

PROJECT INFORMATION



JAPAN: INTERRELIGIOUS STUDIES IN JAPAN PROGRAMME

Please support the NCC Study Center as a venue of inter-faith and intercultural encounter.

A better understanding of one's own faith; understanding other religions; or learning more about Asia and Christian theology – this is all possible with the Interreligious Studies in Japan Programme.

Christians in Asia have always existed in a field of tension between various religions and ideologies. Today, Christians in other countries must gradually face this challenge more and more. This special situation has given rise in Asia to theological institutes which offer courses on inter-faith dialogue and maintaining contacts with other religions.

Place of interreligious and intercultural encounter

One such place of encounter is the NCC Study Center in the Japanese city of Kyoto. It offers students from a wide range of disciplines the chance to participate in the "Interreligious studies" course held in English – to prepare them to face challenges in a pluralistic society where there are more and more religions. The course requires students to have completed a basic study in

theology, religious education, pastoral care studies, religious studies or Japanology.

The students learn how to better understand their own multi-religious environment, how to become involved in inter-faith learning and how to sensitise their own church to the need for dialogue. These tasks are not only mastered by a personal learning experience locally – by achieving a balance between academic learning and participating in local cultural and social life. "We were more sensitive when we returned. And also sensitive to the gradually more pluralistic religious and church environments before our own front door," said one of the former students.

Theological institute with international renown

Since it was founded in 1958, the NCC Study Center has pursued the scientific study of Japanese religions and inter-faith dialogue to promote mutual understanding between religions. So far, the institute has accepted many guest students and scientific scholars for periods of study ranging from one month up to two years. Due to its many years of activities, the NCC Study Center has gained a reputation as an internationally renowned centre for the study of Japanese religions and to acquire skills in issues dealing with inter-faith understanding.

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