

# ACCESS TO THE DOCTORAL PROGRAM

## 1. Requirements for access to the PhD Program

The access requirements will comply with current general legislation and the specific regulations established by the UCM for access to PhD studies. All the information regarding pre-registration deadlines, access requirements, documentation, and information for foreign students is available at the following link, where you can also consult the list of Doctoral Programs offered by the UCM:

[Admission information to PhD programs](#)

**FOREIGN STUDENTS:** information on access to the PhD programs for students with degrees issued abroad is available [at this link](#).

**VERY IMPORTANT:** Students with **non-approved foreign qualifications from educational systems outside the European Higher Education Area** can access official PhD studies, although to do so **they must have requested [permission to access doctoral studies \(model 079\)](#)** from the Rector of the Complutense University of Madrid **prior to the application for admission to the PhD program**. More information about this process [in this link](#).

Foreign students **from non-Spanish-speaking countries** must present proof of having reached the **B2 level of Spanish from the European language portfolio** to be admitted to this PhD programme.

## 2. Required documentation and admission application (pre-registration)

Students who wish to apply to be admitted to the Doctoral Program in Religious Sciences must fill out this [Application Form for Admission to the Program](#) and upload it to the Doctoral Pre-registration application together with the rest of the required documentation. [In this link](#) you can consult all the documentation required in general for the application for admission to the doctoral programs of the UCM.

Once you have ready to be uploaded all the documents requested for your application, you can

[CLICK HERE TO ACCESS THE ADMISSION APPLICATION SYSTEM \(PRE-REGISTRATION\)](#)

## 3. Rules for admission to the PhD Program

Admission to the Doctoral Program will be the responsibility of its Academic Committee, which will be made up of the Coordinator and the assistant to the Coordination of the Doctoral Program, appointed by the Rector at the proposal of the Council of the Institute, and by three professors, linked to the PhD program and members of the University Institute of Sciences of Religions, appointed by the Rector at the proposal of the Council of the University Institute. The members of the Academic Commission must meet the requirements established in article 5 of the UCM Regulations developed in RD 99/2011.

For the admission of pre-registered students in the PhD program in Religious Sciences, the principles of objectivity, impartiality, merit and ability will be followed, and the following criteria will be taken into account:

### **1. Essential Prerequisites for Admission:**

- Submit a bachelor's, master's, or doctoral degree.
- Provide a letter of endorsement from the professor who will serve as the thesis supervisor.
- Non-native Spanish-speaking students must certify a Spanish language proficiency equivalent to level B2 of the European portfolio.
- Students presenting a degree issued outside the EHEA must obtain a [rectoral permit for access to doctoral studies](#) (or proof of application).
- All claimed merits and requirements must be supported by the corresponding documentation. Failure to provide the required documentation for points 1, 2, and, if applicable, 3 and 4, will result in automatic rejection from the program.

### **2. Admission Conditions Based on Academic Profile:**

- Students with Profile 1 have priority access to the program over the others, and those with Profile 2 have priority over those with Profile 3, regardless of the evaluation score obtained. The access profiles for this program can be consulted [at this link](#).
- Profile 2 students who do not provide proof of prior training in the field of religious studies must complete the additional coursework required by the academic committee.
- Profile 3 students will only be admitted to the program if they provide adequate justification and a research proposal that aligns with the program's objectives, as determined by the academic committee. Profile 3 students must also complete the additional coursework required by the academic committee.
- Profile 2 and Profile 3 students must achieve a minimum evaluation score of 4 (final weighted grade) to be admitted to the program.

### **3. Evaluation Criteria:**

#### **a) Academic Degree Grade (up to 20 points):**

- Doctorate in Related Fields (Profile 2):\* Cum Laude – 20 points; Non-Cum Laude – 15 points.
- Doctorate in Unrelated Fields (Profile 3):\* Cum Laude – 15 points; Non-Cum Laude – 10 points.
- Master's in Religious Studies or Equivalent\*\* (Profile 1): Average grade  $\times$  2.
- Master's in Related Fields (Profile 2):\* Average grade  $\times$  1.5.
- Master's in Unrelated Fields (Profile 3):\* Average grade  $\times$  1.

(\*Related fields include: Philosophy, Philology, History, Art History, Psychology, Anthropology, Political Science, Law, Theology, and Religious Studies.)

(\*\*This refers to the academic, non-confessional study of religions. A Theology or Religious Studies degree of a confessional nature does not fall into this category but is considered a related field.)

**b) Additional Academic Training in Religious Studies\*\* (beyond the qualifying degree for PhD admission, up to 30 points):**

- Accredited university programs (undergraduate or postgraduate): 30 points.
- Non-accredited university programs (certificate programs, seminars, etc.): Up to 10 points.

(\*\*Refers to the academic, non-confessional study of religions. Confessional Theology or Religious Studies degrees are classified as related fields.)

**c) Additional Academic Training in Related Fields\* (beyond the qualifying degree for PhD admission, up to 10 points):**

Training in university-level methodologies and research areas relevant to the PhD in Religious Studies that facilitate research integration:

- Accredited university programs (undergraduate or postgraduate): 10 points.
- Non-accredited university programs (certificate programs, seminars, etc.): Up to 10 points.

(\*Related fields include: Philosophy, Philology, History, Art History, Psychology, Anthropology, Political Science, Law, Theology, and Religious Studies.)

**d) Knowledge of Modern Scientific Languages: Up to 10 points.**

**e) Professional or Research Experience in Religious Studies: Up to 10 points.**

Relevant professional experience includes:

- Cultural mediation.
- Professional collaboration with NGOs and associations related to Religious Studies.
- Teaching experience in the subject of History of Religions (secondary education).

Relevant research experience includes:

- Research initiation scholarships.
- Participation in funded research projects.
- Involvement in recognized research groups.

**f) Other Academic and Professional Merits: Up to 20 points.**

Considered in this section:

- Research stays abroad.
- Training in non-academic institutions.
- Volunteer work in humanitarian or cooperative organizations.
- Publications related to Religious Studies.

- Attendance at conferences and seminars.

The Academic Committee will take into account that applicants submit a letter of motivation in the Admission Application Form in which their research interests are expressed in accordance with the lines of the Program, as well as a doctoral research preliminary project.

Once students have been selected, the Academic Commission, in the cases it deems necessary, may call the applicants for a personal interview, in order to clarify doubtful aspects of the curriculum or to verify data adduced in it. This call is not mandatory and will in any case be exceptional.

The decision on the admission of applicants will be the responsibility of the Academic Committee of the Doctoral Program. In any case, admission and selection will be restricted to the entry numbers set for the Doctoral Program, within the framework determined in the higher-order provisions in this regard.

The abovementioned rules for the admission of students will be applied equally to all students, both full-time and part-time students. The places will be awarded according to the quotas established in the call, until all the places offered are exhausted.