Master's in Religious Studies

Western Esotericism

uva.nl/ma-western-esotericism
The study of esotericism is not for the timid-minded but for those who wish to boldly go where no one has gone before.

The umbrella term 'Western esotericism' covers a wide range of ideas, traditions, and practices that were rejected by the modern academy as incompatible with its governing ideals of rationality and scientific progress. The resulting lack of knowledge about these domains in mainstream scholarship has led to seriously distorted perspectives on the history of Western culture. The academic field known as Western esotericism aims at correcting this situation by focusing, from a critical and historical perspective, on traditions known by terms such as Hermetic Philosophy, Gnosticism, Magic, Esotericism, and the Occult.

After completing this wide-ranging programme in Western Esotericism, you will have gained insight into a wide variety of Western cultures and countercultures from different time periods.
Career prospects
As a Western Esotericism graduate, you will have developed unique skills relevant to a career in the field of religious studies, as well as a range of employment opportunities where a critical, curious, and academically-trained mind is essential. The programme prepares you for a career in teaching, journalism or another writing profession, as well as an advisory position in a public organisations or government institutions. Graduates can also opt to continue their studies in the Research Master's in Religious Studies, which offers an excellent opportunity for pursuing a PhD in this field.
Entry requirements
The Master's in Western Esotericism is open to students holding a university Bachelor’s degree in:
• Religious studies
• Cultural Studies
• Art Studies
• History
• another Bachelor's degree in Humanities
• Law or Social Sciences
You will be considered for admission to this Master’s programme if you have a Bachelor’s degree in one of the aforementioned fields of study and can demonstrate relevant knowledge, insight and skills. For more information, please check: uva.nl/ma-western-esotericism
> Application and admission