

### The Institute for Old Catholic Theology (ICKath)

Studying Old Catholic theology has been possible at the University of Bern since 1874. Most of the graduates, both foreign and native, including women since the twentieth-century, become pastors.

The Institute is the only place in the world that offers a doctorate and post-doctoral studies in Old Catholic theology. From the start, Orthodox doctoral students from Eastern and Southeastern Europe have regularly completed their degree qualifications here. The ICKath is at the same time an academic research center for the historical and contemporary theological concerns of Old Catholicism.

## Old Catholic Theology

Old Theology is a full course of studies at the bachelor and master levels.

Theology is an extremely varied course of studies that includes elements of linguistics, history, philosophy, social and cultural studies.

The professional aim is often the pastorate. However, due to the versatility of the course of study, there are other career opportunities open to theologians that require a degree in the humanities.



Visit our website for more information:

[www.christkath.unibe.ch](http://www.christkath.unibe.ch)

## Make God and the World Your Career

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Study

**Old Catholic Theology**

at the University of Bern

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# Studying Theology

Students of theology engage the scriptures of the Bible, the development of the church, and Christian faith in history.

To understand significant texts in their original languages, provided a student does not already possess the necessary language skills, theology students learn Latin, Old Greek, and Hebrew in the first semesters of their program.

Students also study the content of the Christian faith, ethics from a Christian perspective, and the practices of faith.

The scientific study of theology is never unreflected repetition of old traditions but rather the critical examination of traditions and records through the lens of life and thought in the present.



Master students of every discipline in Bern can also pursue a minor in the history and theology of Old Catholicism.

Required Course Work	Bachelor studies 180 ECTS (165 ECTS Compulsory- und mandatory elective modules, 15 ECTS electives)  Master studies 120 ECTS
Regular Course Completion Time	Five years. An apprenticeship of fourteen months follows the course of study to become a pastor.
Degree	Bachelor of Theology (BTh) after three years, Master of Theology (MTh) after an additional two years.
Combining Subjects	Theology is a single subject program (full-time study without a minor)

The theology degree program with Christian, that is, Old Catholic emphasis, places particular weight on the early Christian faith traditions, on the history of Christian Catholicism, and the other Old Catholic churches as well as the questions surrounding a church service. Other important themes are also the ecumenical relationships and dialogues with other churches.

At the master level, students can place emphasis on their own areas of interest.

Students who wish to become pastors complete a practical semester in a church community within the framework of their master studies and a fourteen-month apprenticeship in a church after they complete their master's degree.



The Old Catholic Church of Switzerland maintains its own residence hall in which students of Old Catholic theology can rent a room for a reasonable price.

## Address:

Institute of Old Catholic Theology /  
Institut für Christkatholische Theologie  
Theological Faculty / Theologische Fakultät  
Länggassstrasse 51  
CH-3012 Bern, Switzerland

Contact Person, Institute Director:  
Prof. Dr. Angela Berlis

Tel. +41 (0) 31 631 41 93  
E-Mail: [ickath.theol@unibe.ch](mailto:ickath.theol@unibe.ch)  
Website: <https://www.christkath.unibe.ch>

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