structure

The Academy of World Religions was founded in June 2010 as a new institution within Hamburg University.

The Academy of World Religions is jointly run by Hamburg University’s Faculty of Education (main administration), the Faculty of Economics and Social Sciences, and the Faculty of Humanities. It is supported by three advisory bodies: its International Advisory Board comprised of internationally renowned experts, its Hamburg Advisory Council including leading representatives from religious communities, politics, business, education and civil society, and its Interreligious Council of Experts comprising representatives of major religious communities in the city who regularly meet to discuss matters of interreligious concern.

Coordination

Professor Wolfram Weisse
Director, Academy of World Religions and Senior Professor at Hamburg University
Professor Katajun Amirpur
Deputy Director, Academy of World Religions
Professor Ursula Neumann
Deputy Director, Academy of World Religions
Professor Ulrich Dehn
Deputy Director, Academy of World Religions
Dr Anna Körs
Vice Director and scientific management, Academy of World Religions

Postal Address:
Academy of World Religions, Hamburg University
Von-Melle-Park 8
D-20146 Hamburg

Office Address:
Alsterterrasse 1 (near Dammtor railway station, see map)
Phone: +49 (40) 42838 – 7091
Fax: +49 (40) 42838 – 3441
E-Mail: akademiederweltreligionen@awr.uni-hamburg.de
Web: www.awr.uni-hamburg.de

Supported by Foundations

Veronika and Volker Putz Foundation
Gustav Prietsch Foundation
Research

The MA programme ‘Religion, Dialogue and Education’ began in 2012. Unique in Germany for its dialogical orientation, it addresses Islam, Judaism, Christianity, Hinduism, Buddhism and Alevism in their historical, geographic, philosophical and political pluralism and highlights their potential for dialogue.

The 4-semester curriculum places great emphasis on interdisciplinary engagement. Applications can be made through the STiNE site of Hamburg University at www.stine.uni-hamburg.de.

Research Project ‘Religion and Dialogue in Modern Societies’ (ReDi): An international research project running from 2013 to 2018, and funded by the Federal Ministry of Education and Research with a grant of over 3 million euros.

Postgraduate Programme Islamic Theology: The Academy of World Religions trains young scholars in Islamic theology within the postgraduate programme, Islamic Theology, funded by the Mercator Foundation from 2011 to 2016.

Forum Humanum Visiting Professorships: Each semester, this programme attracts renowned scholars representing dialogue-based approaches in Islam, Judaism, Buddhism, Hinduism and Alevism. They are funded by the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum.

Religions and Dialogue in Hamburg: This semi-annual panel discussion is organised as part of the Forum Humanum Visiting Professorships. It provides a forum for dialogue between researchers from the Academy of World Religions and members of Hamburg’s parliament on the significance of religion for coexistence in our society.

The Long Night of World Religions offers a journey with the texts, music and dances of the world’s great religions. This event takes place annually in cooperation with the Thalia Theater and is funded by the Udo Keller Foundation Forum Humanum.

Art in Interreligious Dialogue: A discussion series on selected art works involving representatives of different religious communities – in cooperation with Hamburg’s Kunsthalle and funded by the Gustav Prietsch Foundation.

Interreligious Calendar: Sacred days of the religions represented in Hamburg are explained by academic experts and commented on by pupils from the city (in cooperation with the Hamburg Social Services). See www.hamburg.de/interreligioeser-kalender

Dialogue in the City

The future of our society depends primarily on the ability of people from different cultures and religions to live in mutual understanding and acceptance. For this purpose, information and public opportunities for interreligious dialogue encounters are essential.

Diversifying Religious Education Teacher Training: The Academy of World Religions is actively involved in developing the inclusive concept of ‘Religious Education for All’, engaging pupils of all confessions, religions and beliefs in classroom dialogue. Prospective RE teachers can in this way encounter a wide variety of religions and theological traditions.

Public Lecture Series: Since 2006/07, the Academy of World Religions has been hosting regular public lectures every winter term.

Competence in interreligious dialogue and relations is a highly rated skill today. It has become a key academic qualification in many fields globally, and contributes positively to the peaceful coexistence of people from many different religious backgrounds.