Application and further information:

Your application should be accompanied by two references from university teachers and one reference for your previous inter-cultural experience. Please send your complete application by 10 December for the following study year to:

Dr. Uwe Gräbe
SiMO Executive Secretary
Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS)
Vogelsangstrasse 62
70197 Stuttgart
graebe@ems-online.org
Tel.: +49 (0)711 6367837

SiMO:
www.ems-online.org/weltweit-aktiv/studienprogramme/

Grants:
www.brot-fuer-die-welt.de/stipendien

NEST: www.theonest.edu.lb
Alumni: www.freunde-der-nest.de

Organisation and helpful links:

SiMO is a study programme of the Evangelical Mission in Solidarity (EMS), an ecumenical fellowship of 28 churches and mission societies in Europe, Africa, Asia and the Middle East.

Lebanese and German partners founded SiMO in October 1999. The German partners have established an Advisory Board and a Working Committee (WC). The WC members are: Prof. Dr. Martin Tamcke (Chair, Göttingen), Dr. Claudia Rammelt (Bochum), Rev. Heinrich Georg Rothe (in charge of Islamic affairs at the Evangelical Church of Württemberg, Stuttgart) and Rev. Dr. Uwe Gräbe (Executive Secretary, EMS Stuttgart).

The association of alumni of former SiMO students was founded in 2005 under the name of Freunde der NEST e.V./Association Friends of NEST. This association supports the work of SiMO and NEST. Present and former SiMO students are warmly invited to maintain their relationships by joining the association.

STUDYING IN BEIRUT

A year of ecumenical study at the Near East School of Theology in Beirut
Welcome to SiMO

Are you studying theology, religious education or religious studies? Are you interested in studying a year abroad? Can you imagine living for several months in Beirut where East and West meet and where Christianity and Islam co-exist in a unique way?

Lebanon has long been a cosmopolitan country: true, it has been marked by the scars of war and by a geopolitical struggle in recent years. But at the same time, it is a cultural and intellectual hub and a refuge for many Christian denominations.

This is precisely where Studies in the Middle East (SiMO) take place - two semesters full of insights in the colourful mosaic of the Eastern Churches and in the ways in which Christians (especially members of the small Evangelical Churches) forge their identity in this Christian-Muslim environment.

Welcome to NEST

The SiMO programme is centred at the Near East School of Theology (NEST), an inter-confessional Protestant seminary serving the evangelical churches in the Middle East. This is where the churches train pastors and church workers for their ministry in the Middle East, but NEST also welcomes international students as part of the SiMO programme.

NEST is located in the western part of Beirut close to important educational and cultural institutions. Its library contains over 42,000 books in English, Arabic, Armenian, French and German.

Requirements

- Good to very good level of English (language used at NEST for teaching and learning).
- Attendance in a briefing and debriefing seminar (each lasting two days).
- Completed course of basic study in theology, religious education, religious studies or a similar subject.

Costs

The costs amount to approx. US $800 per month to cover board and lodging, study fees and accident insurance. Additional costs may be incurred for extra-mural courses outside NEST. The student bears all costs for travel to and from Lebanon, visa fees and personal pocket money.

Scholarships

SiMO itself provides no scholarships but it works closely with “Brot für die Welt” (Bread for the World) and the German National Committee of the Lutheran World Federation. You can apply there for a grant which will cover most of the costs.

Study year curriculum

First semester (October to February)

- Contemporary Eastern Churches, including field visits, excursions and interviews.
- Islamic studies: Introduction to the history and teachings of Islam.
- Optional courses offered by NEST or neighbouring institutes. Arabic language courses may be available.

Second semester (February to June)

- The ecumenical movement in the Middle East: Historical aspects and encounters with ecumenical personalities.
- Christian-Muslim Relations and Dialogue: An overview with a special focus on the Middle East.

NEST is member of the Association of Theological Institutes in the Middle East (ATIME) and works closely with the Fellowship of the Middle East Evangelical Churches (FMEEC) and the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC).

SiMO is member of the Protestant Middle East Commission (EMOK) in the Evangelical Church in Germany (EKD).