Get to know
RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religion plays a major role in shaping and influencing various cultures, and historical and political movements across the globe. Thus, understanding religious traditions and their impact on diverse modern issues is vital preparation for building a career in our global marketplace.

Religious Studies involves 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. Thus, Religious Studies gives students opportunities to interact with many different local, regional, and global issues.

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 critically analyze religion while gaining exposure to views from a variety of traditions. Students learn how to investigate and assess the impact of religion in today’s world, critically examine complex ideas, and express their own points of view clearly and effectively.

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Religious Studies
Bachelor of Arts (General)
Internship option available

A Common START

Students in our Faculty are admitted into Arts, Science or Computing but the focus is on a common first year. Through self-exploration, and while you settle into university life, you have the chance to work with our advisors and faculty to uncover where your real interests and opportunities for success are. Sometimes that discovery happens fairly quickly, and for other students it takes some work and time before the “ah-ha!” happens – either way your first year at Queen’s will be a great experience.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Religious Studies courses offer a variety of approaches from which to examine societal matters through courses such as Religion and Violence, Religion and Sport, Mythology of the Ancient Near East, Religion and Sex, Yoga in India and Religion and Film. At the same time, the program offers in-depth study of traditions such as Hinduism, Islam, Daoism, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and the Religions of Native Peoples.

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.
# Religious Studies

## Major Map

**BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS) (MAJOR, MEDIAL, MINOR) | BACHELOR OF ARTS (GENERAL) | BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (HONOURS) (MINOR)**

### 1ST YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- In first year take courses in the study of religion (RELS 131 OR 161) or pick up one of these in a later year.
- Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For details see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Join teams or clubs on campus, such as the Queen's International Affairs Association; see the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations such as Martha's Table or Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

- The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their programs, events and training opportunities.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.
- Build your transferrable skills in time management, organization, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

### 2ND YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- Select from a range of 200-level RELS courses in major religious traditions or thematic courses.
- Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.
- Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in Academic Writing or explore other certificates available.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen's Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICSI).
- Consider becoming a Departmental Student Council (DSC) representative.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

- Attend public lectures sponsored by the School of Religion.
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as the Queen's Interfaith and Intercultural Society.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

- Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your faculty's International Office. If exchange isn't for you, come talk to QUIC about some other options to gain international experience.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Explore careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as the Ethical Careers Guide. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

### 3RD YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- In third year take RELS 334 and 335. Select from a range of 300-level RELS courses in major religious traditions or thematic courses.
- As your courses become more complex, learn to think, read and write more critically with Student Academic Success Services.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Get involved with the Departmental Student Council (DSC) by becoming a DSC representative.
- If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

- Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the Linkedin group Queen's Connects. Connect with professors at events or workshops hosted by the Department Student Council (DSC). If interested, attend the Queen's Media and Journalism Conference or the QIAA Global Passport Online Database and Internship Fair.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUIC's resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Service.

### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- In fourth year take RELS 401.
- Complete remaining required units for your plan.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Consider becoming the Departmental Student Council Chair.
- Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities related to careers of interest. Assess what experience you're lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

- Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Corporation for Studies in Religion and the American Academy of Religion.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Religion.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIC's Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.
- Apply in the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
Religious Studies

MAJOR MAP

How to use this map

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

- People skills with an ability to articulate characteristics of religion as a cultural phenomenon in the social, political, and economic aspects of public life
- Communication skills to develop arguments through careful analysis, cogent writing, effective speaking, and critical thinking
- Problem-solving skills to employ the methods and theories used in the academic study of religion
- Analytic abilities to engage in self-reflective, open, informed, and civil conversation about diverse religious traditions
- Industry specific knowledge to examine the historical, textual, and cultural dimensions of diverse religious traditions using primary and secondary literature in the study of religion