

Justus Liebig University Giessen



Justus Liebig University Giessen

- Founded in 1607
- 11 faculties (from Agricultural Sciences to Veterinary Medicine)
- Around 28,000 students
- 90 courses of study

https://www.uni-giessen.de/faculties?set_language=en



Structure of a semester

- Summer semester:
 - Semester: April 1-September 30
 - Lecture period: mid-April – mid-July
 - Examination period: mid-July-September 30
- Winter semester:
 - Semester: October 1-March 30
 - Lecture period: mid-October – mid-February
 - Christmas break: 3 weeks (between mid-December – mid-January)
 - Examination period: mid-February-March 30

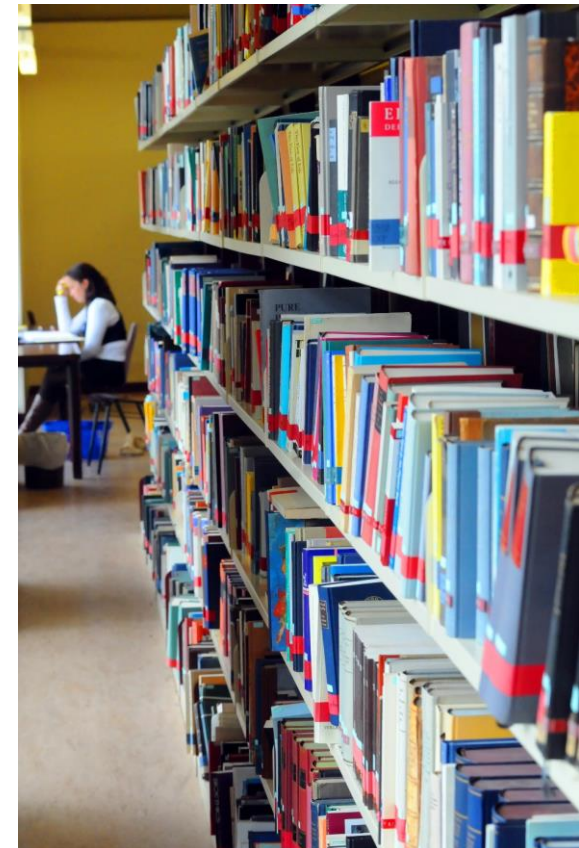
<https://www.uni-giessen.de/studium/semesterzeiten>

Language and courses

- Primary language of instruction in teacher education: German
- General Course List (German): <https://studip.uni-giessen.de/evv/extern.php>
- English Course Catalogue: <https://www.uni-giessen.de/internationales/ce>

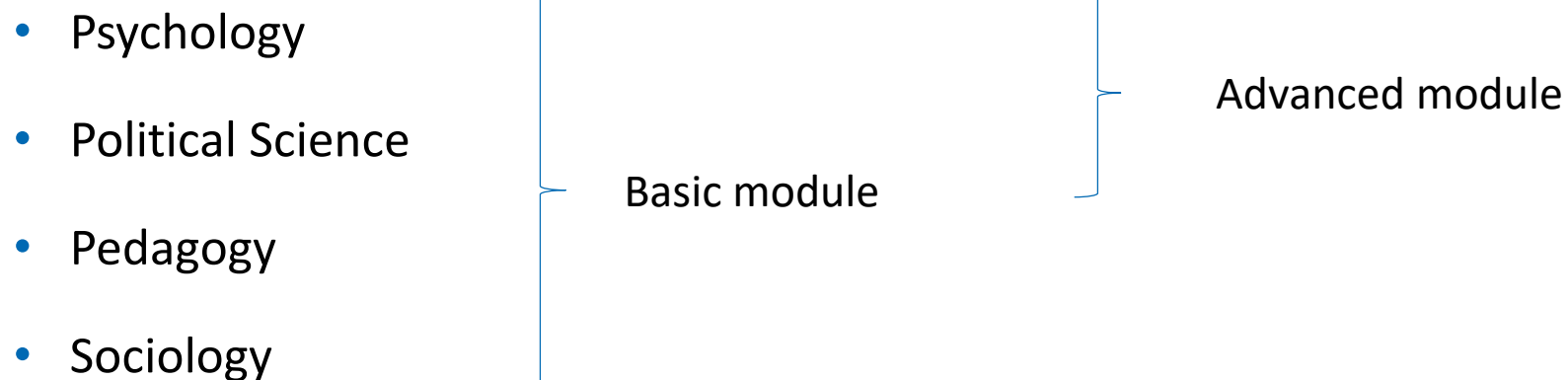
Teacher Education: General facts

- 9 faculties involved
- More than 20% of the students enrolled (ca. 6,000 students)
- Degree: First State Teaching Examination
- Five courses of study (between 7-9 semesters)
 - L1: Primary School (Grades 1-6)
 - L2: Lower Level Secondary School (Grades 5-10)
 - L3: Upper Level Secondary School (Grades 5-13)
 - L4: Vocational School (BA/MA)
 - L5: Special Schools (Grades 5-10)



Teacher Education: Components

- Modular structure
- 2-3 subjects
 - Broad range (languages, humanities, sciences, music, arts, sports)
 - Subject-specific content and subject-related didactics
- Educational and Social Sciences



IMPACCT: Outgoings and Incomings

Faculty 03 (Social Sciences and Cultural Studies)

Sociology

Politics

Pedagogy

Special
Education

School Pedagogy
and Elementary
Education

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/fb03/Start>

Faculty 04 (History and Cultural Studies)

Islamic Theology
and its Didactics

Catholic/Protestant
Theology

Philosophy


History

Turkology

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/fb04/Institute>

Teacher Education: Components

- 4 traineeships (L1/L2/L3)
 - Orientation (4 weeks)
 - Work placement (8 weeks)
 - School-based studies (5 weeks)
 - School-based studies with focus on one subject (5 weeks)
- Possibility of doing one school-based studies abroad



Including preparatory and feedback sessions

<https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/zentren/zfl/studium/sps>

Teacher Education: Primary School

- 3 subjects: German – Mathematics – Islamic Religious Education
- Educational and Social Sciences
- Didactics of the Primary School (heterogeneity, multilingualism, inclusion etc.)
- Musical-Aesthetic Training and Movement Education

https://www.uni-giessen.de/study/courses/teaching/islam?set_language=en

JLU

NEUE WEGE. SEIT 1607.



Studying Islamic Religion at Giessen University

Dorothea Ermert

Some “hard facts”

- 2011- the chair starts as the youngest location of Islamic centres in Germany
- 2012- first 30 students enroll for the new subject
- 2013- start of first postgraduate training for teachers and of regular IRE at state run schools (1 year programme, same curriculum as at Giessen University, teachers' training ended in 2017)
- 2019- total amount of 138 students of Islamic Religious Education

Institute- Professors and Scientific staff

- 2 professors / 8 research assistants and lecturers (2 without picture)



Concept of the Chair



- contemporary Islamic religious education
- religious maturity of the individual

Research Profile



- interculturality and religiosity
- plurality and interdisciplinarity

Islamic Religion - Modules

Module 1: Theological Principles and Main Sources of Islam

Module 2: Religious Practice Past and Present

Module 3: Islamic Religious Education and Teaching Methodology

Module 4: School-Based Study – Full-Time Period of Teaching Experience

Module 1: Theological Principles and Main Sources of Islam

- the main tenets of the Islamic faith (*aqidah*), the main theological questions (*kalam*) and their discourse contexts
- the schools of thought of the different denominations and their relevance for Muslims in Europe
- main sources of Islam, Qur'an and Sunnah
- methods and approaches of Qur'anic exegesis
- structure, origin and assessment of the traditions and sayings of the prophet Muhammad (science of *hadith*)
- basic knowledge of teaching methods to categorise theological questions and the main sources of Islam in Islamic religious instruction in primary schools
- fundamental language forms of Arabic

Examples:

- Theological and anthropological Aspects of the God-Man-Relation in Islam (lecture, Yaşar Sarıkaya)
- Introduction into Islamic History of Ideas (lecture)

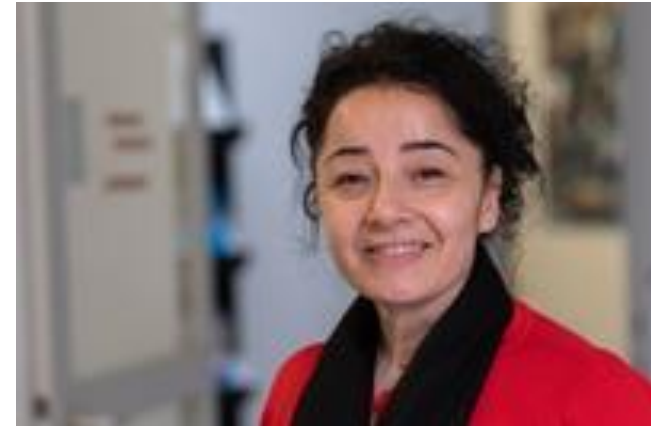


Module 2: Religious Practice Past and Present

- Muhammad's life story and its origin
- special role of Muhammad's life story in Islamic history and its orientation function for practicing Muslims
- main aspects of Islamic history from its beginnings to Islam in contemporary Europe
- main features of usul al-fiqh and fiqh: basic principles of fiqh, different approaches to their origin and significance in everyday religious life
- recitation of selected Surahs, verses, phrases and prayers from the Qur'an in the original language
- fundamental developments of Islamic schools of law and their significance
- Muslim religious practice
- fiqh and the everyday reality of Muslims in Europe, its teachings compared to European human rights and natural law traditions
- Muslim festivals, Muslim lifestyle and food

Examples:

- Islam in School (seminar, Naime Çakir-Mattner)
- Gender(-construction) in Islamic Thinking and Muslim Religious Practice (seminar)



Module 3: Islamic Religious Education and Teaching Methodology

- teaching methods of "elementarisation"
- intercultural, interdenominational and interreligious dimensions of Islamic religious teaching and religious education
- significance of upbringing and (developmental) psychological learning prerequisites of children for learning Islamic religion at school
- pedagogical and theological rationale for Islamic religious education in ideologically neutral schools
- media, materials and methods of Islamic religious teaching
- non-school settings for Islamic religious education and religious learning
- comparison of religious education concepts, learning concepts and teaching methodology

Examples:

- **Islamic Religious Practice in the Context of Islamic Religious Education (Exercise, Markus Gerhold)**
- **The Intercultural Dimension of the Didactics of Islamic Religious Education (Exercise, Dorothea Ermert)**



Module 4: School-Based Study – Full-Time Period of Teaching Experience

- learning requirements of individual pupils and socio-culturally heterogeneous and/or homogeneous learning groups
- curricula for Islamic religious education for the state of Hesse
- school curricula
- media and methods in religious education
- lesson plans
- Islamic theological contents and their didactic development
- oral and written reflection and evaluation of teaching activity

Incoming students cannot take part in this module!

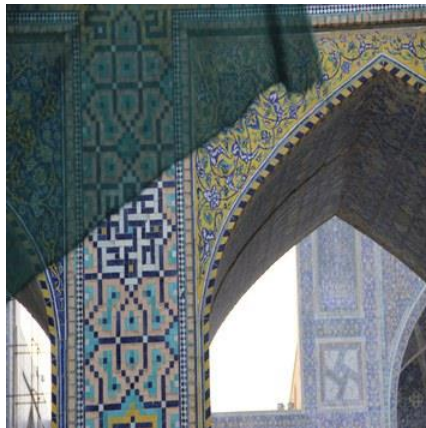
Research Projects

- **Religion, Diversity and Social Work (ongoing)**
- **Linked Open Tafsīr (ongoing)**
- **Acceptance, Formation and Transformation on the Example of Islamic Religious Education (finished)**

Especially the Acceptance project is of high interest with regard to the implementation of IRE in the state of Hesse because first experiences with the new subject have been analysed and evaluated. The results should have an impact on further developments not only in Hesse but in the other federal states, too.

https://www.uni-giessen.de/fbz/fb04/institute-en/islamic-theology-and-its-didactics?set_language=en

Field Trips



Publications of the Chair about Islamic Religious Education

