

Requirements for M.A. Degree

Requirements for Graduation

In accordance with relevant NCCU regulations, academic requirements for M.A. students are as follows:

1. Time to Degree : Completion of M.A. degree requirements ordinarily must be between 2-4 years, exclusive of leaves of absence.
2. The GIRS maintains a minimum number of thirty credits to graduate from the M.A. Program.
3. Language Requirement : M.A. students are required to fulfill requirements for English-language proficiency.
4. M.A. students are required to submit an M.A. Thesis proposal.
5. M.A. students must pass Thesis Oral Examinations in good standing.

Required Coursework and Regulations

1. The GIRS requires that M.A. students should complete 30 credits of coursework, including 12 credits from required curricula and 18 credits from elective coursework. Coursework related to the study of a second foreign language is not counted towards credits for graduation.
2. Credits from required coursework must comprise a total of 12, including:
 1. "Research Methodology and Field Work"
 2. "World Religions: History and Themes"
 3. 6 credits from the core curriculum including:
 - (a.) Core Curriculum for "Religious Traditions" – each student shall enroll in one semester of coursework, and shall complete 3 or more credits worth of coursework.
 - (b.) Core Curriculum for "Theories of Religion" – each student shall enroll in one semester of coursework, and shall complete 3 or more credits worth of coursework.
3. Normally, during the first year of study, M.A. Program students engage in elective coursework at the GIRS. During the second year of study, with the

approval of the GIRS Head or an academic advisor, students may count up to 8 academic credits from outside coursework towards credits for graduation.

Language Requirement :

The GIRS holds English-proficiency examinations in April and November of each academic year. Students may apply to sit the examination in accordance with the times announced by the GIRS Administration Office. Those students that fulfill any of the requirements below are waived the requirement to sit the GIRS-administered examination:

1. Achieving a score of 61 or higher on an IBT-administered online TOEFL examination.
2. Achieving an intermediate or advanced level on National English Proficiency Exam.
3. Testing above a level 5.5 on the IELTS International English Exam.
4. Achieving above level PET certification on the Cambridge Certificate English Proficiency Exam.
5. Achieving a score of 600 or above on the TOEIC English Proficiency Exam.
6. Completing two or more semesters of courses relating to Religious Studies taught in English.

Participation in Academic Colloquia and Conferences

The GIRS encourages graduate students to participate in academic colloquia and conferences related to Religious Studies both within and outside the confines of NCCU. In accordance with the regulations of the R.O.C. Students planning to attend such an academic conference or colloquia should provide an officially-notarized documentation from the administrative unit, in order to certify academic criteria for the GIRS fellowship application.

Procedures for Submission of the M.A. Thesis Proposal

1. After having submitted the topic abstract for their proposed M.A. Thesis proposal, students may apply for formal faculty review of the M.A. Thesis proposal.
2. The review of the M.A. Thesis Proposal assumes the form of written review.

- 3 · The thesis proposal review committee consists of the faculty instructor and two other experts. At least, one of them should be an outside expert.
- 4 · The M.A. Thesis Proposal must be evaluated and approved by each member of the committee.

M.A. Thesis Oral Examinations

1. Those who have passed the M.A. Thesis Proposal can submit applications of Thesis Oral Examination after 6 months.
2. The M.A. Thesis Examination assumes the form of open oral examination.
3. Candidates for the M.A. degree must satisfactorily complete an oral examination administered by a committee comprised of two members of the NCCU faculty (at least one from GIRS), with the option to include a member of their profession as a third outside reader. A candidate will submit their final project to the examiners prior to the exam. This project will provide a starting point for, or focus of, the questioning at the two-hour final oral examination.