

# Student questionnaire regarding diversity in “Exploring a discipline” – Faculty of Theology, VU University Amsterdam

## Introduction:

We invite you to participate in an evaluative study on how diversity plays a role in this Master programme.

For this past academic year, the Master programme “Exploring a discipline” has had an adapted format, in order to further reinforce the way attention is given to the concept of diversity. Instead of considering diversity as an isolated theme or course, the concept was integrated in various assignments and other learning activities. The intersectional approach to diversity was used; meaning that a person’s assumptions and worldview are the result of a dynamic interaction between different aspects of identity, such as age, gender, religion, cultural background, nationality and social class.

An important learning goal of this Master programme is for students to be able to relate scientific perspectives to personal and religious perspectives. Therefore, the students’ own biographies play an important role in the programme, as well as exchanging these biographies through dialogue and reflection.

In order to evaluate and improve our programme, we would appreciate hearing about your experiences regarding the role of diversity in the Master programme “Exploring a discipline”. Your input will also help us conduct a smaller scale research about diversity in education (we will present this Master as a concrete case). We would therefore like to ask you to answer the answers below. You can answer the questions digitally in this Word-document, and use as many words as you need.

Filling out the questionnaire will take approximately 20-30 minutes.

The data will of course be processed anonymously. The teachers involved in the Master programme will not have access to your answers. In the case of a research publication, answers given will not be cited in a way that could lead to the recognition of individual students.

We thank you in advance for your cooperation,

## Questions

**1. What does the concept “diversity” mean to you?**

**2. Looking back on the Master “Exploring a discipline, and how diversity played a role, what comes to mind first?**

**3. Several learning goals in the area of diversity have been formulated for this programme.**

**Please indicate, on a scale from 1-4, to what extent you have developed these learning goals during “Exploring a discipline”. Please also clarify your scores: your elaboration will help us tremendously in improving our programme.**

1= not at all; 2= somewhat; 3= moderately; 4= strongly

*Learning goal 1: Being aware of and being able to reflect on the connection between the students’ own biography and personality and her/his academic involvement and interests*

Score (1-4): 4

Clarification (In what ways has the Master helped you to develop this specific learning goal?):

*Learning goal 2: Being able to constructively participate in the community of learners characterized by diversity (dialogue in diversity)*

Score (1-4): 4

Clarification (What elements in the Master helped you to develop this specific learning goal?):

*Learning goal 3: Being aware of the diversity of perspectives that is inherent within religious traditions and into factors that influence the way texts are interpreted*

Score (1-4): 4

Clarification (In what ways has the Master helped you to develop this specific learning goal?):

*Learning goal 4: Being aware of the disciplinary and methodological diversity within the academic community and reflect on this diversity*

Score (1-4): 4

Clarification (Which elements/in what ways has the Master helped you to develop this specific learning goal?):

4. What do you think about the way that the diversity theme plays a role in the content of this Master programme? Please illustrate your answer with one or more examples. What are the strengths? What could be improved?

5. Do the learning activities and assignments of the Master overtly use the diversity between students regarding knowledge, perspectives and experiences? Please illustrate your answer with one or more examples.

6. a. How do you appreciate the teachers' competencies within the Master regarding the treatment of diversity as a theme in the content? Please describe what you feel are strong qualities in general, and which qualities could be further developed. (NB. We are not looking for individual teacher qualities, but the qualities present within the team.)

- b. How would you appreciate the teachers' competencies regarding teaching/coaching a diverse group of students, where the exchange of and reflection on a variety of perspectives, opinions and experiences plays an important role? Please describe what you, in general, feel are the qualities of your teachers and which qualities could be developed further. (NB. Please do not give individual teacher evaluations)**

- 7. The Master programme "Exploring a discipline" aims to integrate diversity in the curriculum, by interweaving the theme in all areas and by using the diversity present in the student body. Looking back at the programme, what, in your opinion, are good examples in this area? What could be improved?**

- 8. Did you miss any questions that you did expect from this questionnaire about diversity in relation to the Master programme? Do you have any other suggestions or remarks? Please write them down below.**

**Thank you!**