



Prisca Sapientia Institute

Course Syllabus

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Freemasonry Studies

University: Prisca Sapientia Institute

Mode: Online | Duration: 2 Years | Credits: 60 ECTS

Certificate No.: 410406

Language: English

Course Objectives

The Ph.D. in Freemasonry Studies aims to:

- Provide in-depth academic training on the origins, development, and global diffusion of Freemasonry;
 - Equip students with analytical tools to explore Freemasonry's philosophical, sociopolitical, and symbolic dimensions;
 - Train scholars in research methodologies and academic publishing in the field;
 - Foster the production of original research through a doctoral dissertation.
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Program Structure

The program is divided into **four semesters**, each lasting 16 weeks, with **15 ECTS credits per semester** for a total of **60 ECTS credits**. It includes:

- Core courses
 - Research seminars
 - Writing workshops
 - Final dissertation and defense
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Detailed Course Plan

Semester 1 – Spring 2025 (15 ECTS)

Code	Course Title	Instructor	Credits
HIST 701	The Origins and Evolution of Freemasonry	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3
PHIL 702	Masonic Philosophy and Symbolism	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3
RES 710	Research Methodologies in Freemasonry Studies	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3

Assessment: Essays, field reports, midterm exam, final project presentation

Semester 2 – Fall 2025 (15 ECTS)

Code	Course Title	Instructor	Credits
SOC 703	Freemasonry and Society: Sociological Perspectives	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3
POL 704	Freemasonry and Political Thought	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3
RES 720	Academic Writing and Publishing in Masonic Studies	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3

Milestone: Submission and approval of thesis proposal

Semester 3 – Spring 2026 (15 ECTS)

Code	Course Title	Instructor	Credits
ANTH 705	Ritual and Symbol in Masonic Traditions	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3
REL 706	Esotericism and Western Mystery Traditions	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3
RES 730	Dissertation Research Seminar I	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3

Focus: Drafting of thesis chapters, peer review, annotated bibliography

Semester 4 – Fall 2026 (15 ECTS)

Code	Course Title	Instructor	Credits
DIS 800	Dissertation Writing and Defense Preparation	Thesis Supervisor	9
COL 801	Colloquium in Global Freemasonry	Visiting Scholars Panel	3
ETH 802	Research Ethics and Scholarly Integrity	Dr. Walid Abou Dehn	3

Outcome: Final thesis submission and online defense

Dissertation Requirements

- Minimum length: 40,000 words
- Written in English
- Must demonstrate originality and scholarly contribution
- Supervised by an assigned faculty member
- Evaluated by an international academic committee

Admission Requirements

- Master's degree or equivalent (EQF 7 or higher)
- CV and motivation letter
- Preliminary research proposal (2–3 pages)
- B2 level English proficiency or higher

Learning Platform

Courses are delivered via the university's LMS with access to:

- Recorded lectures
- Web seminars
- Online library
- Forums and support tools

Tuition

- €4,500 per year (can be paid in installments)
- Partial scholarships available based on merit or affiliation

Contact

Ph.D. Office –

 secretariat@priscasapientia.university



 +41 [0767966143](tel:0767966143)

Zurich

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Director General

Milo Dolci