



# ASIA GRADUATE SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY

## PhD in Intercultural Studies Program

*Preparing Mission Scholars Competent in Addressing Contextual Realities*

## PROGRAM OVERVIEW

### PHD IN INTERCULTURAL STUDIES PROGRAM<sup>1</sup>

AGST PhD IS recognizes that mission is not bounded by geography or the traditional understanding of cross-cultural mission. The word “mission” derives from the Latin word “*missio*” which simply means to be sent out. All Christians are sent out to be light and salt of this world. However, Christians need to be mobilized, equipped, guided, and encouraged to do various forms of mission work. This program aims to produce missiologists or mission scholars who are competent to address contextual realities for the purpose of doing God’s mission. Missiologists are scholars who work and serve in churches, para-churches, educational institutions, or organizations by providing research, planning, strategies, analyses, and missional implications and applications.

Mission is the mission of God or *missio Dei*. Mission is the overall salvation plan of God for the redemption of all creation. Missions, in plural form, are the different kinds, forms, or types of mission work (Bosch, 10). Mission is both local and global; it is both urban and rural; it is both centrifugal and centripetal; it is both in the church and in the community; it is indigenous, cross-cultural, and multicultural. The word “intercultural” connotes engaging with culture; understanding and studying culture. Culture is complex and cultural differences can be observed and studied based on ethnicities, generations, socio-economic levels, religious groups, associations, or genders.

AGST PhD IS is hosted by the Biblical Seminary of the Philippines. The Program started in 2011. It requires a total of 60 units that may span between four to seven years. Students are expected to keep track of their progress and must take the initiative to coordinate and communicate with the Program Director.

### PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

The PhD in Intercultural Studies program is interdisciplinary in nature as it combines social sciences, history, and theology in understanding particular contexts and realities for the purpose of doing God’s mission or *missio Dei*. It aims to equip missionaries and

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<sup>1</sup> This Program Overview is prepared by Dr. Juliet Lee Uytanlet.

Christian leaders by providing opportunities to reflect on their experiences, to do original research, and to integrate their learning in their ministries as missiologists.

## **PROGRAM OBJECTIVES**

1. To understand the biblical, theological, historical, and anthropological foundations for missiology;
2. To demonstrate Christ-like character and leadership skills necessary for effective ministry;
3. To articulate a philosophy of missiology and develop appropriate strategies in addressing issues in the contexts to which God has called them;
4. To demonstrate the ability to undertake original research and engage in critical thinking and theological reflection in at least one core area of missiological study.

## **ENTRANCE (ADMISSION) REQUIREMENT<sup>2</sup>**

Applicants must have a Master of Arts or a Master of Divinity in Mission or Intercultural Studies with a GPA of at least B (3.0 on a 4.0 scale; 1.75 on a 3.0 scale) from a recognized/accredited school. Graduates of other M.A./M.Div. degrees may have to take additional missiological, Biblical, and theological courses. Extensive cross-cultural missions experience may receive credit of up to 9 semester units in lieu of the required missiological course work.

### **Application Procedures**

1. **Fill out the application form.**  
Download an application packet from the AGST web site or contact the BSOP Registrar's Office (registrar@bsop.edu.ph) and ask for an application packet to be sent to you by email.
2. **Submit three Letters of Recommendation.**  
Ask an administrator and a member of the faculty of an institution you have attended as well as your current pastor to provide letters of recommendation. If you are already a member of the faculty of a Bible college or seminary, you should also ask an administrator and a faculty colleague to provide letters of recommendation. Each of these letters should be sent directly to the Program Director by email or in a sealed envelope to BSOP address.

Dr. Juliet Uytanlet  
AGST PHD IS Program Director  
EMAIL: ics.agstphil@gmail.com

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<sup>2</sup> Based on AGST Program Handbook, 9–10.

**ADDRESS:**

Biblical Seminary of the Philippines  
77B Karuhatan Road  
Karuhatan, Valenzuela 1441  
Metro Manila, Philippines

- 3. Submit official Transcript of Records (TOR).**  
Ask all undergraduate and graduate institutions you have attended to send official transcripts of your academic record to BSOP Registrar's Office (registrar@bsop.edu.ph).
- 4. Submit your Vocational Objectives.**  
Prepare a statement describing your vocational objectives and explaining how a Th.M. and/or a Ph.D. is related to these.
- 5. Fill out the Financial Statement by Sponsor.**  
Prepare a statement indicating how your studies will be financed, including specific commitments from any institutions or individuals that may be sponsoring you.
- 6. Submit a Health Certificate.**  
Prepare a health certificate indicating your physical fitness to pursue graduate studies.
- 7. Submit your completed application with all required documents.**
  - Completed Application Form
  - Picture (passport size)
  - A copy of your original research paper in English
  - Vocational objectives
  - Financial Statement
  - Health Certificate
  - Nonrefundable application fee of US\$50
  - Applicants should send their materials (except Letters of Recommendation) to the BSOP Registrar's Office (registrar@bsop.edu.ph)
- 8. Wait for Notice of Admission**  
The Program Director will email your confirmation of acceptance to the program. Wait until you have received your letter of acceptance before coming to Manila.

## **ADMISSION<sup>3</sup>**

All decisions on admission will be made by the respective program committees. If the admission requirements noted above are not met, provisional acceptance may nevertheless be granted to an exceptional applicant who may then be required to complete supplementary assignments in addition to his or her regular coursework. Following CHED policy, he or she will gain full acceptance after having successfully completed 18 credit hours. Those admitted provisionally because they have not yet demonstrated their fluency in English must pass the TOEFL or an equivalent examination within 12 months of their first coursework. Those who pass will gain full acceptance immediately; those who fail three attempts will lose their provisional status.

### **Fees**

- Application fee: \$50 (one time)
- Tuition fee per unit: \$135 for students from developed countries (USA, Canada, Australia, Japan, Korea & China) and \$105 for students from developing countries
- Registration fee per trimester: \$35
- Library fee per trimester: \$20
- Residency fee per trimester: \$35
- Administrative fee per trimester: \$45
- Comprehensive exam: \$50 (one time)
- Dissertation fee: \$800 (one time)
- Graduation fee: \$35 (one time)

For inquiries about board and lodging, email Ruth Mauricio (ruthelma.mauricio@bsop.edu.ph).

## **PROGRAM PROCESS<sup>4</sup>**

The Program is divided into three phases. Each phase provides a clear direction that guides students in his/her journey of contributing in missiological research and scholarship for the benefit of the Church and the world.

### **Program Courses and Units**

#### Core 24 Units

- (1) Biblical Theology of Mission
- (2) Cultural Anthropology
- (3) History of Christian Mission

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<sup>3</sup> Based on AGST Program Handbook, 11.

<sup>4</sup> Prepared by Dr. Juliet Uytanlet, modified and based on the program chart by Dr. Chiu Eng Tan.

- (4) Dissertation Proposal Seminar
- (5) Historiographic Research
- (6) Ethnographic Research
- (7) Leadership Development and Culture
- (8) Missiological Seminar (Curriculum Design/Applied Anthropology)

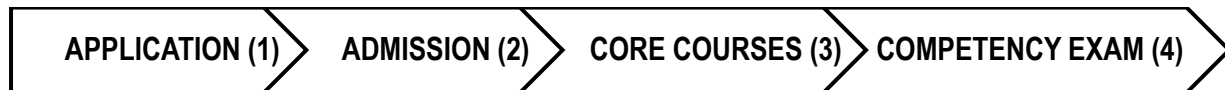
Tutorials (6 courses) – 27 Units

Tutorials are independent studies that are directed toward the dissertation research. These can become chapters of the dissertation.

Dissertation – 9 Units

## Process in Three Phases

### Phase One



**(1) Application:**

- Submission of Documents

**(2) Admission:**

- Notice of Admission
- Orientation of Program
- Visa Requirements (For Foreign Students)
- Notice of Schedule of Courses

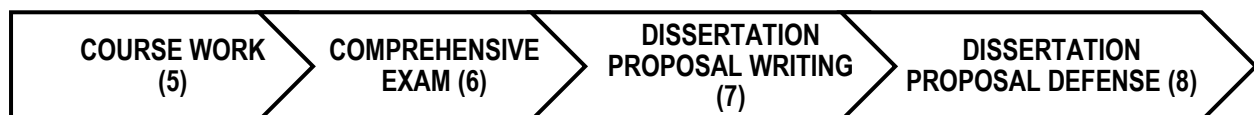
**(3) Core Courses:**

- Enroll Core Courses
  - a. Cultural Anthropology
  - b. Theology of Mission
  - c. Mission History
- Fulfill Course Requirements of 9 credit units

**(4) Competency Exam:**

- Fill out Competency Exam Clearance Form
- Submit to Program Director
- Notice of Approval of Clearance
- Schedule Exam
- Exam

### Phase Two



**(5) Course Work:**

- Enroll Other 5 Core Courses
- Fulfill Course Requirements of 24 credit units
- Fill out Dissertation Adviser and Committee Form
- Notice of Approval of Adviser and Committee

**(6) Comprehensive Exam:**

- Fill out Comprehensive Exam Clearance Form
- Submit to Program Director
- Notice of Approval of Clearance
- Schedule Exam
- Exam

- (7) Dissertation Proposal Writing:**
- Enroll Tutorials 1-2 (Total 7 units)
  - Fulfill Course Requirements of 33 credit units
  - Submit Proposal to Adviser and Committee (Give at least one month for Committee members to read the proposal)

- (8) Dissertation Proposal Defense:**
- Fill out Dissertation Proposal Clearance Form
  - Submit to Program Director
  - Notice of Approval of Clearance
  - Schedule Defense
  - Defense

**Phase Three**



- (9) Tutorial 3-6:**
- Enroll Other Tutorial Courses
  - Fulfill Course Requirements of 51 credit units

- (10) Fieldwork:**
- Discuss with Adviser on Readiness for Fieldwork
  - Notice of Approval for Fieldwork

\*The Fieldwork can coincide with the Tutorials 3-6.

- (11) Dissertation Writing:**
- Write and Edit
  - Discuss with Adviser
  - Revisions
  - Prepare Final Draft
  - Submit to Adviser and Committee (Give at least two months for Committee members to read the dissertation.)

- (12) Dissertation Defense:**
- Fill out Dissertation Defense Clearance Form
  - Submit to Program Director
  - Notice of Approval of Clearance
  - Schedule Defense
  - Defense
  - Revision
  - Submit to Adviser and Committee for Approval

- (13) Graduation**
- Check BSOP's Schedule for Graduation
  - Fulfill All Requirements for Graduation (Dissertation Copies, Documents, Fees, Practice)
  - Prepare AGST PhD IS Gown
  - Attend Graduation