For more information, see the School of federal government tri-council awards. Issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners and other sources. Queen’s will automatically external awards, and teaching and research funding package includes internal and minimum funding of $15,000 per year. Our M.A. students in Religious Studies receive What about funding? Visit the School of Religion website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty and research. Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Where Can a Graduate Degree Take Me?

A Master’s degree in Religious Studies can take your career in many directions. Many of our MA students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a PhD. Our Master’s students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Academia and teaching
- Public policy research and analysis
- International development work
- Immigration
- Journalism
- Any setting which values an understanding of multi-culturalism and diversity

Taking time to explore career options, build experience, and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

Why GRADUATE STUDIES in RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religion plays a major role in shaping and influencing various cultures and historical and political movements around the world. Thus, understanding religious traditions and their evolution in diverse modern issues is vital preparation for building a career in the global marketplace. Religious Studies involves, among other things, examining the history of religious traditions, comparing the ideas and values of different religious systems, and understanding the place and function of religion in society. Students of religion investigate why people are religious, where religion comes from, and how it should be defined and understood.

The program also places an emphasis on contemporary theories and methods in the study of religion. Developing excellent research and writing skills is one of our most important outcomes. These skills are further honed as students have the opportunity to write a research essay that focuses on a particular religious tradition or phenomenon.

Why QUEEN’S?

“The MA program at Queen’s offers an approach to the study of religion that is very student-focused, where student success is measured not only in terms of publications and conference presentations but also in terms of individual intellectual growth and development.”

- Ian Cuthbertson, MA

At Queen’s the approach to the study of religion is non-confessional, diverse, multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary. Students receive the information and tools they need to analyze religion critically, while gaining exposure to views from a variety of ways of being religious. Students learn how to investigate and assess the impact of religion, both historically and in today’s world, critically examine complex ideas, and express their own points of view clearly and effectively.

We offer a theoretically challenging twelve-month M.A. program, with generous financial assistance including the opportunity for every student to be a Teaching Assistant. At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. With the world’s best scholars, prize-winning professional development opportunities, excellent funding packages and life in the affordable, historic waterfront city of Kingston, Queen’s offers a wonderful environment for graduate studies.

Why KINGSTON?

Described by students as both “quaint” and “electric,” Kingston is big enough to provide all the conveniences of modern life, and small enough for students, staff, and faculty to feel instantly comfortable and at home.

Program STRUCTURE

The Master’s in Religious Studies is a 12-month program: students take one core course and two elective courses in each of the fall and winter terms, then write a Master’s Research Essay over the summer.

Before completing the MA degree, students are required to give evidence of a reading knowledge of at least one language, in addition to English, selected from the languages of modern scholarship and/or necessary language.

RESEARCH Areas

- Chinese religions
- Christian Origins
- Ethics
- Greek and Roman Religions
- Hinduism and Buddhism
- Islam, Modernity and Democracy
- Mysticism
- Religion, Sex and Gender
- Religion and Sport
- Religion, Non-religion and Culture
- Violence, sacrifice and religion

School of Graduate Studies
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www.queensu.ca/sogs

GRAD MAP FOR M.A. STUDENTS

M.A. Map
Navigating Graduate Studies and Beyond

M.A. Map
FAQs
What do I need to know to apply?
ACADEMIC REQUIREMENTS
- 4-year Honours Bachelor’s degree in Religious Studies (or equivalent).
- Grade requirements: minimum B+ cumulative average.
ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS
- Writing sample.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must prove English language proficiency by submitting results of a test of proficiency such as TOEFL, MELAB, IELTS, or PTE (Academic).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: February 1.

You can find more information on the School of Religious Studies website at oshea@queensu.ca or www.queensu.ca/religion.
**GETTING STARTED**

- Start with key priorities like doing your coursework and finalizing the topic for your Master's Research Essay.
- Consider how your course papers can contribute to your research essay.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and Expanding Horizons professional development workshops, the department Grad Cha and the SGS Habitat.

**INTERMEDIATE STAGE**

- Complete your coursework; begin to research and write your research essay.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference such as Unraveling Religion.
- Consider participating in the 3 Minute Thesis (M3T) competition.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences and competencies.
- Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to develop your research or teaching skills.
- For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching and Learning; enrol in SGS 5001 or the PUTL certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

**WRAPPING UP**

- Complete your research essay.
- Consider publication options for your research.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion or the American Academy of Religion.
- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help with the Skills and Experience workshop.
- Check out opportunities for extraining through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.
- Investgate internships from Mitacs and other sources.
- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest through Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Check out Career Services' networking workshops.
- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for the Study of Religion or the American Academy of Religion.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with their Job Searching, Resumes, or Interviews.

**LEGAL SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Explore how you can connect with your community through experiential opportunities on- and off-campus.
- Consider volunteering with different community organizations, museums, and cultural study groups.

**ENGAGE WITH YOUR COMMUNITY**

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups like Material Matters.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUES Intercultural Competency Certificate.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of interest and start putting together your CV or resume for potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services with Job Searching, Resumes, or Interviews.

**ACHIEVE YOUR ACADEMIC GOALS**

- Consider positions in student services, the SGS or media outlets like the Queen's Journal CFP (CFTV) and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on departmental, faculty or university committees.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the School of Religion.
- Consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

**MAXIMIZE RESEARCH IMPACT**

- Start thinking about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

**BUILD SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE**

- Explore different careers of interest by reading alumni profiles on the SGS website, and using Queen'sConnects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen's alumni, or find alumni in various careers through Ask an Alum.
- Check out the free online modules at MyGradSkills to help you plan your career.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

**EMPLYABILITY SKILLS**

- Communication and technical skills: effective and clear in written, oral and multimedia forms, for diverse audiences.
- Information management: prioritize, organize and synthesize large amounts of information.
- Time management: meet deadlines and responsibilities despite competing demands.
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions.
- People skills: articulate characteristics of religion as a cultural phenomenon in the social, political and economic aspects of public life.
- Leadership skills: engage in self-reflective, open, informed and civil conversation about religion and society.
- Awareness and understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, research and cultural sensitivity.
- Communication skills: develop arguments through careful analysis, cogent writing, effective speaking, and critical thinking.
- Problem-solving skills: employ the methods and theories used in the academic study of religion.
- Analytic abilities: explore issues of history, culture, politics, race, gender and science in the construction of religion.

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!