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

TOPICS: Religion and...
- Race
- Gender
- Violence
- Social Justice
- Public Policy
- Global Development
- Politics in the Middle east
- Diaspora
- Ethics
- Popular Culture
- Sport
- Nature
- Science
- Decolonization

TRADITIONS and Areas:
- Indigenous Knowledges
- New Religious Movements
- Secularity Studies
- South Asian Studies
- Islamic Studies
- Jewish Studies
- Medieval Inter-religious Encounters
- Greco-Roman Religions
- Christianity

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

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.

School of Graduate Studies
Create an impact
www.queensu.ca/sgs
Getting Started

- Start with key priorities like doing well in your coursework, developing a good relationship with your supervisor, 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 Chair and the SGS Website.

Maximize Research Impact

- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.
- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on the departmental Graduate Committee or Committee on Religious Studies.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the School of Religion.

Engage with Your Community

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

Achieve Your Academic Goals

- 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 SG5902 or the PTL Certificate for more professional development in teaching and learning.

Intermediate Stage

- Complete your course requirements for your degree, and begin to research and write your research essay.
- Start regular meetings with your supervisor to ensure your research essay is on track.

- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Apply to the University’s General Research Ethics Board for qualitative research.
- Expand your research audience through social media such as Twitter or a blog.
- Set up a meeting with the School of Graduate Studies for a Grad Chat to discuss your research interests.

- Practice articulating the skills you have been developing in settings outside the university, such as casual conversation, networking, and interviews. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- Investigate internships from MITACS and other sources.
- Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, MITACS, or other sources to boost your skills.

- Participate in your graduate and professional community through activities such as graduate student outreach programs, organizing conferences, and research groups.
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking the Intercultural Awareness Training Certificate hosted by QUIC and Four Directions Indigenous Student Centre.
- If you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, find a good relationship with your supervisor, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.

- Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queens Connects on LinkedIn, the Queen's Alumni Association, professional associations, and at conferences. Get help from a Career Services workshop.
- 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 job searching, resumes, and interviews.

- Explore different careers of interest by using Queens Connects on LinkedIn to connect with Queen’s alumni. Check out Career Cruising for more information.
- If you are considering a PhD, explore programs of interest, reach out to faculty, and apply to PhD programs and external scholarships.
- Attend or present at a graduate conference.
- Complete the necessary steps to degree completion.

Flex Map

- Consider putting an article in The Conversation or the Chronicle of Higher Education. Browse non-academic labour market websites.
- Consider positions in student services, the SOPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the AMS Clubs Directory for more ideas.
- Serve on the departmental Graduate Committee or Committee on Religious Studies.
- Check out professional development workshops from Expanding Horizons and the School of Religion.

Evaluate Your Career

- 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 equip you with:
- Any setting which values an understanding of multi-culturalism
- 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.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!
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 Graduate studies application 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’ information on awards and scholarships, or see what awards are offered through the School of Religion.