The relevance of ecumenical formation has always been closely linked to educational and socio-political developments. In the field of religious education, for example, both possibilities and alternatives to denominational religious education are currently being intensely discussed, which in turn brings ecumenical theology as an academic discipline into greater focus than before. The value and role of ecumenism must therefore be considered both strategically in terms of curricular development and contextually in terms of providing the broadest possible range of ecumenically relevant knowledge and experience.

Against this background, the 2024 Summer Course will address two poles of ecumenical learning: On the one hand, it will address religious education and its various forms and models, including the role of ecumenical theology. On the other hand, it will deal with the “who” and “where” of ecumenical education, such as biographies of leaders and places of learning, combined with the potential of ecumenical learning beyond the academic context in church communities, in new forms of pastoral care, in the field of social ethics and moral theology, in political responsibility, etc.

The theme of our 2024 Summer Course was also chosen in light of the 60th anniversary of the PRO ORIENTE Foundation. From the very beginning, in accordance with the core mission of the Foundation, PRO ORIENTE has been committed to institutional and ecumenical learning. We hope that the summer course will provide both an evaluation and future perspectives for the Foundation’s ecumenical work and engagement.

We focus on the following aspects, among others

- Ecumenical learning from experience or the potential of experience for ecumenical formation
- The role and models of ecumenism in current educational theory and practice
- Places of learning (loci) of ecumenism
- Ecumenism and biography
- What does ecumenism look like in the future? What is or will remain or become important?
Speakers (in alphabetical order)
• Archbishop emerita of the Church of Sweden Dr. Antje Jackelén
• Prof. Dr. Ingeborg Gabriel (Austria)
• Jun.-Prof. Dr. Stanislau Paulau (Germany/Belarus)
• Prof. Dr. Gabriel Hachem (Beirut)
• Prof. Dr. Ulrike Bechmann (Germany)

Organizers
• PRO ORIENTE Foundation (Prof. Dr. Andrea Riedl & Viola Raheb, M.A., PhD)
• Dr. Katherine Shirk Lucas

How to apply?
The PRO ORIENTE Summer Course addresses students and scholars at early career stages. Active participation and presentation of a research project (BA-/MA-thesis, dissertation) either in the format of a paper or poster are required.

PRO ORIENTE will cover the accommodation costs from September 2–5 2024. The travel costs are to be paid by the participants themselves, an application for (partial) travel allowance is possible.

• Venue: Kardinal-Koenig-Haus, Kardinal-Koenig-Platz 3, 1130 Wien (Austria)
• Working language: English

Application documents
1. Curriculum Vitae
2. Motivation letter (max. 2 pages)
3. Exposé of the research project (max. 2 pages)
4. Letter of recommendation (from a supervisor in academia or the Church)
5. Copies of Certificates (Bachelor’s/Master’s/Doctorate degree etc.)

Please send your application documents to office@pro-oriente.at by June 30, 2024. You will receive an answer by the end of July. If you have any further questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

With kind support of