



St Irenaeus Orthodox  
Theological Institute



Radboud University



## Are you interested in studying Orthodox Christianity at university level?

You can do so at St Irenaeus Orthodox Theological Institute, based at Radboud University in Nijmegen. There is the option of the full Pre-Master Orthodox Christianity programme or of a minor consisting of several courses of the pre-master. Upon completion you may continue with two related master's programmes.

### ***Pre-master programme***

The Pre-Master Orthodox Christianity provides students with an introduction to Orthodox Christianity as it is lived in its rich diversity. The programme focuses on what is shared by the Orthodox of both families: the 'Eastern Orthodox' (Greek, Slavic, Arabic, Romanian etc. traditions) and the 'Oriental Orthodox' (Armenian, Coptic, Syriac, Ethiopic and Eritrean traditions). Students will study Orthodoxy in its own right, rather than highlighting the differences with the other two forms of Christianity (Roman Catholicism and Protestantism).

Although this programme prepares students for continuing with a master's programme offered by Radboud University, some students use the pre-master as a 'mini bachelor' in Orthodox Christianity without continuing their studies at master's level.

To enrol you need a Dutch bachelor's degree (university or HBO) or a foreign degree recognised in The Netherlands. The fees for the programme are approximately the same as for a regular university bachelor.



### ***Minor***

Students at any Dutch university may incorporate courses of our pre-master as a minor in their main programme. Students at an HBO institution can (under certain conditions) do the same. You will probably need permission from the exam committee of your main institution.

### ***Programme***

The pre-master programme consists of eleven courses. In nine of these courses various aspects of the Orthodox traditions are examined. These courses are taught in English by the teaching staff of St Irenaeus: Fr John Behr (professor), Fr Michael Bakker (rector), Fr Joan Lena (lecturer). The two remaining courses are a general course and a research project (in Dutch) taught by our faculty colleagues.

## Blended Learning

We use the innovative ‘blended learning’ format, which allows students to participate almost entirely online. Each course consists of nine study weeks. During the first seven weeks you will study reading materials and videos available in the electronic learning environment Brightspace (see screenshot to the right). You will participate in weekly online meetings (‘virtual classrooms’) and answer questions in writing. You complete a course by writing a final paper in the remaining two weeks. In the middle of these there is a live meeting at Radboud University, during which the drafts of the final papers are presented. This form of teaching allows you great flexibility and minimises travel time. The virtual classrooms are scheduled at 6-7 PM (18:00-19:00) on Wednesdays or Thursdays, which usually does not interfere with work or other activities.

## Master programmes

Students who have completed the pre-master may continue their studies with the Master Geestelijke Verzorging (Spiritual Care) or the Educatieve Master Godsdienst en Levensbeschouwing (Educational Master), both of which are taught in Dutch. After completion you have many opportunities to work as a chaplain or teacher.

## Schedule Pre-Master Orthodox Christianity (2025-2026)

The table below shows the part-time study schedule (combining both years results in a full-time programme):

### Programme Pre-master Orthodox Christianity 2025-2026

YEAR 1	Course	Teacher	EC	First Semester		Second Semester		CLASSROOM	PRESENTATIONS	KICK-OFF
				Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4			
	History 1	Joan Lena	5	█				On-line Th 18-19	On campus Fr 24 Oct 10-14	On campus Mo 1 Sept 14-18
	Scripture	John Behr	5		█			On-line We 18-19	On campus Fr 24 Oct 14-18	On campus Mo 1 Sept 14-18
	History 2	Joan Lena	5			█		On-line We 18-19	On campus Fr 16 Jan 10-14	
	Theology 1	John Behr	5				█	On-line Th 18-19	On campus Fr 16 Jan 14-18	
	Liturgy 1	Joan Lena	5				█	On-line We 18-19	On campus Fr 20 March 9-12	
	Anthropology	Michael Bakker	5				█	On-line Th 18-19	On campus Fr 12 June 10-14	

### YEAR 2

Course	Teacher	EC	First Semester		Second Semester		CLASSROOM	PRESENTATIONS
			Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4		
History 3	Joan Lena	5			█		On-line We 18-19	On campus Fr 20 March 13-15
Theology 2	Michael Bakker	5			█		On-line Th 18-19	On campus Fr 20 March 15-17
Liturgy 2	Joan Lena	5				█	On-line We 18-19	On campus Fr 12 June 10-14
Bible: Introduction	Carly Crouch	5	█	█			On campus TBD	On campus 36-51
Onderzoeksproject	Faculty collective	10	█	█	█	█	On campus Th 10:30-12:15	On campus 36-51 & 5-23
<b>Total</b>		<b>60</b>						

## More information

If you are interested, please visit our website for more information at [www.irenaeus.nl](http://www.irenaeus.nl) or send an email to [office@irenaeus.nl](mailto:office@irenaeus.nl).