



PONTIFICIA  
UNIVERSITÀ  
GREGORIANA

Ufficio Stampa e Comunicazione

## The Pontifical Gregorian University

*Rector: Fr. Mark A. Lewis, S.J.*

### *The Missions of the Pontifical Gregorian University*

Collegium Maximum  
Pontifical Biblical Institute  
Pontifical Oriental Institute

#### **1. History**

The Pontifical Gregorian University is the oldest of the Roman pontifical universities. Its origins date back to the direct initiative of St. Ignatius of Loyola, founder of the Society of Jesus, who in the year 1551 laid the foundations of the Roman College, also known as “*Universitas omnium Nationum*,” to serve the universal Church.

Thirty-three years after its foundation, Pope Gregory XIII donated a new building and a grant to the College to help accommodate the nearly 1,000 students already attending it. The new facilities and donation made it possible to expand academic offerings, and before long the Roman College became renowned for mathematics, astronomy and physics.

In 1873, in honor of the generosity of Pope Gregory XIII, the College took the name “Gregorian University,” often affectionately called “the Greg” by its students. In 1930, the new and current building in Piazza della Pilotta was inaugurated. Since then it has been visited by numerous Pontiffs.

#### **2. Present**

The Gregorian University retains a strong link to its past as the Roman College. Rooted in Ignatian spirituality, it seeks to be at the service of the Church in every part of the world. Its primary purpose is to form students intellectually and pastorally for the priesthood, religious life and lay ecclesial ministry. Today the Pontifical Gregorian University has an international and diverse student body with approximately 2,952 students representing over 121 countries, both men and women, religious and lay. Counted among its alumni are many of our past popes, as well as present bishops, cardinals and lay leaders. The Pope plays a vital role in selecting the Rector of the University.

#### **3. New configuration**

On 19 May 2024, two other institutions entrusted to the Society of Jesus - the Pontifical Biblical Institute and the Pontifical Oriental Institute - were definitively incorporated into the Gregorian, as requested by Pope Francis. With the new configuration of the Pontifical Gregorian University, it has become necessary to articulate its action according to three Missions, each of which encompasses a mandate rich in history and prospects for the future. The Pontifical Gregorian University is governed by a single Rector, who is assisted by his Council. The Council includes the three Presidents who share the responsibility for managing the entire University.

### 3.1 Mission – Collegium Maximum

- *President: Fr. Pino Di Luccio, S.J.*
- *Academic units:* Faculty of Theology; Faculty of Canon Law; Faculty of Philosophy; Faculty of History and Cultural Heritage of the Church; Faculty of Social Sciences; Institute of Psychology; Institute of Anthropology (IADC); St. Peter Favre Centre for Formators to the Priesthood and Religious Life; Cardinal Bea Centre for Judaic Studies; Alberto Hurtado Centre for Faith and Culture; Gregorian Centre for Interreligious Studies; Ignatian Spirituality Centre

The Collegium Maximum includes all the academic units and centres born from the legacy of the Roman College as a meeting point between church and society, between faith and culture, science, justice, religions. Internationality has shaped the broad and articulate scope of its teaching.

Its Faculty of Theology, among the largest in the world, consists of 5 Departments. The specific mission of the Jesuits has developed a culture of encounter with brothers from other Christian denominations and other religions.

The attentive listening to the times has guided the birth of its most recent academic units: Social Sciences, Psychology, Anthropology on Human Dignity and Care.

### 3.2 Mission – The Pontifical Biblical Institute

- *President: Fr. Peter Dubovský, S.J.*
- *Academic units:* Biblical Faculty; Faculty of Ancient Near Eastern Studies

Founded by Pope St. Pius X in 1909 with his apostolic letter *Vinea electa*, the Pontifical Biblical Institute was created to be “a center of higher studies for Sacred Scripture in the city of Rome and of all related studies according to the spirit of the Catholic Church.” The Pontifical Biblical Institute is renowned as one of the world’s top biblical institutes of higher learning.

The key mission of the Pontifical Biblical Institute is to work so that Sacred Scripture may have an ever more active role in the study of theology, in pastoral ministry, in ecumenical dialogue, in the sacred liturgy.

The Biblical Institute’s library is considered one of the best biblical libraries in the world. The Pontifical Biblical Institute also has a presence in Jerusalem where students enrolled as ordinaries for the Licentiate in the Biblical Faculty have the opportunity to follow a study programme of their choice as an integral part of their curriculum.

### 3.3 Mission – The Pontifical Oriental Institute

- *President: Fr. Sunny Thomas Kokkaravalayil, S.J.*
- *Academic units:* Faculty of Eastern Christian Studies; Faculty of Oriental Canon Law

Pope Benedict XV founded the Pontifical Oriental Institute in 1917 with a mission to study, explain and make better known the life and tradition of the Eastern Churches. The Oriental Institute has two faculties: the Faculty of Eastern Church Studies, with a focus on theology and patristics, liturgy and history; and the Faculty of Eastern Canon Law, the only Catholic faculty of Oriental Canon Law in the world.

The Oriental Institute attracts students not only from the Eastern Churches, but also from the Roman Catholic and Protestant Churches, as well as non Christians. The Ecumenical Patriarch of Constantinople, Bartholomew I, is one of the institute’s best known alumni.

The extensive collection housed in the library of the Pontifical Oriental Institute constitutes the foremost library on Eastern Christianity in the world.

#### **4. Student Body Composition**

The Pontifical Gregorian University's students often become bishops and administrators, theologians and professors in seminaries and in Catholic and public universities around the world. Many will become pastoral leaders in their home dioceses as well as lay ecclesial ministers. Approximately 20% of the students are lay men and lay women.

- 40% Priests and Brothers
- 30% Seminarians
- 12% Lay women
- 10% Lay men
- 8% Sisters

#### **5. International Student Representation**

Approximately 3,000 students, representing 121 countries and territories on six continents, are enrolled at the Pontifical Gregorian University.

- 50% Europe
- 15% Latin America
- 11% North America
- 11% Africa
- 11% Asia
- 2% Australia

#### **6. Notables Alumni**

- 27 Saints
- 57 Blessed
- 16 Popes
- 36% of the College of Cardinals
- 24% Catholic Bishops in the world

