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.

TOP 5 REASONS to study RELIGION

2. Understand the impact of the world’s religious forces on culture and identity.
3. Critically think, analyze cultures, evaluate current affairs, and make decisions in a global context.
4. Examine how religion impacts a wide variety of cultural expressions.
5. Acquire intercultural literacy.

“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

ALUMNI JOBS

3% of alumni work in INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY & COMPUTING
7% of alumni work in BANKING & INVESTMENT
14% of alumni work in RELIGIOUS INSTITUTIONS
51% of alumni work in EDUCATION

2020-21 major thresholds

1.9 cGPA AUTOMATIC ACCEPTANCE
OPEN PENDING LIST

Thresholds are made on a competitive basis and are updated annually. To see the thresholds for all programs as well as the latest information, please visit quartsci.com/planselection

add a CERTIFICATE to your degree

Data Analytics
Disability and Physical Activity
Employment Relations
Entrepreneurship, Innovation and Creativity
French for Professionals
Geographic Information Science
Global Action and Engagement
Indigenous Languages and Cultures
International Studies
Media Studies
Sexual and Gender Diversity
Urban Planning

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That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/religion
Religious Studies MAJOR MAP *

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

2020-2021

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.

Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

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 Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options.

Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SAIS (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

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; see the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

Look into summer jobs by talking to the dept. or Career Services about work through SWIP or Work-Study. Consider entrepreneurial opportunities via programs like the Queen’s Innovation Connector Summer Initiative (QICS).

Consider becoming a Departmental Student Council (DSC) representative.

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.

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.

Consider joining professional associations like the American Academy of Religion.

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, get involved with the Queen’s Journal or QJAA.

Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for Studies in Religion and the American Academy of Religion.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations such as Greenpeace, Ecojustice, Elizabeth Fry Society, Syrian Refugee Aid Groups.

Attend public lectures sponsored by the School of Religion.

Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Room to Read.

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GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUIP’s Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Speak to a QUIP advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

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.

Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills.

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

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.

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

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. Speak to our Graduate Coordinator about graduate studies in Religion.

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.

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:

• 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.

What will I learn?

A degree in Religious Studies can equip you with:

Intercultural Literacy:

• Historical, textual, cultural dimensions of diverse religious traditions
• Impact of religion on global politics and histories
• 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

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

* This map is intended to provide suggestions for activities and careers, but everyone’s abilities, experiences, and constraints are different. Build your own Major Map using our online My Major Map tool.
Religious Studies

MAJOR MAP

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.

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.

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.

For more information, contact quip@queensu.ca or visit the Program Website.

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