

ATESEA Theological Union (ATU)
(originally, South East Asia Graduate School of Theology)

From SEAGST to ATU

The Association for Theological Education in South East Asia (ATESEA) established the South East Asia Graduate School of Theology (SEAGST) in 1966 as part of its faculty development program for its member schools. In cooperation with the member schools of the Association, SEAGST has conducted programs of advanced theological studies and granted the degrees of Master of Theology (M.Theol) and Doctor of Theology (D.Theol).

Currently, due to the increasing number of schools that are capable to offer the Master of Theology program, the ATESEA General Assembly decided in July 2009 to focus the ATESEA's academic offering mainly on the D.Theol program, under a new name and structure. On September 6, 2009, the ATESEA Executive Committee approved the name of the school as ATESEA Theological Union (ATU).

Mission

Like the SEAGST, the mission of ATU is to enrich the intellectual and spiritual development of Asian theologians, responsive to the emerging opportunities facing the theological schools in Asia and beyond.

Core Values

Academic Excellence. ATU offers quality theological education for the professional development of teachers for the theology faculties and of leaders for Christian ministry in the church and society, under the supervision of competent professors both within and outside Asia.

Contextually Asian Theology. ATU encourages the construction of contextual and Asia-oriented theology by providing opportunities for research and reflection on the significance of the Christian faith in

dialogue with other living faiths, cultures and traditions of Asia and contemporary challenges.

Community and Diversity. ATU provides opportunities for the interchange of the graduate students and faculty members among the different participating Centers for Theological Excellence of ATESEA, thus enhancing regional consciousness and fellowship across the barriers of race and cultures.

Admission Requirements

Applicants for admission must hold the SEAGST M.Theol degree or an equivalent degree.

Program of Study

The program is designed to ensure that the candidates acquire the required tools for scholarly competence in their field of studies, have exposure in the depth and breath of the basic literature of the field, and developed a working knowledge of the histories and cultures of Asia.

The fields of study and requirements include:

- I. Bible and Interpretation
Areas: Old Testament, New Testament, Asian Religions/People's Movements
- II. Theological Constructions in Asia
Areas: Contextual Interpretations of Faith, Theology of the Christian Tradition, Christian Ethics, History of Christianity
- III. Religion, Culture and Life of the Church
Areas: Philosophy of Religion, Mission and Witness, Ecumenics, Life and Witness of the Church, Christian Education, Liturgy and Worship
- IV. Gender and Marginalized Concerns
Areas: Gender Studies, Indigenous Communities Studies

Requirements for Graduation

To graduate, candidates must successfully fulfil the following:

1. Two Methodology Seminars, which will be conducted centrally by ATU;
2. Three areas of research, in which papers pertaining to the chosen field are written;
3. A comprehensive examination; and
4. A dissertation of not more than 100,000 words.

The Centers for Theological Excellence of ATU

ATU will administer the D.Theol program in any of the following Centers for Theological Excellence (CTE) recognized by ATESEA:

1. Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies (Silang, Cavite, Philippines)
2. Duta Wacana Christian University (Yogyakarta, Indonesia)
3. Myanmar Institute of Theology (Insein, Myanmar)
4. Sabah Theological Seminary (Kota Kinabalu, Sabah, Malaysia)
5. Satya Wacana Christian University (Salatiga, Indonesia)
6. Sekolah Tinggi Teologi Jakarta (Jakarta, Indonesia)
7. The Divinity School – Silliman University (Dumaguete City, Philippines)
8. Trinity Theological College (Singapore)

Study Outside the Region

Students may be allowed to take courses outside the region upon the approval of the Senate of ATU. In such cases, the Senate will negotiate with particular institutions, enlisting their cooperation.

Time Limitation

The study program is designed for completion within a minimum of three (3) years and a maximum of six (6) years. A student may apply for a one (1) year extension upon the approval of the Senate.

Opening of the DTheol Program

ATU will commence the operation of the DTheol program beginning July 2010.

Application

1. Applications for admission are to be sent to the Office of the Interim Dean of ATESEA Theological Union (ATU)
c/o Central Philippine University
Jaro, Iloilo City 5000
PHILIPPINES
Email: equina_limuel@yahoo.com
2. Deadline of submission: April 30, 2010.
3. Application forms for admission can be obtained from any of the following:
 - a. ATESEA website – <http://www.atesea.net>
 - b. Office of the Interim Dean of ATU
c/o Central Philippine University
Jaro, Iloilo City 5000
PHILIPPINES

Tuition and Fees

1. Application fees (from within the region) : USD 30
2. Application fees (from outside the region): USD 50
3. Tuition fee and other miscellaneous fees. (The rate will be charged by the school/center of study)
4. Graduation fee: USD 50

Scholarships

It is expected that member schools will partly support their sponsored candidate. A few scholarships are available and deserving applicants may apply to the Dean of ATU for the award upon the recommendation of the ATU Senate.

For more information, please write or call,

The Interim Executive Director
Association for Theological Education in South East Asia
c/o Central Philippine University

Jaro, Iloilo City 5000
PHILIPPINES

Email: equina_limuel@yahoo.com
Tel. (63-33) 321 3714