Cairo, December 27, 2022

**Subject: Scholarships for training in Arabic and Islamology (2022-2025)**

The Dominican Institute of Oriental Studies was founded in 1953 in Cairo in order to study Islam and Arab-Muslim civilization scientifically. Our vocation is to be able to look at Islam theologically and to engage in theological dialogue with Muslims.

In the current context characterized by the omnipresence of the Islamic dimension, it seems necessary to us to offer to the provinces which wish it the possibility of training a brother in Islamology in order to give him competences on the Islamic heritage in connection with contemporary questions which will enable him to answer the challenges of our time, whatever the continents.

Thus, based on the fact that there are hardly more than ten Dominican friars who are Islamologists throughout the world,

**we propose a three-year study program to prepare a new generation of Dominicans for these issues.**

At the end of their formation, the brothers who will be entrusted to us will have a canonical license in Arabic studies and Islamology from the Pontifical Institute Dar Comboni.

They will be fluent in Arabic and thus be well equipped to either teach in our theological faculties or to continue their studies for a doctorate.

**Funding for** the program can be **provided** through a scholarship program**,** which includes tuition, room and board at Our Lady of the Rosary Convent in Cairo, and a plane trip each year to the home province. Brothers who wish to benefit from the *Spem miram internationalis* scholarship must complete an application (see link below). For all applications, each province or vice-province contributes at least to the registration of the brother to the EMI social insurance which amounts to between 700 and 1,700 euros per year, depending on the level of protection desired.

**The new school year is scheduled for September 1er2022.**

Applications for the *Spem miram* scholarship must be sent before March 1, er2022 to [*SpemMiram@op.org*](mailto:SpemMiram@op.orga) and to the Idéo management direction@ideo-cairo.org. We remain at your disposal to help you with the administrative procedures.

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**Emmanuel Pisani,**

***Director of l'Idéo***

**Training program**

**Canonical degree in Arabic studies and Islamology**

**120 ECTS**

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|  | **Year 1 and Year 2** | **Year 3** |
| **English-speaking students** | - Study in Cairo of classical Arabic at the Dar Comboni Institute, 21 hours per week  - Support or reinforcement in private lessons for 2 hours per week  - Islamology course at Dar Comboni  - Course in theology of dialogue  - Participation to seminars, cycles and colloquiums of the Idéo  - Meeting with students and teachers of al-Azhar University. | Arabic and Islamology courses in Cairo at Dar Comboni  + tutoring for the thesis |
| **French-speaking students** | - Study in Cairo of classical Arabic at the Dar Comboni Institute  - Support or reinforcement in private lessons for 2 hours per week  - Domuni certificate level 1 and 2 with 15 ECTS each.  - Course in theology of dialogue  - Participation to seminars, cycles and colloquiums of the Idéo  - Meeting with students and teachers of al-Azhar University. | Arabic and Islamology courses in Cairo at Dar Comboni  + tutoring for the thesis |

**Year 1 and Year 2**

The first year gives the student **the basics of the Arabic language so that** he or she can **read and write** in Arabic, define the **morphology of** words, identify the **grammatical structure** of an Arabic sentence, and begin to study Islamic texts.

The texts in their graduation allow to inscribe in the memory both the vocabulary and the Arabic turns. He/she acquires an understanding of written texts, but also the basic vocabulary of the press, radio and television.

The student is accompanied in his learning by a personalized tutor to help him assimilate a family of words, to stimulate and check his memory.

At the end of the first year, he/she should be able to read literary and classical texts and make sense of them. He/she is able to express him/herself in Arabic.

The objective of the second year in Cairo is to allow students to **immerse themselves in classical Arabic** and to acquire, through the study of source texts, the basics of the main Islamic sciences. A systematic work on the lexicon is carried out in order to distinguish the **different Islamic currents** and the singularity of their approaches.

In addition to the classical Arabic courses, students will receive **training in Christian liturgy** and a **reading tutorial in** order to study the history of Islamic thought. During this year, students are expected to identify an author or a question posed by an author that they would like to study in depth in a thesis.

Finally, students receive training in interreligious dialogue in the form of a course or seminar.

**Year 3**

Year 3 focuses on more systematic work in Islamic theology and philosophy. The number of courses is reduced in order to allow students to define a text, to translate it, to situate it in time and in the history of Islamic doctrines, to identify a problematic, with a view to writing an 80-page thesis. The student is accompanied in this exercise by a director.

**Acquisition of skills**

At the end of the three years, the following competencies are acquired:

- knowledge of the structure of the written literary Arabic language enabling the student to read and understand, without undue difficulty, complex ancient and contemporary literary and religious texts;

- basic scientific knowledge in the most important Islamic sciences;

- acquisition of a scientific method of comparative study of the Scriptures and the theological thought of Christians and Muslims;

- ability to perform an adequate analysis of the complexity of the classical and contemporary Islamic world;

- ability to critically develop one's own thinking about the Islamic religion and Muslim-Christian relations.

- ability to act competently in the field of Muslim-Christian dialogue;

- know how to write and discuss in an organized and methodological way a theological reflection based on an Arabic text

- To be able to pursue doctoral studies in Islamology or theology of religions.

**Admission**

The student must hold a canonical bachelor's degree and have obtained at least *magna cum Laude*.

In the event that the student finishes his or her baccalaureate year and is not yet in possession of his or her diploma, he or she will present the results of the last year of his or her schooling when compiling his or her file.

He/she should have sufficient knowledge of English or French to follow the courses on Islamology and dialogue.

He will write a cover letter.

It is the responsibility of the Academic Regent to include a letter of recommendation in their file.

**Application form for the *Spem miram internationalis* scholarship**

The application form for the *Spem miram internationalis* scholarship should be sent to SpemMiram@op.org and to [direction@ideo-cairo.com](mailto:direction@ideo-cairo.com) before March 1, er2022. You will find in the link below the application form with all the pre-filled information concerning the tuition fees.

Application form for the *spem miram* scholarship pre-filled [in French](https://docs.google.com/document/d/1mgD_Zi3D3PS32wm5H9vqbImSHlxPvgf1/edit?usp=sharing&ouid=107984269390567899648&rtpof=true&sd=true)