



JAN 2026

IRTC

INTERNATIONAL REFORMED THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE

Serving Students Across a Broken World

The Realities of a Classroom Beyond Borders

*Bear one another's burdens,
and so fulfill the law of Christ. – Galatians 6.2*

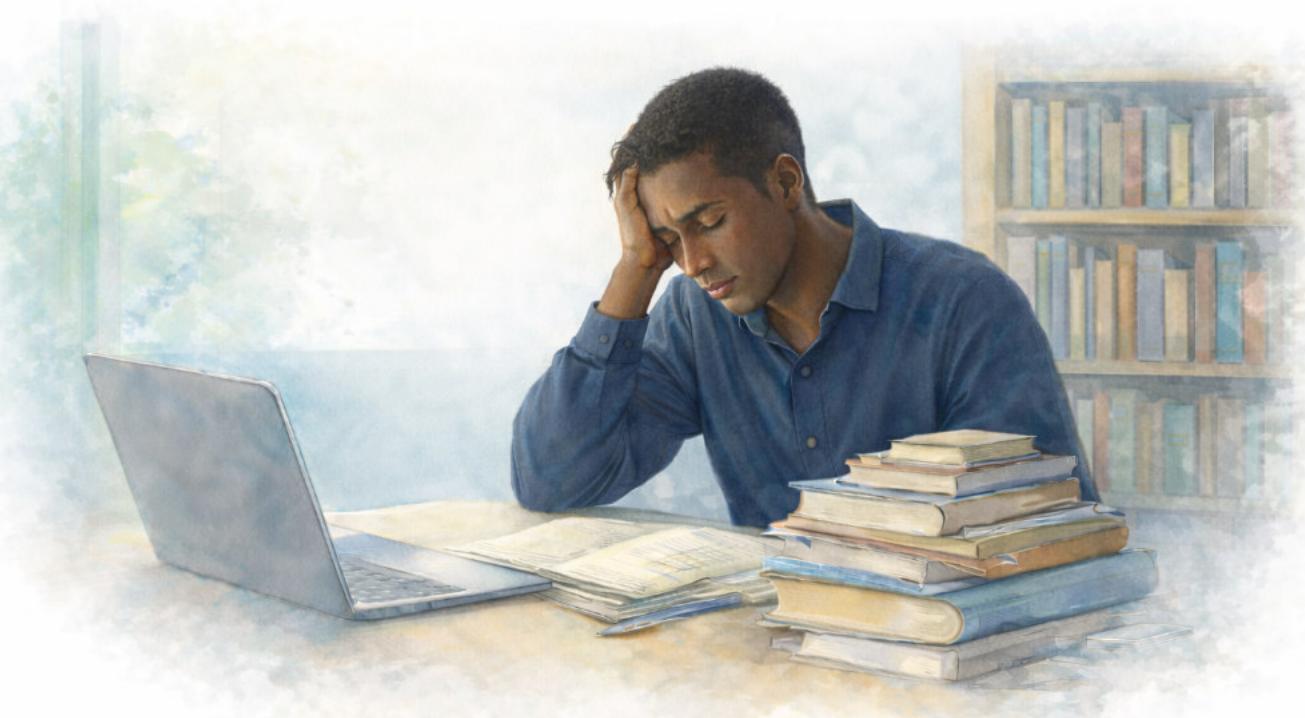
Christian education, at its best, has always been about more than the transmission of knowledge. It is an act of service in response to a call to minister to the Body of Christ, an expression of love for God and for His people. At the IRTC, this calling takes on a particular shape because our classrooms span continents, cultures, and time zones, bringing together students and staff whose lives are greatly influenced by the realities of the world around them.

In a traditional, physical institution, challenges often arise from local circumstances, such as a storm, a strike, or a regional crisis. In a global academic community, those same challenges are multiplied. At any given moment, while one part of the world enjoys relative stability, another is experiencing war, political upheaval, or economic strain. None of these realities are unusual in

themselves. What is unusual is carrying them all at once within a single academic body.

Conflict and War

In 2025, armed conflict disrupted lives in multiple regions where our students and staff live and serve. In northern Mozambique, renewed violence in Cabo Delgado once again displaced families and destabilized communities already living with years of uncertainty. Our students in Israel faced ongoing security concerns that affect their daily lives in ways difficult to imagine from afar. One of our staff members, based in Cambodia, closely monitored border tensions with Thailand and prepared contingency plans to evacuate their family should hostilities approach the capital. These realities interrupt studies and work not only through practical limitations such as electricity shortages, unreliable internet access, and sudden displacement, but also through deep emotional and spiritual strain.



Political Tensions

Political instability and polarization also weighed heavily on many of our students and staff. In Angola, widespread protests following economic and policy decisions led to unrest that disrupted daily routines and created uncertainty for families and churches alike. In Portugal, labor disputes and political tensions resulted in strikes that affected transportation and public services, reminding us that even relatively stable societies are not immune to disruption. In Brazil, ongoing concerns over judicial overreach and political polarization continued to create an atmosphere of uncertainty, affecting freedom of expression and public trust. For students and staff living amid these tensions, the challenge is not only navigating changing regulations or disrupted services, but maintaining focus, peace, and faithfulness in contexts marked by persistent anxiety and division.

Economic Strain

Economic pressure quietly but persistently burdened several of those studying and serving with us. In countries such as Mozambique, longstanding economic fragility continued to affect access to reliable income, infrastructure, and basic services. In Brazil, rising prices for food, housing, and transportation placed growing strain on families, while wages remained largely stagnant. For students balancing ministry, work, and study, these pressures often translate

into difficult choices about time, resources, and sustainability. Reflecting these realities, the past year became a record period for new scholarship requests and for appeals from continuing students seeking deferred fee payments. Economic strain rarely announces itself dramatically, but it steadily erodes stability and adds weight to an already demanding calling.

One Community, Many Realities

What unites all these challenges is not their novelty, but their simultaneity. We serve students living across all continents. Many are missionaries living far from their countries of origin, studying in Portuguese while surrounded by another language and culture. This diversity is a gift, but it also means that the burdens carried by students, staff, and all those bound together in this ministry are many and varied. A global classroom requires patience, flexibility, and a pastoral attentiveness that goes far beyond academic administration.

Yet this is where the privilege lies: to bear one another's burdens. Serving students across a broken world, we bear witness to the faithfulness of God amid instability. We remain deeply grateful for the calling to walk alongside men and women who seek to serve Christ faithfully in uncertain circumstances. We also thank the Lord for your faithful prayers and support for the IRTC, which enable us to continue this work for the sake of His Kingdom.

Voices from the IRTC Community

As part of our review after each term, we invite students to share anonymous feedback on their learning experience. While this feedback is most often encouraging, we also value thoughtful critiques and practical suggestions. All responses are read carefully by the administration, and points raised for improvement are actively considered and addressed as part of our continuing work. Here are some excerpts:

"I would like to commend the IRTC for its strong faculty, solid platform, and an administration that is always attentive and quick to resolve questions and issues. My hope is that it will continue to grow even more."

"The IRTC is excellent; I have been very well supported by the instructors and by everyone involved, without exception."

"The course was excellent; the texts, supplementary readings, links, weekly video lessons, live classes, careful handling of the Scriptures, and forum interaction all contributed significantly to its effectiveness."

"I am very grateful for this first experience and for being able to see firsthand the IRTC's commitment to quality education, with a clear focus and a confessional approach. It has far exceeded my expectations. Congratulations to everyone, and thank you very much for everything. May God continue to bless you! That is my prayer."

"I greatly appreciate the pedagogical format adopted by the IRTC. Live classes foster greater interaction with the instructor and help to clarify questions."

\$227,245
2025 Budget

97%

\$221,341
Raised (Dec 31)



Your support reaches around the world

Canada (card, cheque or e-Transfer):
<https://irtcsociety.ca/donate>

International Reformed
Theological College Society
PO Box 838 Stn A
Abbotsford, BC V2T 7A2 Canada

US & International (card or check):
<https://irtc.online/donations>

International Reformed
Theological College
210 Pace Dr.
Bristol, VA 24201 USA



E-mail: contact@irtc.online