Religious Studies

Religion plays a major role in shaping and influencing various cultural, historical, and political movements across the globe. Understanding religious traditions and their impact on diverse modern issues is vital preparation for building a career in the global marketplace. At Queen’s, our approach to the study of religion is multicultural, diverse, and interdisciplinary. Our courses look at religion in a variety of interesting ways: specific religious traditions (i.e. New Religious Movements, Islam in the Modern World), themes (i.e. Religion and Sport; Religion, Business and Ethics), and theories.

At a Glance

**Thematic Courses**
- Race and Ethnicity
- Social Movements
- Environment; Social Ethics
- Mythology and Heroes
- Magic and Witchcraft

**Traditions Courses**
- Buddhism; Christianity
- Hinduism; Islam
- Judaism
- Indigenous Knowledges and Practices
- Black Religions
- Secularity
- New Religious Movements

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Top 5 Reasons to Study Religion

1. Analyze the impact of the world’s religious forces on culture and identity.
2. Examine how religion impacts wide variety of social expressions.
3. Evaluate the role of religion in current affairs in the global context.
5. Acquire intercultural literacy and a global perspective.

Alumni Story

“My degree in Religious Studies taught me how to think outside the box. Specifically, I learned how to approach problems from different perspectives and how to be innovative with my analysis and arguments.”

-Robyn Agoston, BAH ’05

First Year Courses Available

- World Religions
- Religion and Science
- Religion and Popular Culture
- Religion, News, and Media
- Religion and Film


That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/religion
Religious Studies MAJOR MAP

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, JOINT HONOURS, MINOR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

1ST YEAR
In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Religious Studies along with some electives.

2ND YEAR
Start going deeper into the discipline of Religious Studies, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as International Studies. Attend Degree in the full term to learn more about Certificate and Internship options.

3RD YEAR
A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Religious Studies. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR
In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduate School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus, such as the Queen’s International Affairs Association, the AMS Club 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 Greenpeace, Ecocentric, Elizabeth Fry Society, Syrian Refugees, and Groups.

GET THINKING GLOBALY
Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a third year exchange through the International Programs Office.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION
Grasping with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help wondering about career options from Career Services.

How to use this map
Use the 3 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.

What will I learn?
A degree in Religious Studies can equip you with:
- Inter-cultural literacy:
  - Historical, textual, cultural dimensions of diverse religious traditions
  - Impact of religion on global politics and history
  - Respect for difference
- Analytical/Problem-solving Proficiencies:
  - Methods and theories of analysis used in the academic study of religion
  - Interpretation of primary and secondary sources, historical and contemporary
- Research design and implementation
- Communication Skills:
  - Summarize complex material
  - Develop convincing arguments
  - Write cogently and present effectively
- People Skills:
  - Collaboration in groups
  - Listening, consideration and evaluation of others’ ideas/opposing arguments

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

- Research
- Cultural affairs
- Faith-based leadership
- Human resources
- International development
- Family and labour relations
- Patient advocacy
- Public policy
- Social services

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

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Religious Studies

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. Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?

For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen’s has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen’s has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.