

Admission regulations of Heidelberg University for the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture

of 01/10/2024

Based on §§ 63 (2). 59 (1) sentence 2 of the Act on Higher Education of the Land of Baden Württemberg (*Landeshochschulgesetz* – LHG of 1 January 2005 (GBI. 2005 p. 1), last amended by Article 8 of the Act of 7 February 2023 (GBI. 2023 p. 26, 43), the Senate of Heidelberg University adopted the following admission regulations on 01/10/2024.

§ 1 Scope of application

- (1) These admission regulations govern the university's own procedure for the allocation of university places in the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture at Heidelberg University.
- (2) The procedural provisions of Heidelberg University's admission and registration regulations (*Zulassungs- und Immatrikulationsordnung*; ZImmO), as amended, shall apply in all other respects.

§ 2 Documents in support of an application, start of programme, deadline

- (1) Proof of compliance with the admission requirements is provided via an electronically generated letter of admission in Heidelberg University's online portal.
- (2) The request for a letter of admission in accordance with (1) is made by submitting an application via the Heidelberg University online portal. The following evidence and declarations must be submitted with the application:
 1. proof of a degree in a Bachelor's degree programme in Christianity and Culture with a subject component of at least 50% or in an accredited degree programme with essentially the same content with a subject component of at least 50% at a German or foreign university for which a standard period of study of at least three years has been set, or a degree recognised as equivalent in another accredited degree programme;
 2. proof to be provided in the form of transcripts of records or otherwise for the assessment of the relevant subject component in accordance with number 1;
 3. a transcript of records or provisional diploma from the university, if proof in accordance with number 1 is not available by the deadline stipulated in the ZImmO and it can be expected on the basis of the periods of studies to date, in particular the examination components completed to date, that the proof in accordance with number 1 will be provided in due time by the last working day before the start of the lecture period;
 4. proof of the following language proficiencies, which must be provided by the beginning of the third academic semester of the Master's degree programme at the latest if a university place is allocated, unless this is proven by the university entrance qualification diploma or by certificates from previous course of studies:
 - a) proof of knowledge of the Hebrew language (Hebraicum), if available, if the student chooses Biblical studies (Old Testament) as their specialisation subject,
 - b) proof of knowledge of Ancient Greek (Graecum), if available, if the student

chooses Biblical studies (New Testament) as their specialisation subject,

- c) proof of knowledge of Hebrew (Hebraicum) and Ancient Greek (Graecum), if available, if the student chooses Biblical studies (Old and New Testament) as their specialisation subject,
 - d) proof of knowledge of Latin (the "Latinum" qualification in Latin) or proof of knowledge of another source language together with the application for its recognition, if available, if the student chooses History of Christianity as their specialisation subject,
 - e) proof of knowledge of Latin or proof of knowledge of an equivalent source language (such as Tamil, Hindi, Arabic, Persian) related to the application for its recognition, if available, if the student chooses Religious studies and intercultural theology as their specialisation subject,
 - f) proof of knowledge of Latin, if available, if the student chooses Dogmatics as their specialisation subject,
 - g) proof of knowledge of the Hebrew language, if available, if the student chooses Theological studies (Old Testament) as their specialisation subject,
 - h) proof of knowledge of the Greek language, if available, if the student chooses Theological studies (New Testament) as their specialisation subject,
 - i) proof of knowledge of a relevant source language, if available, if the student chooses Theological studies (church history, religious studies, systematic theology) as their specialisation subject;
5. proof of German language proficiency at level DSH 2 to be provided by the DSH diploma or an equivalent language certificate at the latest upon registration, if the application for the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture is in the specialisation subject Biblical studies, History of Christianity, Dogmatics, Ethics and social action, or Religious studies and intercultural theology, the native language of the applicant for the course of studies is not German and the degree according to number 1 was obtained outside the Federal Republic of Germany;
 6. proof of knowledge of English language proficiency, to be provided by a TOEFL test with a score of at least 90 points and at least 22 points in each subtest, an IELTS test with a score of at least 7 points and at least 6.5 points in each subtest, a Cambridge Proficiency Test with a score of at least 185 points or a school or university degree from an English-speaking educational institution at the latest upon registration, if the application for the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture is in the specialisation subject Theological studies;
 7. a declaration stating that the applicant for the course of studies has not definitively failed any examination required by the examination rules and regulations at a German or foreign university in the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture or in related degree programmes with essentially the same content or that the entitlement to take the final exams no longer applies for any other reasons and that they are not subject to an ongoing examination procedure in these degree programmes.
- (3) The University may require that the original documents on which the decision on admission is based be submitted upon enrolment.

- (4) Students may start their programmes in the winter and summer semesters.
- (5) Applications for the course of studies starting in the summer semester can be submitted from 01/10 to 31/03, for the winter semester from ¼ to 30/09 of each year (cut-off period).

§ 3 Admission committee

- (1) An admission committee shall be formed for the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture to examine and determine the subject-specific admission requirements. It comprises at least two professors and one member of the academic staff group. The members elect a chair from amongst them, who must be a professor, and a deputy chairperson.
- (2) The chair, the deputy chair, and the other members of the admissions committee are appointed by the faculty council or the faculty board. The term of office of the members shall be two years. Re-appointment shall be possible.
- (3) The admissions committee shall be quorate if at least two members with voting rights are present. In the event of a tie, the chair shall have the casting vote, or, in their absence, the deputy shall have the casting vote. Minutes shall be kept of the examination and deliberations of the admissions committee.
- (4) The admissions committee may transfer assessment of educational qualifications to one or more of its members by resolution.
- (5) The meetings of the admissions committee are not public. The members of the committee are subject to official secrecy. If they are not in public service, they must be sworn to secrecy by the chair.

§ 4 Admission requirements

- (1) Admission requirements for the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture are:
 1. a degree obtained with above-average success in the Bachelor's degree programme in Christianity and Culture with a subject component of at least 50% or in an accredited degree programme with essentially the same content with a subject component of at least 50% at a German or foreign university for which a standard period of at least three years of study has been set, or a degree recognised as equivalent in another accredited degree programme;
 2. knowledge of the Hebrew language (Hebraicum) if the student intends to choose Biblical studies (Old Testament) as their specialisation subject;
 3. knowledge of the Ancient Greek language (Graecum) if the student intends to choose Biblical studies (New Testament) as their specialisation subject;
 4. knowledge of Hebrew (Hebraicum) and Ancient Greek (Graecum) if the student intends to choose Biblical studies (Old and New Testament) as their specialisation subject;
 5. knowledge of Latin (the "Latinum" qualification in Latin) or knowledge of another source language if the student intends to choose History of Christianity as their specialisation subject;
 6. knowledge of Latin or knowledge of an equivalent source language (such as Tamil, Hindi, Arabic, Persian) if the student intends to choose Religious studies and

intercultural theology as their specialisation subject;

7. knowledge of Latin if the student intends to choose Dogmatics as their specialisation subject;
 8. knowledge of the Hebrew language if the student intends to choose Theological studies (Old Testament) as their specialisation subject;
 9. knowledge of the Greek language if the student intends to choose Theological studies (New Testament) as their specialisation subject;
 10. knowledge of a relevant source language if the student intends to choose Theological studies (church history, religious studies, systematic theology) as their specialisation subject.
- (2) The following may be considered in particular when assessing the above-average success of the degree obtained in the Bachelor's degree programme in Christianity and Culture or in an accredited degree programme with essentially the same content at a German or foreign university or a degree recognised as equivalent in another degree programme:
1. a university degree grade of at least 2.7;
 2. subject-specific individual grades, which can provide information about the aptitude for the intended course of studies;
 3. the subject placement of the applicant for the course of studies within the university at the degree examination, which is a prerequisite for admission to the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture (ranking).

If the proof in accordance with (1) is not available by the end of the open application dates, the applicant for the course of studies will take part in the admission procedure on the basis of the subject-specific individual grades of the transcript of records or provisional diploma of the university; the result of the degree will be disregarded.

- (3) The admissions committee shall determine whether the requirements set out in (1) have been met. It shall decide on the equivalence of prior education and the comparability of the qualified degrees. The recommendations of the Standing Conference of the Ministers of Education and Cultural Affairs of the Länder and the agreement within the framework of university partnerships must be observed when recognising foreign degrees. The Central Office for Foreign Education (*Zentralstelle für ausländisches Bildungswesen*; ZAB) shall be consulted if there is any doubt.

§ 5 Admission procedure

- (1) The admissions committee will examine whether the applicant complies with the subject-specific admission requirements for the course of studies in accordance with § 4 and will make a corresponding assessment based on the documents submitted.
- (2) Approval shall be refused if
 - a) the requirements set out in § 2 and § 4 are not met, or
 - b) the applicant for the course of studies has lost their entitlement to take the final exams at a German or foreign university in the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture or in related degree programmes with essentially the same content or is in an

ongoing examination procedure for such a degree programme.

- (3) In the cases of § 2 (2) number 3, admission is to be granted subject to the proviso that the degree in the Bachelor's degree programme Christianity and Culture or in an accredited degree programme with essentially the same content at a German or foreign university or a degree recognised as equivalent in another accredited degree programme and the associated requirements are proven by the last working day before the start of the lecture period. The approval shall expire if proof of the prerequisite in accordance with § 4 (1) number 1 is not provided in due time.

§ 6 Entering into effect, expiry

The above admission regulations all apply for the first time to the admission procedure for the summer semester 2025 and enter into force on the day after their publication in the Rector's Gazette. The admission regulations for the Master's degree programme in Christianity and Culture of 20 July 2009 (Rector's Gazette of 10/08/2009 p. 1185), amended on 20/05/2010 (Rector's Gazette of 26/05/2010 p. 383), on 10/04/2015 (Rector's Gazette of 29/05/2015 p. 471) and on 02/03/2023 (Rector's Gazette of 31/03/2023 p. 337) shall lose their effect at the same time.

Heidelberg, 11/10/2024

Prof. Dr. Frauke Melchior
Rector