Get to know RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Religion plays a major role in shaping and influencing various cultures, and historical and political movements across the globe. Thus, understanding religious traditions and their impact on diverse modern issues is vital preparation for building a career in our global marketplace.

Religious Studies involves 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. Thus, Religious Studies gives students opportunities to interact with many different local, regional, and global issues.

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 critically analyze religion while gaining exposure to views from a variety of traditions. Students learn how to investigate and assess the impact of religion in today’s world, critically examine complex ideas, and express their own points of view clearly and effectively.

Degree PLANS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Religious Studies
Internship option available

A Year to CHOOSE

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Religious Studies courses offer a variety of approaches from which to examine societal matters through courses such as Religion and Violence, Religion and Sport, Mythology of the Ancient Near East, Religion and Sex, Yoga in India, and Religion and Film. At the same time, the program offers in-depth study of traditions such as Hinduism, Islam, Daoism, Christianity, Buddhism, Judaism, and the Indigenous Traditions in North America.

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements. Visit queensu.ca/admission for additional information regarding requirements and admission to Queen’s.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
### 1ST YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

In first year take courses in the study of religion (RELS 131 or 161) or pick up one of these in a later year. Build your transferable skills in time management, problem-solving, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

**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 Martha’s Table or Big Brothers, Big Sisters.

**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.

### 2ND YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

In second year take RELS 255. Select from a range of 200-level RELS courses in major religious traditions or thematic courses.

Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

**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 (QICS).

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 the Queen’s Interfaith and Intercultural Society.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through the International Programs Office.

### 3RD YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

In third year take RELS 354. Select from a range of 300-level RELS courses in major religious traditions or thematic courses.

As your courses become more complex, learn to think, read and write more critically with Student Academic Success Services.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

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.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

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 QAMA Global Passport Online Database and Internship Fair.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

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

### 4TH OR FINAL YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

In fourth year take RELS 401.

Complete remaining required units for your plan.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

**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 Corporation for Studies in Religion and the American Academy of Religion.

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

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**

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

### CONSIDER A 12-16 MONTH QUIP INTERNSHIP

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

**WHERE COULD I GO AFTER GRADUATION?**

- Advertising
- Archives
- Business administration
- Counselling
- Cultural affairs
- Education
- Ethics
- Faith-based leadership
- Foreign service
- Human resources
- Human rights
- Immigration services
- Industrial relations
- International development
- Journalism
- Law
- Library sciences
- Family and labour relations
- Museums
- NGO field work and administration
- Paten advocacy
- Politics and government
- Public and private research
- Public policy
- Public relations
- Research
- Social services
- Teaching
- Tourism
- University professor

Some careers may require additional training.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormap.html for the online version with links!
Religious Studies
MAJOR MAP

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen's, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying RELIGIOUS STUDIES?

- 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

Why study in Kingston?

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city 'the happiest place on the planet'. Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you're attending school? Queen's has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be 'fresh made daily'.

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

Queens University
School of RELIGION
Faculty of Arts and Science
Theological Hall
85 Stuart Street
613-533-2106
queensu.ca/religion

We’re closer than you think