



DICASTERIUM
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

The Higher Education System of the Holy See

BFUG Meeting LXXXVI

16-17 November 2023, Madrid/Spain

Dicastery for Culture and Education

DEFINITION AND NATURE

The Academic Centres of the Catholic Church at university level are classified according to two types in light of the finality and contents of the studies:

- Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties
- Catholic Universities

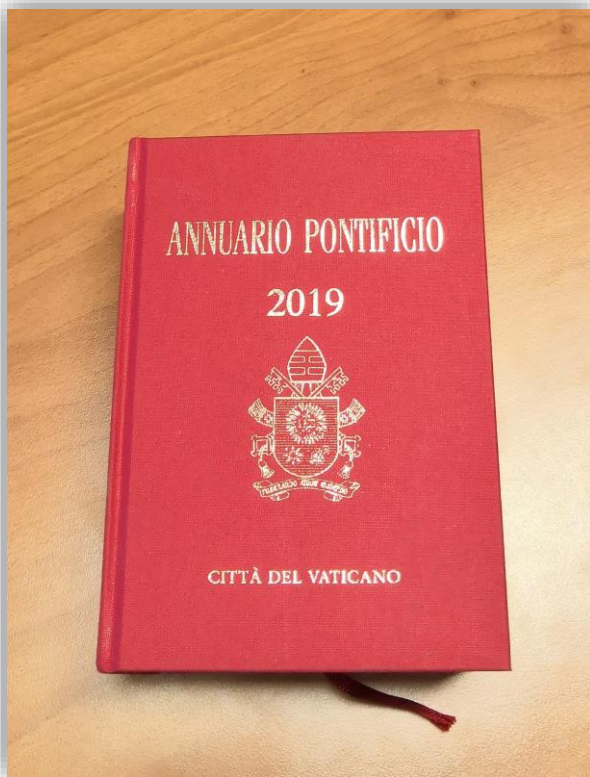
Ecclesiastical Faculties may exist alone (free-standing), within an Ecclesiastical or a Catholic University or within a civil or private university.

ECCLESIASTICAL UNIVERSITIES AND FACULTIES ...



- are engaged in teaching and research in the disciplines connected with Christian revelation and are therefore involved in the Church's mission of evangelization;
- confer degrees under the authority of the Holy See;
- are listed in the "Annuario Pontificio", the official yearbook of the Holy See, and the official database: <http://www.educatio.va>

ECCLESIASTICAL UNIVERSITIES AND FACULTIES ...



FACOLTÀ ISTITUZIONI ECCLESIASTICHE



Continente ▼ *

Nazione ▼ *

Città ▼

Facoltà ▼

(*) campo obbligatorio

CERCA

Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties ...



- are governed by a worldwide common academic legislation, i.e.:
 - the Code of Canon Law (Can. 815-821, CIC 1983);
 - the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium* of 2017^[1] of Pope Francis and the “Norms of Application”, emanated by the former Congregation for Catholic Education, now Dicastery for Culture and Education.

^[1]http://w2.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_constitutions/documents/papa-francesco_costituzione-ap_20171208_veritatis-gaudium.html

Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties ...

They number around ...

- 207 in Europe
- 289 all over the world
- plus circa 500 „affiliated“, „aggregated“ or „incorporated“ Institutions which award one or more degrees of the affiliating Faculty at another place (in most cases only the first cycle); 287 of which – also for historical reasons – in Europe.



FACOLTÀ ISTITUZIONI ECCLESIASTICHE



Continente *
Nazione *
Città
Facoltà

(*) campo obbligatorio

CERCA

Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties ...

They number around ...

- in Africa: 15 Faculties and 76 linked institutions;
- in Asia: 25 Faculties and 56 linked institutions;
- in North America: 19 Faculties and 25 linked institutions;
- in South America and the Caribbean: 22 Faculties and 56 linked institutions;
- in Oceania: 1 Faculty and 3 linked institutions.



FACOLTÀ ISTITUZIONI ECCLESIASTICHE



Continente ▼ *

Nazione ▼ *

Città ▼

Facoltà ▼

(*) campo obbligatorio

CERCA

Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties ...

One unique sectorial and global
Higher Education and Degree System:

- All academic degrees of ecclesiastical Faculties are awarded under the same authority = “The Holy See”;
- Therefore they are automatically recognised
 - as necessary qualification for regulated professions of the Church all over the world;
 - as necessary academic condition to enrol in further studies (on specialised or research-level).



Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties ...

... and their Academic Degrees can be:

- part of other National Higher Education systems (ecclesiastical Faculties in State-Universities);
- fully recognised (and in some cases also financially supported) as public or private „Non-State-Institutions“;
- recognised as legitimate Degree-awarding HEIs without being formally part of the system;
- recognised as HEIs of a foreign country/system.



The Holy See ... has signed and ratified ...

- the Lisbon Recognition Convention 1997 (UNESCO „European“ Region);
- the Bangkok Convention / Tokyo Convention 2011 (Asia and the Pacific);
- The Arusha Convention / Addis-Abeba Convention 2014 (Africa);
- The Mexico-City / Buenos Aires Convention 2019 (Latin America and the Caribbean);
- The Global Convention, adopted in November 2019.

THE COURSE- AND DEGREE- STRUCTURE OF ECCLESIASTICAL FACULTIES



DICASTERIUM
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

- The various disciplines that deal with Christian revelation correspond to the three major Ecclesiastical Faculties:
 - Theology
 - Philosophy
 - Canon Law
- along with many other (specialized) areas of study and respective Faculties according to the requirements of the local or universal Church: Christian Archaeology, Bioethics, Social Communications, Law, Christian and Classical Letters, Liturgy, Missiology, Sacred Music, Ancient Near Eastern Studies, Psychology, Educational Sciences, Religious Sciences, Social Sciences, Spirituality, Church History, Arabic and Islamic Studies, Biblical Studies, Oriental Studies, Studies¹¹ on Marriage and the Family...

The Course- and Degree- Structure of Ecclesiastical Faculties



- According to ecclesiastical legislation there are 3 academic cycles/degrees:
 - I. Baccalaureatus (1st cycle/degree)
 - II. Licentia (2nd cycle/degree)
 - III. Doctoratus (3rd cycle/degree)

“COMPETENT NATIONAL* AUTHORITY”



Dicastery for Culture
and Education
of the Holy See

Piazza Pio XII, 3
00120 Vatican City State

www.educatio.va

HIGHER EDUCATION
OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH
CONGREGATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

SEARCH IN THE WEBSITE

SHARE +

CONGREGATION FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION
MAGAZINE EDUCATIO CATHOLICA

DOCUMENTS

ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF THE HOLY SEE

INTERNATIONAL CENTER FOR RECOGNITION (ICR)

"We cannot grow and we cannot educate without consistency: consistency and witness!" Francis

QUALIFICATIONS FRAMEWORK

Level	First Cycle	Second Cycle	Third Cycle	Fourth Cycle	Other
8					
7					
6					
5					
4					
3					
2					
1					

TRAINING OFFER

FACULTY ECCLESIASTICAL INSTITUTIONS

“National Information Centre” of the Holy See



**INTERNATIONAL CENTER
FOR RECOGNITION (ICR)**
of the Holy See

www.educatio.va

at the Dicastery for
Culture and Education
Piazza Pio XII, 3
00120 Vatican City State
icr@dce.va



Quality Assurance in the Holy See System of Higher Education



DICASTERIUM
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

- Art. 1 § 2 of the *Norms of Application* for the Apostolic Constitution *Veritatis gaudium*:
“Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties, as well as the other institutions of higher education, are normally subject to evaluation by the **Holy See’s Agency for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties (AVEPRO)**.”
- Created with Chirograph of Pope Benedikt XVI on 19/09/2007: “... *personam iuridicam canonicam publicam et personam iuridicam civilem Vaticanam, sicut Institutionem cum Sancta Sede coniunctam...*” – independent Holy See institution.
- Funded from the budget of the Holy See, operational use of funds is within its self governing responsibility.

AVEPRO - for the Evaluation and Promotion of Quality ...



- Statutes, guidelines, reports: www.avepro.va
N.B.: Not an *accrediting* agency but for *evaluating and promoting quality* in education. CEC as competent [“national”] authority.
- ENQA member, last ENQA Agency Review in 2020.
- AVEPRO does not charge any fees to institutions – education as common good, quality as indispensable prerequisite!
- Professors and students are encouraged to participate in commissions as part of their responsibility for the educational process and its quality; further qualification through workshops and seminars.

AVEPRO - ... in Ecclesiastical Universities and Faculties ...



- Evaluations and accompaniment of Ecclesiastical HEIs all over the world – not EQAR-registered as not merely “European” but a truly global agency.
- Full ESG 2015 compliance.
- Regular period of HEI evaluation: 5 years.
- Cooperation agreements in countries with an (exclusive or de facto dominant) national agency, e.g. for Austria (AQ Austria), Switzerland (AAQ), Lithuania (bilateral treaty), Italy (ANVUR).

BFUG Board Meetings I + II/2024



DICASTERIUM
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

Two Board meetings
in the extraterritorial
area of the
Vatican City State:



- Tuesday, **23rd of January 2024**, whole day (beginning with handover and dinner on the 22nd of January).
- Tuesday, **12th of March 2024**, whole day (beginning with dinner on the 11th of March).

Nearest Airports: Rome-Fiumicino (FCO) and Rome-Ciampino (CIA), plus 45 min ride into the “Eternal City”.



DICASTERIUM
DE CULTURA ET EDUCATIONE

Thank you very much
for your attention!

<http://www.dce.va>

inteduc@dce.va