

Master's Program in Religious Aspects of 19th and Early 20th Century Russian Culture



Program Creator:

The Very Rev. Prof. Georgy Orehanov (1962–2020), Vice-Rector of Saint Tikhon's Orthodox University, famous specialist in the history of Russian Church and Russian religious culture, author of a number of books dedicated to relations of L. Tolstoi and Russian Church.

1. General Focus of the Program

The Master's program offers an all-round conception of the history of Russian culture from the 19th and early 20th centuries; develops an understanding of the place and role of religion (in particular, Orthodoxy, its spirituality and religious experience) in this history; develops a capacity for analysis of various areas in Russian culture, and social and philosophical thinking of the same period from the point of view of religious studies, theology, and cultural studies.

The unique interdisciplinary approach of the new Master's program lies in its bringing together specialist knowledge from various fields such as philosophy, religious studies, history of religion, Orthodox theology, Russian Church history, and the history of 19th century Russian spiritual culture.

The focus of the course facilitates development of an understanding of the most important features and tendencies in Russian culture that came into being during this historical period and which remain influential in modern Russia.

The Master's program in question encompasses the following areas of study:

- the history of Russian religious strivings in a socio-cultural and political context;
- religious aspects of culture in various areas of Russian life;
- the individual religious experience and particular features of the religious thought of the foremost Russian cultural figures of the 19th and early 20th century.

Professional prospects for graduates from the program include:

- academic research in the field of the history of Russian religious culture and thought;
- teaching courses on the history of Russian culture, literature, and philosophy on high school and university levels
- working in organizations that aim to establish contacts with Russia;
- resolving issues of intercultural communication in a Russian-speaking milieu both in Russia and abroad;
- developing of tailor-made marketing and advertising strategies for the Russian market;
- production of academic editions related to issues of Russian culture;
- implementation of various innovative forms of tuition in religious studies, theology, cultural studies, and related disciplines.

2. Tuition Process

The basis of the program is provided by individual courses created by well-known experts in Russian history, culture, and thought. The program also includes a range of general disciplines: pedagogy, teaching methodology, information technology, methodology of humanities research, academic research practices.

Religious Studies – General

History of Religious Studies in Russia and Abroad
History of Religious Philosophy
Church-State Relations in Russian History
Esoteric and Mystical Teachings
Principles of Working with Sources in Religious Studies

Basic Program Disciplines

19th and Early 20th Century Russian Theology: Main Schools of Thought
Main Trends in Russian Secular Religious Thought
The Russian Intelligentsia and the Church
Interactive Seminar: “Russian Archives”
Interactive Seminar: “Christianity and 19th–early 20th Century Russian Literature”
Interactive Seminar: “The Problem of Freedom of Conscience in 19th–early 20th Century Russia”
Interactive Seminar: “Dostoevsky at the Turn of the 20th Century”

Elective Disciplines and Special Courses

Religion and Philosophy in the Russian Silver Age
Secular Tendencies in Russian Culture (Music, Art, Theater)
Russian Sophiology as a Religious and Philosophical Synthesis of Modernist Culture
Russian Literature and the Church
Tolstoi, Dostoevsky, and the Russian Religious Crisis of the 19th – early 20th Centuries
Marginal Religions in Russia

Program length: 5 semesters

Cost of tuition: 175,000 RUR

Master’s students have the option to pursue the following additional opportunities:

- to learn remotely (especially for foreign students);
- to study Russian as a foreign language (especially for foreign students);
- to take part in academic conferences in Russia and abroad;
- to take part in international projects;
- to develop an academic portfolio (through involvement in academic grants and university-sponsored conferences, publication of articles in STOUH’s journals, etc.);
- to take part in projects and events of STOUH’s Faculty of Theology (festivals, church services, volunteer work, pilgrimages, etc.)

3. Program Director and Faculty

Program Director



Professor Konstantin M. Antonov, Head of the Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies, STOUH

Academic interests: history of philosophy, history of Russian religious philosophy, history of 20th and early-21st century Russian religious studies, psychology of religion in Russia (from the 19th to early 21st centuries), philosophical issues in theological research, contemporary problems in the philosophy of religion, etc.

Participating faculty members:



Professor Tatiana V. Sklyarova, Dean of the Faculty of Education of STOUH

Academic interests: religious upbringing of children, education, socialization, training of teachers for confessional institutions education, instruction in psychological and pedagogical disciplines in theological academies of the Russian Orthodox Church



Dr. Natalya A. Vaganova, Associate Professor of the Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies, STOUH

Academic interests: Russian religious philosophy, aesthetics, philosophy of music, philosophy of art



Dr. Pavel G. Nosachev, Professor of the Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies, STOUH; Associate Professor of the Department of Cultural Sciences, Higher School of Economics

Academic interests: research into Western esotericism through the prism of religious studies, research into marginal religiosity in the 20th and early 21st centuries, history of esoteric teachings, New Religious Movements, psychology of religion



Professor Maxim A. Pylaev, Professor of the Center for the Study of Religion at the Russian State University of the Humanities
Academic interests: Philosophy of religion, Christian theology, theoretical issues in religious studies, phenomenology of religion



Nikolai V. Kotrelev, historian of Russian philosophy and “Silver Age” literature, Italian translator, Senior Researcher at the Institute of World Literatures (Russian Academy of Sciences), faculty member of the Department of the Philosophy of Religion and Religious Aspects of Culture (STOUH) and Lomonosov Moscow State University, visiting professor at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem
Academic interests: Russian philosophy, Russian and Italian literature



Dr. Ksenia A. Kolkunova, Senior Instructor in the Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies

Academic interests: History and methodology of religious studies, history of religious studies outside of Russia, theory of religion, religion in the modern world



Dr. Tatiana N. Rezvykh, Associate Professor of the Department of New Technologies for Education in the Humanities (Institute of Distance Learning, STOUH), senior instructor in the Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies

Academic interests: Russian and German philosophy



Professor Aleksandr V. Savvin, Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies (STOUH)
Academic interests: Religious philosophy, history of philosophy, social philosophy, New Religious Movements, religion and politics



Dr. Fyodor A. Gaida, Associate Professor of the Department of 19th–early 20th Century Russian History of Lomonosov Moscow State University
Academic interests: early 20th century Russian political history, Russian liberalism, power and society in the revolutionary era, the Church and the Revolution



Dr. Olga A. Bogdanova, Lead Researcher in the Department of Late 19th and early 20th Century Russian Literature, member of the International Dostoevsky Society



Dr. Elena Y. Knorre, instructor at the Department of the Philosophy and Religious Studies (STOUH)

Academic interests: Christianity and Russian literature, religious strivings in Russian society