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.

**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 thresholds among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the world’s religious forces on culture and identity.

**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

**Sample past internships**

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

**WHY QUIP?**

- Gain a year of career-related work experience.
- Build network connections.
- Receive support from Queen’s staff in job search and during internship.
- Graduate with “Professional Internship” on your degree.
- Learn about current advances, practices and technologies in business and industry.
- Test drive a career, earn a competitive salary, and get real world experience.

**PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

- Graduates who complete “Professional Internship” are eligible for a U.S. work visa.
- 2nd or 3rd Year Students
- Minimum GPA of 1.9

**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.

**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

**2019-20 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.

**Acquire Skills. Gain Experience. Go Global.**

That is a degree from Queen’s.

queensu.ca/religion
2019-2020

Religious Studies

BACHELOR OF ARTS (HONOURS): MAJOR, MINOR

1ST YEAR

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

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.

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.

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.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

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

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

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.

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

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 SAS5 (Student Academic Support Services) and the Writing Centre for some help.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

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

Consider becoming a Departmental Student Council (DSC) representative.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Attend public lectures sponsored by the School of Religion.

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

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

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.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

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

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.

GET THE COURSES YOU NEED

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research based courses that 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

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.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Consider joining professional associations like the Canadian Society for Studies in Religion and 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, attend the Queen's Media and Journalism Conference or the GHA Global Passport Online Database and Internship Fair.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Religion.

Consider the Canadian Society for Studies in Religion and the American Academy of Religion

CAREER RESEARCH AND INTERNSHIP

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

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 source, 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 career 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.

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 to the fall for SSHRC and OGS scholarships if applying to grad school in Ontario.

* 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 tool.