

## MASTER IN FORMATION Features and Policy of the Programme

The Franciscan Institute of Spirituality is part of the Antonianum Pontifical University. In response to present needs in the Franciscan family for a renewal in formation, the Institute is offering a *Masters Programme in Formation* (1° level). The course is conducted in Italian.

*Aim:* The aim of the course is to provide theoretical and practical knowledge of the principles and dynamics of the formation process in ecclesial communities, with particular reference to institutes of consecrated life.

*Length:* The Masters Course lasts one year, from October to June. Classes, workshops and other activities take place during the week, and they include both morning and afternoon sessions. Four live-in weekend workshops are held during the year. Attendance at the classes and other activities is obligatory.

*Subjects:* 1) Franciscan anthropology and educational psychology; interdisciplinary work methodology; specific elements of the psycho-educational process; 2) spiritual experience and the evangelical counsels; 3) Franciscan spirituality: approach to the sources, constitutive elements, prayer animation; 4) the context of relationships, the affective life, the dynamics of fraternal life, cross cultural formation, methods for listening; 5) theoretical and practical aspects of accompaniment and discernment in formation; 6) the person and skills of the formator, formation programming (methods, principles, aims, tools, stages and assessment) for different specific levels (initial formation, ongoing formation, special formation); 7) personal formation interviews so as to gain an adequate awareness of ones own resources and limits in the area of formation responsibility; there are at least sixteen sessions.

**Methodology: The one-year Masters programme foresees an appropriate number of formal lectures, personal research, interactive dialogue and group dynamics. There will also be personal and group accompaniment during the programme, depending on student needs. For these reasons the number of candidates we can accept will be limited.**

A Masters Diploma (1° level) is granted to students who complete at least 60 credit points (ECTS) and who present, in conclusion, a written work of at least 25 pages.

***Pre-admission conditions:* We accept only those students who possess a University Bachelor Degree<sup>1</sup>. Knowledge of spirituality and Franciscanism is also necessary. This knowledge should be verifiable to a standard of at least 15 ECTS<sup>2</sup> or an equivalent value. A further necessary pre-condition is a sound grasp of the Italian**

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<sup>1</sup> If they already fulfil the other prerequisites, those who do not have a three year Bachelor Degree can be admitted to the course as 'extraordinary' students. At the conclusion of their *curriculum* an attendance certificate will be issued.

<sup>2</sup> ECTS (European Credits Transfer System) is the system used to calculate current course credits in the Universities of Europe. The calculation is based on the number of course hours in face to face classes, personal study, and the preparation and sitting for exams (cf. *Annuario accademico*, 2011-2012, p.18).

language (listening and speaking). This aptitude will be verified with an exam. Previous experience in formation work is desirable.

**Preparatory year:** In order to fulfil the necessary pre-requisites for admission to the Masters Programme, and to benefit fully from this formation process, we recommend a preparatory year offered by the Franciscan Institute of Spirituality consisting of courses from the Diploma or Licence programmes. It is recommended that the personal formation interviews begin during that time. *This preparatory year is obligatory for those who, in the judgement of the commission, have not fully satisfied the basic course requirements.*

*Admission interview:* The pre-requisites and aptitudes needed to attend the course will be verified via an interview with the candidate. This interview can take place during the preparatory year. Otherwise, it is preferable that it occurs for all the candidates during the month of May prior to enrolment.

Prior enrolment for the Masters course is necessary for the admission interview. Prior enrolment can take place at the Secretariat of the PUA between February and May. The prior enrolment form can be found on the University website at [www.antonianum.eu](http://www.antonianum.eu)

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