

Admission examination program “History of religion”. Master’s program in Religious Studies

General description of the applicant requirements

The admission examination for the Master’s program is a qualification test aimed at revealing universal competences an applicant has in terms of comprehending cross-cultural diversity of the society in socio-historical, ethical and philosophical contexts as well as general professional competences in terms of using the concepts and methods of the History of Religion. The admission examination focuses on revealing the applicant’s awareness of the genesis and evolution of religions in the history of society, new religious movements, socio-historical and sociocultural conditions of their formation and development.

Contents

Subject and methods in history of religion. Principles of religion classifications. Typological features of indigenous (incl. ethnic), world (universal) religions and new religious movements.

Genesis of religion and historical types of religions. Early forms of religious faiths. Religions of Ancient world. Vedic religion. Brahmanism.

Indigenous (ethnic) religions. Hinduism: origins, evolution and current status. Jainism, Sikhism, Zoroastrianism, Parsism. Confucianism: origins, evolution and current status. Taoism: origins, evolution and current status. Shinto: origins, evolution and current status. Judaism: sources, evolution, main movements, current status.

World (universal) religions: Buddhism, Christianity, Islam.

Buddhism: origins, main movements, current status. Buddhist literature. Features of Buddhism in China and Japan. Tibetan Buddhism.

Origins of Christianity. Formation of Christian dogmatics and different churches. The Bible. Eastern Orthodoxy: origins, creed, worship. Catholicism: origins, creed, worship. Protestantism: origin, main denominations, features of creed, worship and organization.

Islam: origins, main movements, features of creed, worship, organization. Qur'an. Sunnah. Sharia. Modernism and fundamentalism in modern Islam. Islam and socio-political movements.

Contemporary religious processes. New religious movements. Originating background, specifics and classification of modern syncretic religious movements.

List of recommended literature

- Religiovedenie : uchebnik dlya vuzov / I. N. Yablokov ; pod redaktsiei I. N. Yablokova. — 2-e izd., pererab. i dop. — Moskva : Izdatel'stvo Yurait, 2019. — 371 s. (*in Russian*)
- Entsiklopediya religii / Pod red. A.P. Zabayako, A.N. Krasnikova, E.K. Elbakyan. M., 2008. (*in Russian*)
- Istoriya religii v 2 t. Tom 1. Kniga 1. Proiskhozhdenie religii. Avtokhtonnye religii i religii Drevnego mira : uchebnik dlya vuzov / I. N. Yablokov [i dr.] ; otvetstvennyi redaktor I. N. Yablokov. — 4-e izd., pererab. i dop. — Moskva : Izdatel'stvo Yurait, 2022. — 271 s. (*in Russian*)
- Istoriya religii v 2 t. Tom 1. Kniga 2. Religii Drevnego mira. Narodnostno-natsional'nye religii : uchebnik dlya vuzov / I. N. Yablokov [i dr.] ; otvetstvennyi redaktor I. N. Yablokov. — 4-e izd., pererab. i dop. — Moskva : Izdatel'stvo Yurait, 2022. — 276 s. (*in Russian*)
- Istoriya religii v 2 t. Tom 2. Kniga 1. Buddizm. Vostochnye tserkvi. Pravoslavie : uchebnik dlya vuzov / I. N. Yablokov [i dr.] ; otvetstvennyi redaktor I. N. Yablokov. — 4-e izd., pererab. i dop. — Moskva : Izdatel'stvo Yurait, 2022. — 376 s. (*in Russian*)