

## **Admission to the Theological University of Apeldoorn (TUA) PhD Program**

According to the TUA PhD regulations, Dutch students can be admitted to a PhD program if they have been granted a Master's degree in accordance with Article 7.10a, first, second, or third paragraph of the WHW (Higher Education and Research Act), as outlined in Article 7.18, second paragraph of the law. Furthermore, the PhD regulations state that 'the prospective PhD candidate must satisfy the PhD Board that he is able to conduct independent academic research and has a realistic chance of completing a PhD thesis.' (Appendix 1, Article A.1)

The PhD regulations do not specify that the Master's degree must necessarily be in theology. In the recent past, only a few individuals with a Master's degree in a field other than theology were admitted after careful consideration by the PhD Board. With the arrival of Prof. Dr. De Muynck, there has been a more flexible approach to PhD studies in his field.

For admission to the Master's or PhD program with a foreign diploma, it is assumed that a Master's degree is equivalent to a Dutch Master's degree. This equivalence is verified based on educational descriptions available on [www.nuffic.nl](http://www.nuffic.nl).

In light of the above and past experiences, the following admissions requirements to the Graduate Program apply:

- Dutch WO Master's degree in Theology, regardless of the length of the Master's program (1, 2 or 3 years).
- Dutch WO Master's degree in Pedagogy or a related field for a PhD study within the chair of Christian pedagogy.
- Foreign ThM (Master's degree in theology) or Master's degree in Pedagogy or a related field that aligns with the subject of the intended PhD program.
- Other Dutch or foreign WO Master's degrees or foreign Master's degrees not mentioned above, subject to a positive recommendation from the research group overseeing the intended doctoral research and the TUA doctoral committee.
- Foreign MDiv (Master of Divinity) degrees and Dutch HBO (Higher Vocational Education) Master's degrees are generally not accepted, unless exceptional qualifications are formally documented and a positive recommendation is provided by the PhD Board, with one of the co-supervisors, in addition to the intended supervisor, carefully evaluating the quality of the documentation.

## **English Proficiency**

To enrol as a PhD student at the Theological University of Apeldoorn, applicants must demonstrate their English language proficiency. This can be done by providing one of the following certificates:

- TOEFL: a score of above 100 (internet-based)
- IELTS: an overall score of at least 7.0, with no individual section score below 6.5
- Cambridge English: a C1 Certificate of Advanced English (CAE)

## *Exceptions*

The obligation to demonstrate proficiency in English does not hold for PhD students who:

- will write their PhD thesis in Dutch or German
- hold a bachelor's or master's degree from an English-speaking country or
- hold an English-speaking master's degree from a Dutch or foreign university.