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 develop their own points of view clearly and effectively.

“The MA program at Queen’s offers an approach to the study of religion that is very student-focused, where student success is measured not only in terms of publications and conference presentations but also in terms of individual intellectual growth and development.” —Ian Cuthbertson, MA

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.

Visit the School of Religion website to read faculty profiles and learn more about faculty members’ research areas.

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.
Consider volunteering with different community organizations, if you are an international student interested in staying in Canada, 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 joining professional associations like the American Academy of Religion or the Queen's Alumni Association for more ideas.

In consultation with your supervisor, submit your research essay to your Second Reader.

Check out opportunities for extra training through CTL, Expanding Horizons, Mitacs, or other sources to boost your skills.

Consult with your supervisor about submitting a paper for a conference or for publication.

Consult putting an article in a blog.

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.

Create a blog to discuss your research interests.

Write your research essay.

Do some targeted networking with people working in careers of interest, through Queen'sConnects 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.

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
- Public policy research and analysis
- International development work
- Immigration
- Journalism
- Any setting which values an understanding of multiculture 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.

WHAT WILL I LEARN?
A graduate degree in Religious Studies can equip you with valuable and versatile skills, such as:

- 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 ethical sensitivity
- Professionalism in all aspects of work, research, and interactions
- Leadership: initiate and vision leading people and discussion

Visit careers.queensu.ca/gradmaps for the online version with links!