the Vatican, the Taizé Community and local parishes of the Reformed Church in Switzerland.

Seminar on Research Methodology **(4 ECTS credits)**

Offers the possibility to deepen knowledge in research techniques, conventions and methodologies and helps students to apply these to practical research work.

Course on Intercultural Theology **(4 ECTS credits)**

Offers the study of selected topics of ecumenism in an interdisciplinary and intercultural manner.



Modules of Choice

Students have to choose one module among the following (8 ECTS credits each)

Ecumenical Biblical Hermeneutics:

Introduction and study of exegetical research with regard to the vision of reconciliation and human unity in general and of the Christian churches in particular.

Ecumenical Missiology:

Introduction and study of the theology of mission and research into reflections on mission in the ecumenical movement.

Ecumenical Social Ethics:

Introduction and study of areas pertaining to the challenges arising from the complexity and plurality of globalized societies and the exploration of ecumenical ethical responses.

Ecumenical Theology:

Introduction and study of the search for overcoming division between churches, fostering mutual recognition and ecclesial communion.

The Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement and modules of choice are evaluated through exams and research papers.

Second Semester

(mid-February – end of June)

Research Fellowship (12 ECTS credits)

Is destined to offer insight into the practical work of an ecumenical organization or a specialized institution related to ecumenism.

Research Workshop (4 ECTS credits)

Addresses specific questions and challenges of the research process and offers a regular and qualified accompaniment in the student's individual research design and drafting process.

Thesis (14 ECTS credits)

A thesis (10 000 words) is written in one of the academic disciplines offered at the Ecumenical Institute and is defended at the end of the study period.



Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Ecumenical Studies

Intended for students and professionals who are interested in ecumenical studies and have a suitable level of theological literacy. Running from mid-September until end of January. Accredited with 25 ECTS credits by the University of Geneva under the Swiss Higher Education programme for Continuing Education in accordance with the requirements of the Rector's Conference of the Swiss Universities, according to the following study modules:

Obligatory Modules

Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement **(6 ECTS credits)**

Offers an overview of the development of the modern ecumenical movement as well as an introduction to selected contemporary themes and challenges for the churches.

Workshop on Intercultural Biblical Studies **(3 ECTS credits)**

Gives an opportunity to deepen exegetical competence and learn about the ecumenical relevance of traditional, modern, contextual and confessional interpretations of the Bible through practical exercises.

Workshop on Practical Ecumenical Theology **(3 ECTS credits)**

Provides an opportunity for reflection on the

experience of communicating and translating theology practically into prayer, and the possibilities and difficulties of praying together.

Ecumenical Study Visits **(2 ECTS credits)**

Provides an opportunity to reflect on the practice, organization and spiritual life of the major different Christian traditions. Usually the study visits include: the Orthodox Centre of the Ecumenical Patriarchate in Chambésy (CH), the Vatican, the Taizé Community and local parishes of the Reformed Church in Switzerland.

Intensive Thematic Seminar **(3 ECTS credits)**

Offers space for a critical analysis and in-depth study of a question of contemporary ecumenical relevance determined and designed specifically for each academic year.



"I may not have all the answers, you may not have all the answers...but...everyone has something to teach and something to learn."

– Former Bossey student Daniel Reffner, UMC US

Modules of Choice

The students have to choose one module among the following (8 ECTS credits each)

Ecumenical Biblical Hermeneutics:

Introduction and study of exegetical research with regard to the vision of reconciliation and human unity in general and the vision of the Christian churches in particular.

Ecumenical Missiology:

Introduction and study of theology of mission and research on reflections concerning mission in the ecumenical movement.

Ecumenical Social Ethics:

Introduction and study of areas which pertain to the challenges arising from the complexity and plurality of globalized societies and the exploration of ecumenical ethical responses.

Ecumenical Theology:

Introduction and study of the search for overcoming division between churches, fostering mutual recognition and ecclesial communion.

The Core Course on the History of the Ecumenical Movement and modules of choice are evaluated through exams and research papers.



Certificate of Advanced Studies (CAS) in Interreligious Studies

Intended for an international audience of young people (ages 20-35) 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. 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) with 10 ECTS (European Credit Transfer System) credits to be achieved during a period of 6 weeks (3 weeks distance learning, 3 weeks residential) normally during July/August.

Study modules

Core Course on Judaism, Christianity and Islam (5 ECTS credits)

Offers an introduction to Christianity, Islam and Judaism: the history, the different traditions and streams, basic elements and teachings, the holy scriptures. A particular theme is explored each year from the Christian, Jewish and Muslim points of view seeking possible areas of intersection between the three Abrahamic religions.

Thematic Workshops (3 ECTS credits)

Gives an opportunity to discuss contemporary challenges with reference to the theme chosen for the year.

Practical Interreligious Workshops (1 ECTS credit)

Provides a reflected experience on historical-cultural modes of transmission and communication of religion in practice.

Interreligious Study Visits (1 ECTS credit)

Provides an opportunity to gain a reflected practical insight and overview on the practice, organization or spiritual life of the work of the three Abrahamic religions and selected institutions in the local Swiss context - places of prayer of the Abrahamic religious communities in Geneva (church, mosque, synagogue), the Ecumenical Centre, the United Nations Geneva headquarters.

The Core Course on Judaism, Christianity and Islam and Thematic Workshops are evaluated through research papers.



As ecumenical life continues...

"Bossey isn't just about learning ecumenism, it's about being formed in and catching the ecumenical spirit. This isn't something that you can learn from books and classes but is something that emerges within you as you encounter people who are different than you and build relationships across cultural, geographic, and religious borders."



"I experienced the paradox of Bossey, which is that I left both stronger in my identity ... and radically more open to the ideas of others."

Are you curious as to why Christians of other traditions think differently from you on questions of faith?

Are you curious to understand why other Christians live their faith differently than you live yours?

Are you intrigued by the question of how Christians can help to make the world a better place to live in?

Are you intrigued by Jesus' prayer, "that all may be one, so that the world may believe"?

Are you interested in exploring how human beings can live together in peace?

If so, the Ecumenical Institute at Château de Bossey is the right place for you!



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Part of the World Council of Churches and attached to the University of Geneva

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**World Council
of Churches**



**UNIVERSITÉ
DE GENÈVE**