



University of Religions  
and Denominations

# Research-based Ph.D. Programs of The University of Religions and Denominations (URD)

## Introduction

In February 2018, at the request of the University of Religions and Denominations and in accordance with the Adoption Rules for admitting non-Iranian students at universities and higher education institutions of the country, the Council for the Extension of Higher Education in the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology of Iran allowed the URD to admit non-Iranian students for research-based Ph.D. program. The University of Religions and Denominations is the first university in Iran to receive from the Ministry of Science and Technology the license to offer research-based Ph.D. programs for non-Iranian students in the field of religious studies.

## Program's Advantages

1. having the best professors in the field of religions and denominations;
2. Granting a valid degree accredited by the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology;
3. The only Iranian university to run research-based Ph.D. program for non-Iranian students in the specialized field of religions and denominations.
4. Students do not need to be present in the university except for final step of enrollment at the commence of the program and proposal defense session at the end.
5. Students can write their research project and dissertation in English or Arabic.
6. Getting a visa that is valid for 3-5 years
7. Providing free accommodations at the time of students' registration and at any time they intend to travel to Iran

## Majors in Research-Based Ph.D. Program

### Non-Abrahamic Religions - Iranian Religions

In this field, students can present their proposal on subjects such as the history of ancient Iran with a religious approach, pre-Islamic Zoroastrian religion, Iranian religions in the Islamic era, and the philosophy and mysticism of Iranian religions compared to Islam.





## Comparative Studies of Religions - Christian Theology

Students in this major can submit their proposal on issues such as the theories of inspiration and the authority of the Bible, Bible commentary, Catholic theology, Protestant theology, Orthodox theology and Christian theological schools in contemporary times.

## Study of Religion

Students in this major can present their proposal on subjects such as the reality of religion, kinds of religiosity, religion and mental health, religion and secularism, the historical typology of religion, the criteria for evaluation of religions, religion and rationality, and religion and ethics.

## Shia Sects

Students in this major can present their proposal on issues such as the history of the Imamiyyah (governments and uprisings), the trendology of the companions of the Imams, dissenting sects in the context of Shi'ism and their relations with the Imamiyyah, comparative study of the political views and experiences of Shi'ism.

## Shia Studies

Students in this field can present their proposal on issues such as Shiite teachings, Shiite theological schools, Shi'a and Islamic sciences and civilization, Shiite thought and political theory, Shiism and Sufism, Shiism and rationalism, Imamate and historical theological objections, comparative study of the sources of religious thought, the comparative theology of the Shiite sects.

## History of Twelver Shia

Students in this field can submit their proposal on issues such as a review and critique of the political history of Twelver Shiites, the history of the political views of Twelver Shiites, the history of the theological views of the Twelver Shiites, review and critique of the views on the emergence of Twelver Shiite, and review and critique of Orientalists' views on Twelver Shi'a.



## Sufism and Islamic Mysticism

Students in this field can present their proposal on topics such as mystical ontology, mystical cosmology, mystical anthropology, the exegesis of the Qur'an and its mystical interpretations, philosophy of mysticism and its relation to philosophy and ethics, the history of Sufism and Islamic mysticism in the world, spiritual movements in the modern world, Shiism and Sufism, and comparative mysticism and the mystical views of Imam Khomeini.



## Islamic Philosophy and Theology (Transcendental Philosophy)

In this field, students can present their proposal on subjects such as transcendental philosophy, comparative philosophy, peripatetic philosophy, theoretical mysticism and illuminative philosophy.

## Islamic Theological Denominations

Students can submit their proposal on topics such as comparative theology, comparative prophecy and Imamatology, comparative eschatology, the Mu'tazilites of Basra and Baghdad and the new E'tezali movements, Maturidiya, Ash'arites and philosophy and mysticism, the intellectual foundations of Salafism, Salafism in the contemporary world, Ash'arites And Maturidiya in the contemporary world, Muslim intellectuals and the restoration of religious thought, the trendology of religious thought, and the trendology of proximity of Islamic denominations.

### Contact:

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For more information and probable queries on problems such as accommodation and tuition fees, you can also visit our website at: <http://urd.ac.ir/en>



## Comparative Studies of Islamic Denominations

Students in this field can submit their proposals on subjects such as the distinctions of the Usuli schools in different Islamic denominations, the effect of the Usuli differences in jurisprudence, the comparative study of the jurisprudential principles among denominations, the status of jurisprudential theories in different denominations, the distinctions of jurisprudential denominations in their approach to jurisprudence, the jurisprudence of newly-emerging issues, the special foundations of biographical evaluation (‘Ilm al-Rijāl) in jurisprudential denominations, the methods of evaluation and critique of hadith, and the theological foundations effective in jurisprudence of denominations and jurisprudence and legislation in denominations.

## Women's Rights in Islam

Students in this field can submit their proposal on issues such as Ayāt al-ahkām or Fiqh al-Qur’ān in the system of women's rights in Islam, the thoughts of contemporary Muslim thinkers about women and family, woman in judicial systems, women's rights in international documents, the review and critique of the latest family theories based on Islamic viewpoints, argumentative civil jurisprudence, argumentative penal jurisprudence, comparative family rights, and women's general rights.



## Philosophy of Religious Arts

Students in this field can submit their proposal on topics such as the mystical principles of Islamic aesthetics, the philosophy of art in Iran before and after Islam, the philosophy of art in other Islamic countries, the philosophy of art in India and the Far East, the Jewish and Christian philosophy of art, the views of traditional thinkers about art, and the critique of Modern art.

## Primary Requirements for Acceptance:

1. Applicants for research-based Ph.D. programs must have a Master's degree.
2. The Master's Degree of applicants must be approved by the Consulate of the Islamic Republic of Iran in the applicant's country of residence.
3. Having passport with at least three months validity.
4. Applicants must develop a research project commensurate with the subjects in one of the majors of Ph.D. programs in the University of Religions and Denominations, choose their supervisor and have their project approved by the relevant department.

## General Terms and Processes of Acceptance:

1. Initial registration in the website of the Ministry of Science, Research and Technology, Student Affairs Organization at:

<http://www.saorg.ir>

In the website, applicants can enter the non-Iranian students' section and complete the relevant forms. A scanned file of master's degree, transcript of records in the master's program, passport, and a photo are required for enrollment. After enrolling and selecting a field, the applicant will be given a tracing code, which must be submitted to:

[research@urd.ac.ir](mailto:research@urd.ac.ir)

2. In addition to the administrative procedures, applicants must prepare and submit a research plan related to the relevant department. After the research plan is approved, the final registration certificate will be issued.

3. For final registration, applicants must refer to the University of Religions and Denominations (located in Qom, Pardisan Town, Mowlavi Boulevard) and confirm their registration by paying thirty percent of the tuition fee for the program. It should be noted that the fee of the Ph.D. program is \$ 10,000.

For more information, applicants can contact:

[research@urd.ac.ir](mailto:research@urd.ac.ir)