LMU LUDWIG-MAXIMILIANS-UNIVERSITÄT MÜNCHEN

Faculty of Catholic Theology
Jun.-Professorship of Global Church Leadership

Licentiate in Theology

-

Global Church Leadership

Student Handbook

In cooperation with:

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Interdisciplinarity

In line with its mission to serve as a think tank for the leadership of the Catholic Church in today's context, both *ad intra* and *ad extra*, the Professorship of Global Church Leadership at LMU, within the Faculty of Catholic Theology, takes an interdisciplinary approach to teaching and research. Rooted in church law, this approach draws on pastoral theology, liturgy, education, fundamental theology, Christian social ethics, and other social and cultural sciences. The Licentiate programme fosters genuine collaboration between theological and non-theological disciplines and perspectives, preparing candidates for effective leadership roles within the Church.

Aims and Duration of the Licentiate

The Licentiate in Theology with a focus on Global Church Leadership addresses questions relevant to ecclesiastical leadership, strategy, administration, management, and other issues of importance to the universal Church, particular churches, groupings of particular churches, and religious orders. It aims at:

- ✓ Enabling students to become acquainted with issues relevant to Church leadership.
- ✓ Enabling students to apply the attained knowledge and skills for better leadership at all levels of Church life.

Seminars focusing on themes relevant to Church Leadership are offered cyclically in four semesters. This is designed to enable candidates with active lives to balance work and study.

Students can opt to begin their studies either in the summer or winter semester.

Teaching modalities

There are two attendance options: in person at LMU or online. Students who opt for online attendance due to being unable to attend in person are required to participate live. This is intended to facilitate interaction with professors and fellow students.

However, the video registrations of the various seminars will be made available on the YouTube channel of the Institute of Global Church Leadership, along with the necessary access codes. The aim is to accommodate individual needs and schedules, but dedication is required.

Further information on attendance

- Students enrolled in the Licentiate in Theology, specialising in Global Church Leadership, can attend regular courses at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at LMU, provided they register in advance. They can obtain seminar certificates for all of the Faculty's theological seminars, provided they submit a seminar paper that receives a positive evaluation. However, it should be noted that to obtain a Licentiate in Theology with a focus on Global Church Leadership, four seminar

certificates must be obtained at GCL seminars and/or in the disciplines of the Practical Theology Group.

- Students at the Faculty of Catholic Theology at LMU can attend seminars of Global Church Leadership of their choice, provided they register in advance. An attendance certificate will be provided at the end of each seminar. Students can also obtain a seminar certificate if they submit a seminar paper that receives a positive evaluation.

Admission procedures

Candidates wishing to enrol in the Licentiate program should submit all required documents to the Faculty of Catholic Theology secretariat at the LMU (dekanat@kaththeol.uni-muenchen.de), copying the holder of the Global Church Leadership chair (J.Ongono@kaththeol.uni-muenchen.de).

1. A certified copy of the degree in Theology. If the degree is in a language other than English or German, a certified translation must also be provided. The candidate should have obtained a grade of at least 16/20 (i.e., 80% or 2,50).
2. A certificate of general university entrance qualification, also known as the Advanced Level Certificate or A-level (UK), or High School Diploma (US). If the certificate is in a language other than English or German, a certified translation must also be provided.
3. Language requirements: knowledge of Latin, Greek, and Hebrew. The transcripts' grades will serve this purpose.
4. A good knowledge of spoken and written English is essential and expected. The lowest possible level required for enrolment is the B2 level.
5. A copy of the candidate's passport or another identity document showing her/his anagraphic information.

Registration

Once a candidate's eligibility has been verified, the Dean of the Faculty of Catholic Theology will issue an admission certificate allowing them to register via the LMU Campus Management System website.

https://www.lmu.de/de/studium/hochschulzugang/bewerbung-zulassung-und-immatrikulation/freie-studiengaenge/

https://www.lmu.de/en/study/important-contacts/international-office/

Seminar Certificates

1. Upon submitting a seminar paper and receiving a positive evaluation from the course master, students will receive a seminar certificate for each seminar.
2. Students can choose which seminar they would like a certificate for.
3. To complete the licentiate programme, it is mandatory to obtain four seminar certificates.

Licentiate Thesis

1. By the end of their second semester, students should propose one or two licentiate thesis topics to a supervisor of their choice. This supervisor will be a professor from the Faculty of Catholic Theology (Practical Theology) at LMU.
2. The title of the approved topic may be modified during the writing process with the approval of the supervising professor.
3. The choice of the supervising professor depends on their availability, workload, and area of specialisation.
4. The licentiate thesis is approximately 100–150 pages long.

Requirements for the completion of the licentiate

In addition to seminar attendance, further requirements are set out:

1. The submission of a licentiate thesis of approximately 100–150 pages.
2. The obtaining of four seminar certificates.
- 3. A Licentiate examination in Practical Theology, which is divided into two parts. Firstly, a three-hour written exam in one of the Practical Theology disciplines (excluding the discipline in which the Licentiate thesis was written). Secondly, an oral examination covering four Practical Theology disciplines. Usually, GCL as the main field of study, alongside three others chosen by the student.

4. One-time attendance at the annual Academy of Global Church Leadership, accompanied by the submission of a 10–15-page seminar paper. If the seminar paper submitted by the student is evaluated positively, they will receive a seminar certificate.

Proposed seminars focusing on topics relevant to church leadership

Area 1	Area 2	Area 3
1. Leadership and Management **2.** Labour Law **3.** Contemporary Challenges of the Church **4.** Mediating Role of the Church *ad extra* **5.** Conflict resolution *ad intra* **6.** Introduction to Statistical Work with Church Data	**1.** Church finances **2.** Supra-Diocesan and Diocesan Structures **3.** Parish Structures **4.** Pastoral Approaches and Strategies **5.** Catechesis and Preaching **6.** Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults	**1.** Lay and women's ministry **2.** Vocations to the Clerical and Consecrated Life **3.** Liturgy and the New Movements **4.** Mission and Dialogue **5.** Catholic Education **6.** Social Teaching of the Church **7.** Institutional and Vatican Communication

Area 1

Leadership and Management

This seminar focuses on the legal and canonical aspects of leadership and management, and the necessary skills. It will therefore address theoretical and practical issues related to effective and quality leadership. It aims to provide students with the systematic tools required for future leadership roles.

Labour Law

The seminar will examine the fundamental principles of labour law. Particular reference will be made to the functioning of the ULSA (Ufficio del Lavoro della Sede Apostolica) and the canonical prescriptions regarding good administration and employee management. It aims to prepare students to take on areas of responsibility within the Church and act on its behalf.

Contemporary Challenges of the Church

This seminar takes a dual approach to examining the challenges arising from the *ad intra* life of the Church in recent times, as well as some of the Church's teachings that contradict the 'new values' of postmodern society, resulting in frequent criticism and portrayal as outdated. Adopting an analytical approach, it will explore strategies for addressing these issues without altering the Church's teachings. It will also consider questions arising from these criticisms.

Mediating Role of the Church *ad extra*

The Church's leadership role is evidently twofold: *ad intra*, within its own community, and *ad extra*, in relation to civil society and its institutions, and to the world in general. Thanks to its moral authority and diplomatic activity, the Church plays an instrumental role in seeking and maintaining peace, and for cohesion within each society. This seminar will examine the mechanisms through which the Church fulfils this mission, focusing on the diplomatic activity of the Holy See through the State Secretariat, apostolic nunciatures, bishops, and episcopal conferences. The aim is to raise awareness of the centrality of this mission of the Church and to equip the candidates to fulfil it at various levels.

Conflict Resolution *ad intra*

This seminar considers conflict resolution mechanisms within particular churches, religious orders, and ecclesiastical institutions. Administrative procedures will be studied, including monitions, recourse to superiors, and possible sanctions, as well as

penal extra-judicial procedures. By the end of the seminar, the candidate is familiar with the various conflict resolution procedures within the Church and able to propose efficient solutions to conflictual situations.

Introduction to Statistical Work with Church Data

This seminar aims to equip students with the tools and methods needed to make Church data understandable and actionable. It will explore the intersection between statistics and Catholic theology to create forecasts about future Church membership and development, helping to plan for upcoming challenges and opportunities.
It will also use visualisations, such as maps and charts, to make complex data easy to understand and use for decision-making, and will cluster groups of similar members, parishes, or dioceses to better address their specific needs and allocate resources effectively.

Area 2

Church Finances

The seminar will consider various aims of the administration of temporal goods in the Church. Ecclesiastical and private goods will be presented, as well as various forms of and actual challenges to Church financing. Plausible new financing models will be discussed. The requirements for a proper administration of ecclesiastical goods will be studied, including crimes against the good administration of ecclesiastical goods.

Supra-Diocesan and Diocesan Structures

This seminar aims to gain an understanding of how the Church is organised. The following topics will therefore be thoroughly considered: the Roman Curia, dioceses (groupings of particular churches at various levels), and religious institutes.

Parish Structures

As a stable community of the faithful within a particular church, the parish is the main point of contact for the faithful and non-faithful alike, introducing the candidates to the life of the church as a community and institution. This seminar will pay particular attention to the structural organisation and proper administration that contribute to effective leadership within the parish.

Pastoral Approaches and Strategies

With foundations in pastoral theology, this seminar focuses on exploring approaches and strategies to make the pastoral work of ordained and non-ordained ministers more effective in various contexts. These approaches and strategies will differ depending on whether the context is rural, semi-rural, or urban. The aim is to provide candidates with tools for effective pastoral leadership in a synodal Church.

Catechesis and Preaching

This seminar will emphasize the importance of catechetical formation for parishes and other church communities, as well as the significance of preaching. It is divided into two modules. The first module will cover catechesis, identifying different circumstances and effective, plausible methods. The second module will focus on preaching, specifically the homily during Mass and other forms of preaching, such as exhortations and meditation outside of Holy Mass. This will include practical preaching exercises. The seminar aims to prepare participants to effectively share the truth of the Good News in various settings, including online environments.

The Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults

This seminar will focus on the guidelines and current norms regarding abuse, methods to avoid attitudes and conditions that could lead to abuse (spiritual, conscience-related, authority-related, and sexual), the role of the community in preventing abuse and supporting victims, and the procedures for dealing with abuse and providing pastoral care for abusers and victims.

Area 3

Lay and Women's Ministry

Starting from Vatican II and the magisterial teaching of the Church, as well as the dispositions of the Code of Canon Law, this seminar will systematically present lay and women’s ministry in the current teaching of the Catholic Church. Broadening knowledge, the seminar aims to rediscover the dignity, place, and role of the laity, with a particular focus on women's participation in a synodal Church.

Vocations to the Clerical and Consecrated Life

These specific vocations are particularly relevant to the life of the Church. Providing an exegesis of the key points of the current normative framework for these vocations, this seminar will reflect on the challenges they face in the present context from a pastoral

perspective. The dual aim is to make them more attractive and understandable, and to offer tools for better cooperation in Church life.

Liturgy and New Spiritual Movements

The liturgy is an act of public worship performed by the Church. As such, it belongs to the Church as a community and is organised according to specific laws and principles that govern its celebration. The first module of this seminar focuses on the theology and liturgical practice of the Church. In light of the growth, vitality, and relevance of the so-called 'new movements' within the Church, and the necessity and duty of pastors and other pastoral agents to provide pastoral and liturgical support, the second module will present “new movements” and the challenges they pose to Church life. It will also explore liturgico-pastoral methods of support. It aims to provide candidates with the correct liturgical training and practical tools to effectively support "new movements" and the liturgical life of Church communities in general.

Mission and Dialogue

Adopting a pastoral theology perspective, this seminar considers the Church's evangelisation mission, i.e., its tools and concrete organisation. It also considers the ever-growing secularisation of society, the growth of extremist tendencies, and the proliferation of new beliefs and church communities. It further considers the Church's evangelising mission and its dialogue with other communities of believers. Therefore, the seminar will focus on missiology, ecumenism, and inter-religious dialogue. It aims to equip candidates with the tools necessary for the ongoing evangelisation mission of the Church, as well as for dialogue with other faith communities and non-believers.

Catholic Education

This seminar is organised into two modules. The first will cover the content and organisation of Catholic education from a canonical perspective, with a look at civil law [the course master could pick and choose a specific territory/continent] and particular laws on education in schools, addressing some practical problems regarding Catholic schools. The second module will focus on the challenges of proposing Catholic education nowadays and will take a practical, local-based approach to analysing particular circumstances and realities to offer new or up-to-date models for reforming Catholic education.

Social Teaching of the Church

This seminar will explore key themes of the Church's social teaching. Introductory and historical overviews will provide context for understanding the relevance of the Church's social approach and concerns, as well as those of its institutions and legal entities. It will pay particular attention to the social teachings of the Church that are most often

challenged. This approach aims to provide candidates with the basic knowledge they need to present the Church's teachings efficiently in the present context.

Institutional and Vatican Communication

The Institutional and Vatican Communications seminar introduces candidates to the fundamental concepts of institutional and Vatican communications. Candidates will learn to apply these concepts and how to manage and implement them effectively. The seminar is divided into two modules. The first module will cover the history and theory of Vatican communications, the challenges faced by institutional Church communications in the modern era, and key themes of Vatican communications and how they are portrayed in the media. The second module will focus on how to conduct interviews, develop crisis communication strategies, calibrate media presence, handle media pressure, and apply communication techniques within a particular ecclesial institution.
The seminar will help participants to understand the characteristics of institutional and Vatican communications, learn how to manage crisis communications, and develop communication skills for both media relations and internal Church communication.

Calendar of Courses

Wintersemester	Sommersemester
Universal Church Context – Year 1	
1.Contemporary Challenges of the Church 2. Mediating Role of the Church *ad extra* 3. Ecclesiastical Institutions 4. The social teaching of the Church 5. Mission and dialogue	1. Leadership and Management 2. Conflict Resolution *ad intra* 3. The Protection of Minors and Vulnerable Adults 4. Vocations to the Priestly and Consecrated Life 5. Institutional and Vatican Communication
Particular Church Context – Year 2	
1. Church finances 2. Labour Law 3. Introduction to Statistical Work with Church Data 4. Catholic Education	1. The Parish 2. Pastoral Approaches and Strategies 3. Lay and Women's Ministry 4. The liturgy and the New Movements

5. Catechesis and Preaching	

- ✓ Canon Law foundations [but not only]
- ✓ Pastoral Theology foundations [but not only]
- ✓ Social Sciences [but not only]

Contact

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Disclaimer Note

This manual is intended solely as a practical guide for students. The "Academic Examination Charter (Prüfungsordnung) for attaining the degrees of Licentiate and Doctor of Theology from Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität Munich at the Faculty of Catholic Theology" is the only legally binding document.

See : https://cms-cdn.lmu.de/media/01-kaththeol/fakultaetswebsite-der-katholischen-theologie/downloads/forschung/promo_kthf_eng.pdf