



YOUR APPLICATION

To apply for the SiMO programme, please send the following documents by 10 December to the Executive Committee at simo@ems-online.org

- Filled application form
- Curriculum Vitae
- Motivation letter
- Transcript of records
- Diplomas or confirmation of planned examination
- Two letters of recommendation from university teachers
- References on previous intercultural experiences (if applicable and not included in the letters of recommendation from university teachers)

The application form and detailed information is available under simo-studienprogramm.org

TIMETABLE FOR YOUR SiMO-YEAR

- 10 December: Deadline for your application
- January: Interview and decision on admission
- March-May: Preparatory seminar (2 days)
- June: Digital meeting with NEST representatives
- September-January: First semester at NEST
- January-June: Second Semester
- September/October: Debriefing seminar (2 days)

WHO WE ARE

SiMO is a study programme of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), an ecumenical fellowship of churches and mission societies in Europe, Africa, Asia, and the Middle East.

Lebanese and German partners founded SiMO in October 1999. Throughout the years, over 80 participants could be sent to study at NEST. In Germany, the programme is accompanied by an Advisory Board and organized by an Executive Committee.

Members of the Executive Committee are Dr Claudia Rammelt (Chair, Bochum), Dr Sara Binay (Halle), Johannes Mieth (Berlin), Rev. Dr Uwe Gräbe (Executive Secretary, Stuttgart).

The Committee members are in close contact with NEST. Together with their Lebanese partners, they continuously assess the security situation and work on the further development of the programme.

The association of alumni of former SiMO students (Freunde der NEST e.V.) was founded in 2005. The association supports the work of SiMO and NEST. Present and former SiMO students are warmly invited to maintain their relationship by joining the association.



ems-online.org/mitmachen



theonest.edu.lb/en/Home



simo-studienprogramm.org



freunde-der-nest.de



SiMO

STUDYING IN BEIRUT

A YEAR OF ECUMENICAL STUDY AT THE
NEAR EAST SCHOOL OF THEOLOGY IN BEIRUT



Evangelical Mission
in Solidarity



WELCOME TO LEBANON!

SiMO is a study programme for students of theology, religious education and related fields of study with advanced academic experience. The programme is carried out by the Near East School of Theology (NEST), an interconfessional Protestant seminary serving the evangelical churches in the Middle East. NEST trains pastors and church workers for their ministry in the region, but also welcomes international students as part of the SiMO programme.

The institution is located in the western part of Lebanon's vibrant and diverse capital Beirut close to excellent other educational and cultural bodies. Lebanon is well known for its rich cultural heritage and as a home to a variety of religious communities, in particular numerous churches with ancient yet living traditions. Since NEST and its staff maintain wide-ranging ecumenical relationships, it is the perfect place for in-depth studies on church history, liturgies, and ecumenical and interreligious relations.

Lebanon is also a country marked by economic and political crises and conflicts. Students will experience church work and contemporary theology addressing this situation.



WHAT TO EXPECT FROM SiMO

The SiMO programme offers you a varied learning experience in different fields within two semesters (September to June):

- **Contemporary Eastern Churches** introduces to the history, theology and practice of the numerous churches that are present in Lebanon today.
- **Ecumenical Movement in the Middle East** outlines the principles of coexistence and cooperation between the communities.
- **Courses in Islamic Studies** offer introductions to the history and teachings of Islam from a Christian perspective.
- A course on **Christian-Muslim Relations and Dialogue** in past and present.

Most courses include several field trips and encounters with representatives of the various communities. You can choose additional courses according to your specific interests and attend Arabic language courses, if available.

Small classes, a comprehensive library and living on site with colleagues from different countries and churches allow for detailed studies in a unique and inspiring environment.

There are also various possibilities to engage in social or cultural activities at NEST or neighbouring institutions.

Preparatory and debriefing seminars in Germany are obligatory parts of the programme and help you to prepare and to reflect your stay at NEST.



YOUR PROFILE

You are studying theology, religious education or a related subject in a Master's programme or have passed the intermediate examination (Zwischenprüfung). Your level of English is sufficient to actively participate in courses and discussions and to write papers and assignments. You are open to intercultural encounters and aware of the current economic and political situation in Lebanon. You are interested in ecumenical and interfaith studies and can cover the costs of approx. 800\$ per month for accommodation, meals, tuition fees and accident insurance as well as additional travel costs.

We can support you in your search for a scholarship.

3-6 MONTHS WITH THE SiMO+ PROGRAMME

For shorter stays we offer the SiMO+ programme, especially for research and writing papers or theses or internships in church- and civil society organizations in Lebanon. In addition, the regular courses offered by NEST can be attended. The SiMO+ programme is open to students or doctoral candidates in the fields of theology, religious, social, political and cultural studies as well as related subjects.

Further information and contact:

simo-studienprogramm.org