**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 impact on 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?**

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 an intellectually challenging twelve-month M.A. program, with generous financial assistance including the opportunity for every student to be a Teaching Assistant.”

**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 and Nature
- Religion, Non-religion and Culture
- Violence, sacrifice and religion

We encourage you to identify an area of research interest and contact the Graduate Coordinator before applying.

“**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 source languages.
This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone's abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Grad Map using our online My Grad Map tool.
Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I use this map?
Whether you are considering or have embarked on graduate studies at Queen's, use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. The map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your individual accomplishments. Everyone’s journey is different – the guide offers options for finding your way at Queen's and setting the foundation for your future. To make your own customized map, use the online My Grad Map tool.

Where can I get help?
Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally. Check out the SGS HABITAT for available resources.

What is the community like?
At Queen’s, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a close-knit intellectual community. You will find friends, peers and support among the graduate students enrolled in Queen's more than 130 graduate programs within 50+ departments & research centres. 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. Queen’s is an integral part of the Kingston community, with the campus nestled in the core of the city, only a 10-minute walk to downtown with its shopping, dining and waterfront. For more about Kingston’s history and culture, see Queen's University’s Discover Kingston page.

Application 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 of work completed for a previous course.
- If English is not a native language, prospective students must meet the English language proficiency requirements in writing, speaking, reading, and listening. The School of Graduate Studies requires the following minimum scores:
  - TOEFL (paper-based): 550,
  - TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30),
  - IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score),
  - PTE Academics: 65.

KEY DATES & DEADLINES
- Application due: February 1st.

Before you start your application, please review the Graduate studies application process.

What about FUNDING?

M.A. students in Religious Studies receive minimum funding of $15,000 per year. Our funding package includes internal and external awards, and teaching and research assistantships.

Apply for external funding from OGS, SSHRC and other sources. Queen’s will automatically issue a $5,000 top-up to Masters winners of federal government tri-council awards. For more information, see the School of Graduate Studies’ information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the School of Religion.

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