

Faculty of Protestant Theology, University of Bonn

## Ph.D. Program – General Information

Thank you very much for your interest in the Faculty of Protestant Theology's ph.D. program! In the following, you will find an overview of the most important information.

*Please note: This information is based on the 2023 version of the program regulations. The regulations themselves are legally binding, not this leaflet.*

### Requirements for the Ph.D. Degree

The ph.D. program consists of:

1. a **structured doctoral program** (§ 7)
2. a **doctoral thesis** (§ 9)  
on a topic from a chosen area of specialisation (major)
3. a public **oral defence** (§ 10)

You can choose from the following **majors**:

- Hebrew Bible
- New Testament and Early Christianities
- Church History/History of Christianity
- Systematic Theology
- Hermeneutics and Ethics
- Ecumenical Studies
- Practical Theology
- Religious Education

### Doctoral program

The structured doctoral program aims to supplement and deepen existing knowledge and skills in the area of specialisation (major) chosen for the ph.D. program. As a rule, it should last no more than six semesters.

Mandatory **parts of the doctoral program** are

- Participation (incl. coursework) in **courses**, e.g. societies, advanced seminars, colloquia, totalling 540 hours of workload and at least 12 semester hours
- Participation in at least two **international congresses**, conferences or similar related to the chosen area of specialisation – at least one of these events requires a contribution (presentation, paper) of at least twenty minutes in length
- If applicable, further content as part of an aptitude study program (§ 4, para. 2)

## Doctoral Thesis

The doctoral thesis can be written in **German, English or French**. Other languages are possible by arrangement.

With regard to the form of the doctoral thesis, you can choose between two variants:

1. scholarly treatise (**monograph**)
2. **cumulative dissertation**

In the case of a cumulative dissertation, at least three papers must have been published or accepted for publication under the first authorship of scientific series or periodicals with a peer review system. The submitted papers must be accompanied by a comprehensive introduction and a general summary of the results (§ 9, para. 3).

## Admission to the Ph.D. Program

Prerequisite for admission to the ph.D. program is the completion of a **degree in a subject relevant to the thesis and the chosen area of specialisation**, for which the standard period of study is at least eight semesters and which is completed with a degree other than “Bachelor” (§ 4, para. 1a and b).

In addition, **proof of the language skills required** for the chosen specialisation area and the topic of the doctoral thesis must be provided (§ 4, para. 1d). By arrangement, this can also be organized during the qualification phase up to the examination phase (§ 5, Para. 3)

If the previous thesis was not written in German or English, proof of language proficiency in German (level C1 according to the Common European Framework of Reference for Languages) or English (level B2) must be provided.

Finally, a **confirmation of supervision** from an authorised member of the faculty (professor, private lecturer) is required, in which the conditions for the individual ph.D. program are set out (§ 6, para. 2).

## Further Information

- **Regulations (Ph.D.):** [promotion@ev-theol.uni-bonn.de](mailto:promotion@ev-theol.uni-bonn.de)  
<https://hdl.handle.net/20.500.11811/11198>
- **Faculty members:** [www.etf.uni-bonn.de/de/personen](http://www.etf.uni-bonn.de/de/personen)
- **Website of the Faculty:** [www.etf.uni-bonn.de/en](http://www.etf.uni-bonn.de/en)

## Contact

Office for Doctoral Affairs of the Faculty  
Rabinstraße 8  
53111 Bonn