



Student Protection Plan (SPP) for the academic year 2023/2024

Provider's name: **Theologisches Seminar St. Chrischona (tsc)**
Legal address: **Chrischonarain 200
CH 4126 Bettingen
Schweiz**

Contact point for enquiries about this student protection plan: tsc link tutor

Introduction

The existence of our own Student Protection Plan (SPP) is a requirement of Middlesex University London, with whom our undergraduate programmes are validated. The Student Protection Plan is to be reviewed annually and is part of the institutional approval of the Theologisches Seminar St. Chrischona (tsc) as an academic partner of Middlesex University.

The Student Protection Plan assesses the risks to the continuation and completion of studies at the tsc from the perspective of our students. Possible risks to the continuation of studies are named in the Student Protection Plan and assessed in terms of the likelihood of their occurrence. It also records what measures will be taken to mitigate the risks, especially if the risks are classified as moderate or high in the risk profile.

The Student Protection Plan also includes information on the reimbursement of tuition fees and other relevant costs to students, as well as the payment of compensation if the tsc cannot guarantee the continuation of studies.

Furthermore, the Student Protection Plan contains a regulation on the form in which the provisions are communicated to current and future students.

1. Risk assessment

Our three undergraduate degrees in Communicative Theology (BTh), Theology & Pedagogy (BATP) and Theology & Music (BATM) have been validated by Middlesex University London (MDX). The risk of MDX University being unable to award bachelor's degrees due to cessation of operations is negligible. MDX University is a reputable UK university that complies in all respects with the requirements of the Office for Students (OfS), the independent regulator of higher education in the UK. MDX University is in a sustainable financial position. It has sound long-term business planning and sufficient resources to meet all obligations under the validation of programmes of study.

The risk of the tsc losing its authority to run the validated study programmes is low. The tsc follows the guidelines of MDX University in the implementation of the validated study programmes. The proper implementation of the validated study programmes is checked and confirmed annually by independent assessors (External Examiners).

The tsc is a private, non-governmental institution that offers theological Bachelor's degree programmes according to the Bologna guidelines. The tsc is connected through a network with free churches in Switzerland, congregations in Germany and mission societies. The tsc does not receive any state subsidies for the implementation of the study programmes. The operation of tsc is largely financed by tuition fees and a large private donor base. The risk of the tsc as a whole no longer being able to run the study programmes is low, as the tsc has a high level of equity. The governance and management structure is able to respond to changing financial developments.

The tsc has a small number of enrolled students compared to state educational institutions. Nevertheless, the risk of discontinuing a study programme is low because the design of the study programmes is based on the requirements of later professional work in Christian churches and Christian organisations. It is unlikely that the professional requirements of future employers will change so quickly without the possibility of adapting the study content.

At the tsc, students graduate with a Bachelor's degree. The risk that parts of a study programme cannot be continued due to the long-term absence of a lecturer is low. The modules at the level of a Bachelor's degree can be continued by other academic members of our team.

The tsc is located in Switzerland close to the border with Germany. Some students live in Germany and commute to Switzerland to study. The risk of the national borders being closed for a longer period of time is low. Although the national border was closed for a few weeks in 2020 due to the Corona Lockdown, it was always possible for students to reach the campus due to exemptions.

2. Measures to reduce the risks

As a private educational institution without state support, the tsc relies on private donors for funding. The tsc attaches great importance to the connection with our donors. Through regular mailings, contact with donors is deepened. Events are held on campus for our circle of friends. Also, the further expansion of a network with Christian churches and Christian organisations continues.

If the national borders between Switzerland and Germany are closed, so that students living in Germany cannot attend the face-to-face classes, we are able to conduct almost all teaching modules digitally. We are able to set up an external examination centre in Germany where the examinations for students living in Germany are conducted.

In the event that the tsc discontinues a programme of study, we are able to enable students currently in that programme to complete it. The students concerned will be informed at an early stage by the programme directors and they will receive all the necessary support to successfully complete their studies.

3. Refund and compensation policy

If tuition fees have to be refunded or compensation has to be paid because the continuation of studies cannot be guaranteed, the tsc has general and product liability insurance with a sum insured of CHF 20 million per loss event.

4. Communication of the student protection plan

The Student Protection Plan is made known to current and prospective students by publishing it in the Student Handbook, which is accessible to all students.

The Student Protection Plan is reviewed and updated annually with student representatives. If we need to implement measures from the Student Protection Plan, we will inform students once the event is known and offer them support collectively and individually.

If the tsc closes a degree programme or makes major changes, we will inform applicants as early as possible.

If major changes to a programme of study are planned or the decision is planned to close a programme of study, students will be notified by the director of the programme and advised regarding further study and graduation.

The Student Protection Plan was discussed with elected student representatives on 12 February 2023 and approved by the Rectorate on 01 March 2023.

Version of March 2023 - next review in March 2024

Manfred Wolf/ 23. März 2023