IRD + EUCLID

MASTER IN INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY

OFFERED BY EUCLID (EUCLID UNIVERSITY) AND THE EUCLID CONSORTIUM

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INTER-RELIGIOUS DIALOGUE AND DIPLOMACY

EUCLID IS AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION AND UNIVERSITY FRAMEWORK

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INTRODUCING THE EUCLID MIRD

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES:

EUCLID's Master of Arts in Inter-Religious Dialogue and Diplomacy (MIRD) exists to prepare government officials, social workers, clergy, theologians and faculty members to successfully and constructively engage in inter-religious dialogue and diplomacy.

This master's degree program does not assumes a strong background in theology or diplomacy. Furthermore, it is open to students from all religious backgrounds including non-believers, although its focus may be of special interest to Muslims and Christians since it was—to an extent—developed in response to the "Common Word" initiative.

However, it does assume the following:

➠ an ability to read, understand and memorize large amounts of material since the reading assignments are significant

➠ interest and respect for all religions and for the ideal of dialogue and possible convergence.

The MIRD is also **a dual-purpose program** which offers **a core inter-religious theological foundation** with an additional competency in **critical thinking, diplomacy and conflict resolution**.

As part of the curriculum, this program offers an in-depth examination of the vast field of world religions, history, social and political projects, methods of negotiation and diplomacy, argumentation and critical thinking, etc.

This program was designed to train government staff having an interest in this field, but also to prepare general public students for careers with government agencies, international organizations, religious institutions as well as NGOs.

The MIRD is also a unique program in the sense that it is **the only one actually offered by an intergovernmental organization with a university mandate and a South-South perspective**, thus allowing direct interaction with practitioners as well as opening international internship opportunities.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must have Bachelor's degree or its international equivalent. Government-sponsored applicants (who are already government staff) may be admitted without a Bachelor's degree if their level of education and experience is deemed sufficient. EUCLID may require these participants to complete bridge courses prior to enrolling in the program.

Fluency in English (spoken and written) is required and will be tested.

METHODOLOGY

This program is offered on an asynchronous—open enrollment basis with occasional sequencing in cohort groups.

Please contact the program Principal for more information on the admission process.

EUCLID uses the following methods / media formats:

- Major textbooks
- Academic papers
- DVD lectures
- MP3 podcasts and webcasts
- Internal EUCLID course-packs

Since it is a graduate program, it emphasizes the ability to express logical, respectful and persuasive arguments by means of publishable academic papers.

In particular, the ability to write creative, constructive, respectful and professional, journal-grade papers is one of the essential objectives of the program.

The curriculum also calls for the ability to present an oral report (webcast), delivered to the course tutor in MP3 or WMV format.

PROGRAM COURSES:

The EUCLID MIRD Course Sequence (including optional courses) includes the following:

- Academic and Business Writing + Speaking (LIT-101M) (2 UCH / 3 ECTS)
- Argumentation and Critical Thinking (TPH-499) (2 UCH/3 ECTS)
- World Religions Module (REL-777) (3 UCH / 4.5 ECTS)
- Studies in World History (optional) (HIS-777) (2 UCH / 3 ECTS)
- Methods of Diplomacy (incl. IGOs) (DIP-401) (5 UCH / 7.5 ECTS)
- Advanced Studies in IRD level 1 (IRD-401) (3 UCH / 4.5 ECTS)
- Advanced Studies in IRD level 2 (IRD-402) (3 UCH / 4.5 ECTS)
- Advanced Studies in IRD level 3 (IRD-403) (3 UCH / 4.5 ECTS)
- Negotiation and Conflict Resolution (DIP-502) (3 UCH / 4.5 ECTS)
- Studies in Religious Conflicts (ISF-500) (3 UCH / 4.5 ECTS)
- Master's Thesis / Research Paper (DIP-606) (6 UCH / 9 ECTS)

Each course is fully documented by means of a detailed syllabus (program syllabi are usually attached as an Annex to this document). See www.euclid.int for the updated curriculum.

OPTIONAL SPECIALIZATIONS:

In consultation with his or her assigned tutor, the student may also pursue directed studies, for a value of 2-6 UCH / 3-9 ECTS, in the following areas of research and concentration:

- Christian—Muslim Dialogue
- Religion and Secularism
- Issues in Global Terrorism
- Advanced Geopolitics

CREDIT VALUE:

The minimum credit value for the completed EUCLID Master's is: 36 UCH / 54 ECTS.

FURTHER LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS:

Students are expected to demonstrate competency in one major language in addition to English.

PROGRAM INFORMATION AND ACCREDITATION:

EUCLID is an international (non-profit) framework for higher learning holding a university charter approved by memorandum of understanding and framework agreement with explicit accreditation by the Ministries of Educations of the Participating States.

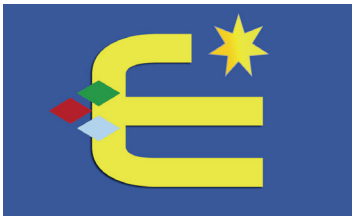
EUCLID's program accreditation is also confirmed by three inter-IGO agreements, notably with the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Note: The EUCLID intergovernmental MOU entered into force in April 2008. Prior information may not reflect this new status.

EUCLID is also the center of an international university consortium which holds derivative degree authority from the member schools, notably the University of Bangui.

This program follows EU as well as US guidelines for a Master's degree. A standard EU Diploma Supplement is available upon request.

(Below: EUCLID/3IRD Secretary General Syed Zahid Ali meeting with religious leaders at an ICCI conference in Damascus, Syria—2008)



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