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.

Visit our website for more information: www.christkath.unibe.ch
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 unre-flected repetition of old traditions but rather the critical examination of traditions and records through the lens of life and thought in the present.

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.