

**News Release**

For immediate release

**Launch of a Master in Theological Studies in Eastern Christian Studies at Saint Paul University**

The Ministry of Advanced Education and Skills Development has just approved the creation of a Master in Theological Studies in Eastern Christian Studies (M.T.S.-E.C.S.). Continuing the tradition of a Catholic theology's dialogical engagement in the context of the complex contemporary culture and religious pluralism existing today, Saint Paul University now offers a distinctive stream within the M.T.S.-E.C.S. to meet the formation needs of students from the Eastern Christian traditions in order to allow them to pursue a degree focused on Eastern Christian studies.

This new program will provide a strong formation for students looking to develop a critical understanding of the heritage of the different traditions and their contributions to contemporary society and culture through dialogue and service. To be admitted to this new program, a candidate must have obtained either a B.A. or its equivalent in any discipline; noting that no prior theological training is required. Those who graduate with an M.T.S. will be eligible to apply to an M.A. in Theology.

It is a long standing tradition at Saint Paul University to open its programs to other religious denominations. In the 1990's, programs in Anglican Studies and Eastern Christian Studies were created. Today, the Faculty of Theology wants further its formations to all the Catholic and Orthodox Churches in Eastern Christian Studies. New agreements with specific Churches are expected to be announced in the coming months.

Every year, some 500 students take at least one course in Theology in one of its programs: Certificate, Bachelor, Master of Divinity (M.Div.), M.A., Ph.D., D.Min., or for ecclesiastical programs (S.T.B., S.T.L., S.T.D.).

*Saint Paul University is the founding college of the University of Ottawa (1848), with which it has been federated since 1965. Bilingual and on a human scale, it offers programs in social communication, counselling and psychotherapy, canon law, public ethics, conflict studies, philosophy, human relations, and theology.*

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