



## **Notification of Request for Authorization under the Degree-Granting Institutions Act**

**Date posted:** October 3, 2018  
**Institution:** Faith International University  
**Accreditation:** Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS)  
**Current status:** Authorized to offer degree programs in Washington State  
**Nature of request:** Authorization to offer one additional degree program  
**Proposed programs:** Doctor of Intercultural Studies  
**Locations:** 3504 North Pearl Street  
Tacoma, WA 98407

### **Background:**

Faith International University was established in 1980 under the name Faith Evangelical College and Seminary. It offers primarily religious degree programs. It has been accredited by the Transnational Association of Christian Colleges and Schools (TRACS) since 2001.

### **Nature of the review:**

Prior to granting authorization to offer new degree programs in Washington State, the Washington Student Achievement Council/Degree Authorization reviews elements such as program outcomes, course requirements, method of course delivery, faculty credentials, and student services.

Information on the additional program can be found at the end of this notice.

### **Timeline:**

The WSAC will accept comments on this application until October 17, 2018.

Any individuals with knowledge that may indicate the institution and/or the program does not meet the authorization requirements of WAC 250-61 are requested to submit comments to: [Degree Authorization](#). Please note that comments may be shared with the institution requesting authorization and may be available to the public under Washington State law.

If you would like to know more about the current law and regulations that govern the program, they can be found at the following links: the statute is [Chapter RCW 28B.85](#) and the regulation is [WAC 250-61](#).

# DOCTOR OF INTERCULTURAL STUDIES

## PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM

The Doctor of Intercultural Studies (DIS) degree is designed primarily to further equip leaders engaged in cultural ministry by deepening their understanding and application of lessons from intercultural communication, contextualization, socio-cultural dynamics, biblical theology, missional trends and analysis, and intercultural research. The degree fits well for leaders called to service as missionaries or evangelists who have intercultural experience in either western or non-western contexts. The goal of the program is to cultivate academic excellence, socio-cultural insight, and a sharpened understanding of biblical missions and evangelism which will enhance the personal and professional development of program participants.

The DIS is an in-service 48-quarter hour program that allows participants to complete the program while remaining in full-time ministry. The DIS Program Director serves as the initial advisor for all participants. Many DIS courses may be taken online but are offered also in a hybrid format involving week-long resident seminars. Normally, students enrolled in the DIS are required to attend a minimum of two modular (week-long) resident courses on campus at some point during the program. In order to remain active in the program, a minimum of three courses must be completed during any twelve-month period.

## GENERAL ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

The degree is open to applicants who hold an accredited master's degree or its substantive equivalent. An equivalent degree must reflect a minimum of 36 semester or 54 quarter hours of graduate study in a field related to Christian ministry with a minimum GPA of 3.2 on a 4.0 scale. The applicant also must possess extensive full-time missionary or pastoral leadership experience (a minimum of five years), and meet all other admission requirements. Applications will be considered when the following have been received:

1. Completed application form (including signature);
2. Completed tuition payment worksheet;
3. Two recommendations (clergy and personal) attesting to the applicant's commitment to Christ, leadership and decision making ability, emotional stability, and facility in interpersonal relationships;
4. Official transcripts confirming baccalaureate degree and graduate degree (or substantive equivalent) from an accredited institution; and, if relevant, official transcripts from institutions documenting postgraduate coursework that may be considered for transfer credit;
5. Autobiographical essay (maximum 5 pages typed) that discusses the applicant's conversion and call to ministry, past ministry experience, current ministry placement, goals for personal and professional development, and ways the program will help in achieving those goals;
6. Copy of valid government-issued photo ID with signature (e.g., driver license or passport);
7. A substantive academic paper (12 – 20 pages) that fully demonstrates the applicant's ability to do research and write at the doctoral level (or successful completion of *AT 7565 Advanced Research and Writing*); and
8. Acceptable TOEFL or IELTS score if English is not the applicant's primary language.

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**Note:** *Applicants must sign that they have read and are in agreement with the Doctrinal Statement and will uphold it, and that they will abide by the Biblical Code of Conduct, Academic Code of Honor, Drug and Alcohol Policy, Payment Policy, and all other academic and financial policies. Additional requirements can be found on the Application for Admission. The Doctoral Committee reserves the right to make professional judgments regarding all admission or program requirements. Students may be required to provide additional application materials for admission and/or complete additional coursework as part of their program.*

**Doctor of Intercultural Studies Learning outcomes:**

1. demonstrate a breadth of knowledge in theological and socio-cultural disciplines that relate to intercultural studies;
2. demonstrate awareness of how differences in worldview and culture shape perspectives and practice for intercultural leadership;
3. demonstrate the ability to develop effective strategies and cast vision in a global and intercultural context;
4. demonstrate an understanding of current issues and trends in missional thought;
5. demonstrate an understanding of how to disciple and create leaders who are both theologically equipped and aware of socio-cultural dynamics; and
6. demonstrate the ability to research and write in the disciplines associated with intercultural, global/missional studies.

**Doctor of Intercultural Studies Curriculum:**

*Required Courses: 6 courses (24 hours)*

AT 8563 Research Design and Statistics.....	4
IC 8552 Missional History and Biblical Theology.....	4
IC 8580 Cultural Anthropology and Contextualization.....	4
IC 8554 Intercultural Communication Dynamics.....	4
IC 8323 Christian Worldview in a Global Context.....	4
IC 8720 Intercultural Counseling .....	4

*Elective Courses: Choose two (8 hours)*

IC 8570 Seminar for Mission Strategies.....	4
IC 8575 Current Trends in Missional Leadership.....	4
IC 8580 Seminar in Intercultural Studies.....	4
IC 8560 Theology of Missions.....	4
IC 8556 Intercultural Business Strategies.....	4
IC 8318 Christian Interaction with World Religions.....	4
LE 8548 Integrity, Communication, and Decision Making.....	4
LE 8555: Leadership for Strategic Partnerships.....	4

*Research Project 4 courses (16 hours)*

AT 8589 Doctoral Research Practicum 1.....	4
AT 8591 Doctoral Research Practicum 2.....	4
AT 8593 Doctoral Research Practicum 3.....	4
AT 8596 Doctoral Research Project .....	4

# Doctor of Intercultural Studies

Each course is four quarter hours

## Required courses

### **AT 8563 Research Design and Statistics (4)**

This course will examine qualitative, quantitative, and mixed research methodologies along with descriptive and correlative statistics to enhance reading of professional literature and performance of research-supported study.

### **IC 8552 Missional History and Biblical Theology (4)**

A study of the history, culture, and politics of Christian missions and the principal texts in the Old and New Testaments dealing with mission, evangelism, discipling and renewal, with attention to recent developments, crucial issues, and future trends in global missions.

### **IC 8580 Cultural Exegesis and Contextualization (4)**

This course will help students explore and develop contextualized ways of communicating the significance of the cross and the biblical message within their context of calling.

### **IC 8554 Intercultural Communication Dynamics (4)**

Intercultural Communication focuses on the ways in which culture interrelates with and effects communication processes. This course is designed to increase our sensitivity to other cultures and to increase our awareness of our own cultural backgrounds, the contexts (social, cultural and historical) in which we communicate, and the dynamics that arise in such interactions.

### **IC 8323 Christian Worldview in a Global Context (4)**

This course considers the process of communicating a Christian worldview in a manner that is faithful to Scriptures and relevant to the world's cultures. In part, this involves the process of exegeting or probing culture for spiritual themes. In addition, this course explores the process of doing theology in a global context.

### **IC 8720 Intercultural Counseling (4)**

This course introduces students to practices of care with an emphasis on systems theories, assessment, and inter-cultural thought in spiritual care. It also discusses intercultural approaches to care in the face of problems that is common to all humanity including conflict, grief, loss, trauma, crisis, aging, and broken relationships.

### **AT 8589, 8591, 8593 Doctoral Research Practicum 1 (a, b), 2 (a, b), 3 (a, b) (4 each)**

These courses involve applied field research culminating in a written project for a doctoral program.

### **AT 8596 Doctoral Research Project (4)**

This course is a written project report---the culmination of the field research accomplished during the Doctoral Research Practicum courses leading to the Doctor of Intercultural Studies.

## Electives

### **IC 8318 Christian Interaction with World Religions (4)**

This course discusses the origin, personalities, historical development, and basic thought of major religions of the world and how Christians should interact with such religions in a way that is both culturally and biblically sensitive and persuasive.

**IC 8556 Intercultural Business Strategies (4)**

This course provides the theoretical and experiential framework for examining the meaning of communication in global business. It focuses on the analysis of national and organizational cultures and aims to increase the student's awareness of international values and communication differences and similarities.

**IC 8560 Theology of Missions (4)**

This course is a study of the biblical and theological basis of the Christian mission and examines critical issues as missionaries seek to share the Gospel with people of other faiths around the world.

**IC 8570 Seminar for Mission Strategies (4)**

A study of distinctive strategies for world evangelization. Special attention will be given to the historical development of mission strategies including a study of ministry to unreached peoples and "closure strategy" in missions.

**IC 8575 Current Trends in Missional Leadership (4)**

This course is designed to familiarize students with the most current mission methods being employed on mission fields throughout the world. Students are also led to examine some of the movements that are impacting the work of missions.

**IC 8580 Seminar in Intercultural Studies (4)**

This seminar explores theoretical and applied approaches to intercultural communication, discusses cultural values in community, and develops sensitivity for cultural diversity to prepare students for leadership in cross-cultural Christian service and ministries related to the global expansion of the church in intercultural contexts.

**LE 8548 Integrity, Communication, and Decision Making (4)**

This course is designed to equip leaders to make strategic decisions based on biblical standards and personal integrity. The course covers the following: 1) critical decision making in crisis, 2) values-driven decision making, 3) timing and quality decisions, 4) decisions based on absolute criterion, and 5) mastering communication techniques that are logical, biblically accurate, and industry sensitive.

**LE 8555 Leadership for Strategic Partnerships (4)**

This course discusses the importance of strategic partnership development for leaders and explains how global mission efforts can be funded with integrity and transparency. Using biblical principles and social science the best practices for handling funding and finance are presented. Cross-cultural partnerships can foster dignity, build capacity and work toward long-term sustainability.