Religious Studies MA Map

Applying to and Navigating Graduate Studies

Why RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

Religion plays a major role in shaping and influencing various cultures and historical and political movements around the world. 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 ideas and values, and understanding the place and function of religion in society, including varieties of secularism. Students of religion investigate why people are religious, where religion comes from, and how it can be analyzed.

Why QUEEN'S?

Our MA in Religious Studies equips you for careers involving:

Religious literacy: students gain exposure to religious diversity, and tools for assessing the impact of religion today and in history.

Research skills and information literacy: students learn methods and theories for analyzing complex information and designing research studies.

Communication skills: students get professional development in expressing their own points of view effectively, and publishing their work in academic and popular media.

"As a student at Queen's School of Religion I had the opportunity to not only explore challenging concepts, theories, and histories from an interdisciplinary perspective, I also developed and tested my own skills in the 'real world' by planning and running a conference addressing the Truth and Reconciliation's Call to Action #6, which allowed me to mobilize knowledge, learn about the practical side to academic event planning, and engage closely with community members."

-Kacey Dool, MA













Some faculty and students involved with the MA program 2022, from left to right: Dr. M Shobhana Xavier, Faculty; Dr. Amarnath Amarasingam, Faculty; Dr. Sharday Mosurinjohn, Faculty; Dr. Dustin Atlas, Faculty; Muhammad Ashraf Thachara Padikkal, MA Student; Morgan Tomalty, MA Student

TOPICS: Religion and...

- Decolonization
- Diaspora
- Ecology
- **Ethics**
- Gender
- Global Development
- Politics in the Middle East
- Popular Culture
- **Public Policy**
- Race
- Science
- Social Justice
- Sport
- Violence

TRADITIONS and Areas:

- Black Religions
- Christianity
- Greco-Roman Religions
- Indigenous Knowledges
- Islamic Studies
- **Iewish Studies**
- **New Religious Movements**
- **Secularity Studies**
- South Asian Studies

Visit the School of Religion website to read faculty profiles. Contact the Graduate Coordinator to discuss your research interests 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, a professional development course, then write a Master's Research Essay over the summer.

Students are required to attend faculty colloquiums and visiting speaker presentations, and are strongly encouraged to participate in conferences.



Religious Studies MA Map

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)



GETTING STARTED INTERMEDIATE STAGE WRAPPING UP ACHIEVE YOUR Start with key priorities like doing well in your coursework, **ACADEMIC** · Complete your course requirements for your degree, and begin In consultation with your supervisor, submit your research developing a good relationship with your supervisor, and finalizing **GOALS** to research and write your research essay. essay to your Second Reader. the topic for your Master's Research Essay. Complete the necessary steps to degree completion. Start regular meetings with your supervisor to ensure your Consider how your course papers can contribute to your research research essay is on track. Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral <u>Affairs</u> professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair, and the SGSPA Website. **MAXIMIZE** Start to think about the audiences for your research. Attend or present at a graduate conference. Consult with your supervisor about submitting a paper for a **RESEARCH** Apply to the University's General Research Ethics Board for conference or for publication. **IMPACT** If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and qualitative research. Attend a major conference in your field, such as the <u>Canadian</u> OGS funding. Expand your research audience through social media such as Society for the Study of Religion or the American Academy of Twitter or a blog. Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies and Consider putting an article in **The Conversation**. Postdoctoral Affairs for a Grad Chat to discuss your research **BUILD** Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets Start keeping an eportfolio of your skills, experiences, and **SKILLS AND** Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGSPA Blog. Look in the competencies. **EXPERIENCE** outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas. and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop. Use a Research Assistant or Teaching Assistant position to Serve on the departmental Graduate Committee or Committee on develop your research or teaching skills. Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources. Religious Studies. For help with teaching, get support from the Centre for Teaching Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL. School Check out professional development workshops from School and Learning. Enrol in SGS902 or the PUTL Certificate for more of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs professional professional development in teaching and learning. development, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills. development and the School of Religion. ENGAGE Do some targeted networking with people working in careers **WITH YOUR** Explore how you can connect with your community through Participate in your graduate and professional community COMMUNITY experiential opportunities on- and off-campus. through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, of interest, through Queens Connects on LinkedIn, the organizing conferences, and research groups. Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at Consider volunteering with different community organizations, conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop. Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by museums, and cultural studies groups. taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre. Society for the Study of Religion or the American Academy of Religion. If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, consider speaking with an International Student Advisor. **LAUNCH YOUR** Finding a career that fits starts with knowing yourself. Get help Participate in hiring committees and attend job talks. Start Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects CAREER

Cruising for more information.

scholarships.

on LinkedIn to connect with Oueen's alumni. Check out Career

If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest,

reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external

WHAT WILL I LEARN?

A graduate degree in Religious Studies can equip you with:

- Knowledge and technical skills
- Effective communication skills in multiple forms for diverse audiences
- Information management: prioritize, organize, and synthesize large amounts of information
- Time management: meet deadlines and manage responsibilities despite competing demands
- Project management: develop ideas, gather information, analyze, critically appraise findings, draw and act on conclusions
- Creativity and innovation
- Perseverance
- **Independence** and experience as a collaborative worker
- Awareness, an understanding of sound ethical practices, social responsibility, responsible research, and cultural sensitivity
- **Professionalism** in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- **Leadership**: initiative and vision leading people and discussion

WHERE CAN I GO?

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
- Any setting which values an understanding of multiculturalism and diversity
- International development work
- Immigration
- Journalism

focusing on areas of interest. Research organizations of

with job searching, resumes, and interviews.

interest and start putting together your CV or resume for

potential positions of interest. Get help from Career Services

• Public policy research and analysis

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

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 Grad Map tool.

by meeting with a career educator and coach. Check out the

Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour

market websites. Stay on the lookout for special events like

School of Graduate Studies and Postdoctoral Affairs Career

Check admission test deadlines if needed for further studies.

Career Resource Area for advice on various career options.

Start reading publications like <u>University Affairs</u> and the

Week to explore your career pathways.

Graduate Studies FAQs

How do I make the most of my time at Queen's?

Use the Grad Map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of your career and academic life. Everyone's journey is different - the ideas on the maps are just suggestions to help you explore possibilities. For more support with your professional development, take advantage of the SGSPA professional development framework and the new Individual Development Plan (IDP) process to set customized goals to help you get career ready when you graduate.

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 SGSPA website for available resources.

What is the community like?

At Queen's, graduate students from all disciplines learn and discover in a closeknit 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.



Graduate 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 following minimum scores are required: (1) TOEFL iBT: Writing (24/30); Speaking (22/30); Reading (22/30); Listening (20/30). Applicants must have the minimum score in each test as well as the minimum overall score, or (2) IELTS: 7.0 (academic module overall band score and a 7.0 for each test band), or (3) PTE Academics: 65, or (4) CAEL CE -70 (minimum overall score).

KEY DATES & DEADLINES

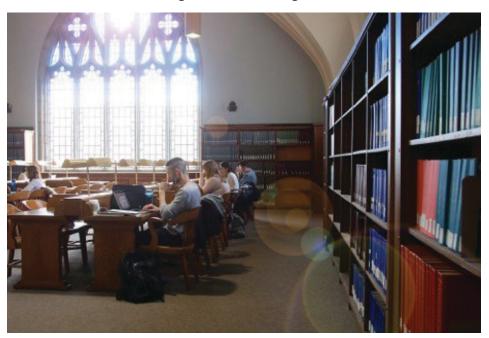
• Application due: February 1st.

Before you start your application, please review the <u>Graduate studies application</u> process.

What about FUNDING?

M.A. students in Religious Studies receive minimum funding of \$18,000 per year. Our funding package includes internal and external awards, and teaching and research assistantships. Some funding assistance is also available to participate in conferences outside of Queen's.

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



Levanna Schönwandt, Departmental Administrator
(613) 533-2109
school.of.religion@queensu.ca
queensu.ca/religion