

GLOBAL PERSPECTIVES OF THE FACULTY OF PROTESTANT THEOLOGY

PRINCIPLES

As a field of academic research with a religiously complex Judeo-Christian heritage and that has developed on a global scale, the field of Protestant theology transcends disciplinary and national borders. Just as the Reformation in the 16th century formed as a dynamic interplay of numerous diverse expressions, so also Protestant theology 500 years later is best understood as internationally oriented and engaged in many different intercultural and interdisciplinary discourses. The Faculty of Protestant Theology at the University of Bonn is likewise committed to such an understanding of Protestant theology and sets out the following strategic considerations with the intention of maintaining and deepening its international orientation in keeping with that tradition.

PROFILE AND OBJECTIVES

A. International Profile and Orientation

1. The work of the scholars in the Faculty of Protestant Theology is international in nature. Faculty members organize regular **conferences featuring leading national and international researchers**. Together with the work conducted by our scholars in reviewing and editing international publications, this level of transnational academic engagement ensures the high and increasingly international profile of our faculty, which we seek to further promote.
2. The international orientation of the Faculty of Protestant Theology is evident in the **publications** of its member scholars. A high percentage of publications appear in English, as well as in a number of other languages. This visibility of research results will be maintained and advanced through ongoing efforts to publish in internationally oriented publication outlets. Young researchers are also encouraged to publish in English and provided with support for doing so. The faculty's researchers are also represented in internationally oriented committees and societies.

3. The international profile of our faculty is reflected in the composition of its member scholars, drawn as they are from many different countries and academic traditions outside Germany. The great majority of faculty scholars have gathered considerable international experience during their studies and throughout their career. Seeking to maintain its international character, the Faculty of Protestant Theology has resolved to continue with its policy of recruiting **academics from around the world**.

B. Internationalization in study and teaching

1. In cooperation with the Center of Religion and Society, the Faculty of Protestant Theology offers a one-year **English-language master's program in Ecumenical Studies** and a two-year Extended Ecumenical Studies master's program, established in 2007 and 2014 respectively. Attended by students recruited from all over the world, these programs serve to raise the international profile of theological education at the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Bonn.
2. The Faculty of Protestant Theology is currently planning to establish an **English-language master's program in Biblical Studies**, to begin in the winter semester 2023/24. The continental European approach to Biblical exegesis is widely respected throughout the world; the planned master's program is intended to give international students the opportunity to obtain training in this tradition.
3. The Faculty of Protestant Theology is also preparing an **English-language PhD program** to supplement the existing Doctorate of Theology (Dr. Theol.) program.
4. Students of the Faculty of Protestant Theology enjoy a wide range of opportunities to study abroad, and the faculty remains dedicated to the promotion of **international student mobility**. We organize special events to inform our students of the range of opportunities for study abroad open to them and we encourage students at all stages of their studies to take advantage of this valuable experience. Students interested in studying abroad are advised and supported on an individual basis. We regard students from our faculty placed in international partner institutions as ambassadors for both the Faculty of Protestant Theology and the University of Bonn.
5. The Dr. Holger Aulepp Foundation was established in 2022 to enable students and doctoral candidates in Protestant theology to study in Israel, including archaeological practice. The foundation supports **excursions to Jerusalem** and other places in Israel and Palestine as well as collaborations with Tel Aviv University.

C. Framework for the internationalization of research and teaching

1. The Faculty of Protestant Theology promotes internationalization on the administrative level through the recruitment of **international support staff**, in particular for the management of our international degree programs. The faculty also supports the efforts of its administrative and technical staff to develop their international professional profile, primarily through foreign language training, but also within the context of university exchange programs.
2. In early 2019, the Faculty of Protestant Theology moved to raise its online profile by launching an **English-language website**, the content of which is to be expanded and maintained on an ongoing basis. In particular, testimonial videos from students and members of the teaching staff either in English or with English subtitles will also be posted on social media to raise our international profile.

3. Study and research in the Faculty of Protestant Theology involves in-depth knowledge of texts in the ancient languages of **Hebrew, Greek and Latin**. Students in German-language courses of study provided by the faculty also learn the importance for modern theological research of a very wide range of international theological literature. To this end, they are encouraged to incorporate the findings of theologians publishing in English, French and other foreign languages.

D. Strategic partnerships

The Faculty of Protestant Theology has maintained several long-standing exchange partnerships with institutions abroad.

a) Partnerships with institutions in other European countries

1. The partnership agreement formed with the **University of Oxford** in 1977 centers around the biennial Bonn-Oxford Seminar for doctoral and postdoc students and regular study group meetings on the lecturer level. The work of this study group has resulted in the publication of a series of thematically-focused edited volumes with considerable impact. The Faculty of Protestant Theology intends to continue this format in the years ahead.
2. Under the aegis of the **Erasmus+ Programme**, the faculty maintains partnerships with the following institutions: Durham University (Department of Theology and Religion); University of Strasbourg (Faculté de Théologie Protestante); Christian Theological Academy Warsaw; Universität Wien (Evangelisch-Theologische Fakultät). The various partnerships exhibit differing levels of popularity and engagement from students. The renewal of our various Erasmus partnerships that has just taken place was made contingent on an evaluation of their individual track record. We are also seeking to develop promising new partnerships in this area. The faculty places especial value on the courses made available through partnerships with Hebrew University and Dormition Abbey in Jerusalem, and provides specific advisory services on these programs.
3. The long-term partnership with the **Protestant Theological Faculty of Charles University in Prague** (formerly known as the Comenius Faculty) has been integrated into a comprehensive university partnership formed between the University of Bonn and Charles University in 1995. Recent years have seen the partnership develop on the academic level through research and lecture exchanges and participation in academic conferences organized by both institutions.
4. The 40th anniversary of the partnership agreement established with the **Christian Theological Academy in Warsaw** in 1978 was marked in September 2018 with a three-day symposium. The partnership involved a number of annual staff exchanges between members of both faculties to conduct research and teaching. The Ecumenical Institute is currently working on ideas for future cooperation.
5. The **Ecumenical Institute** was established to foster and maintain a number of dialog forums between East and West and maintains relations with a range of partners in Eastern Europe.
6. Working within the scope of the strategic partnership between the University of Bonn and the **University of St Andrews**, the Faculty of Protestant Theology in Bonn aims to establish a research cooperation program with the School of Divinity at the University of St Andrews.

b) Partnerships with institutions outside Europe

7. In recent years, the Faculty of Protestant Theology has developed a new focus on **partnerships with institutions in Africa, with co-operations being explored in Ethiopia and South Africa**. Visits have been organized and a conference was held in Bonn specifically to deepen these relationships. The faculty is striving to expand these new ecumenical contacts further.
8. In addition, the Faculty of Protestant Theology is working on an idea for cooperation with **Princeton Theological Seminary** in order to re-establish the former partnership that existed between Bonn and Princeton and to expand the exchange of academics and students in the long term.

E. Bonn as an international center of academia

The Faculty of Protestant Theology views Bonn as an ideal location for the cultivation of international relationships, especially ties throughout Europe, which it seeks to strengthen. As part of its efforts to raise its international profile, the Faculty of Protestant Theology works to exploit opportunities to develop new and existing ecumenical contacts as part of a wider drive to foster extra-European contacts, especially in the Majority World.

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