

WINTER SEMESTER 2024/2025

Management of Religious Diversity: Law, Policy, and Practice

*International Course led by the Faculty of Catholic Theology
at Bonn University in collaboration with the Luxembourg
School of Religion & Society.*

This course explores contemporary approaches to managing religious diversity through a comprehensive examination of theoretical and practical underpinnings of institutional arrangements, legal frameworks, and policy directions. With an emphasis on practical application, the course delves into various models for addressing religious diversity in public contexts, analysing relevant legislation, and investigating the concept of freedom of religion or belief and its influence on international, European, and national laws.

Participants will engage with a range of topics that highlight the complexities and nuances of religious diversity management. This includes examining the historical governance of religion in Europe, providing a better understanding of how past practices inform current policies. The course will also address the dynamics of religious change, such as secularisation trends, the rise of individuals identifying as nones or unaffiliated, and what is meant by 'the return of religion.'

In addition to theoretical insights, the course places a strong emphasis on practical theological considerations. The course will discuss how chaplains reshaped modern institutions to meet the needs of diverse religious populations. It will also explore the connection between the institutional models and the ecumenical and interfaith dialogue from both the individual and governmental perspectives. Through case studies, discussions, and direct engagement with stakeholders, participants will be equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to navigate and influence the field of religious diversity management effectively, preparing them for roles in both the public and private sectors.

COURSE OUTLINE

This is a hybrid course that includes:

**Seven Bi-weekly Online Meetings
(90 minutes) starting in week 41:**

1. Conceptual and Methodological Challenges: What do we mean when we speak of religion and religions?
2. Historical Governance of Religion in Europe: A brief historical overview.
3. Dynamics of Religious Change: The exploration of research on secularisation, the rise of nones, and the return of religion.
4. Freedom of Religion: How is it approached in law and practice?
5. Chaplaincy: Adapting to Europe's changing institutional context.
6. Multi-Faith Spaces: A case study in managing religious diversity.
7. Interfaith Dialogue and Praxis: Engagement from individuals to governments.

Two On-site Seminars in Bonn and Luxembourg with international, European, state, and religious authorities.