

## Why Study Religion?

Religion plays a major role in shaping and influencing various cultures and historical and political movements around the world. 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 ideas and values, and understanding the place and function of religion in society, including varieties of secularism. 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.

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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

MASTER OF ARTS (MA)

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- 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 how your course papers can contribute to your research essay.
- Find your way through the academic process with help from departmental and [Expanding Horizons](#) professional development workshops, the department Grad Chair and the [SGS Habitat](#).

- Complete your course requirements for your degree, and begin to research and write your research essay.
- Start regular meetings with your supervisor to ensure your research essay is on track.

- In consultation with your supervisor, submit your research essay to your Second Reader.
- Complete the necessary steps to degree completion.

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- Start to think about the audiences for your research.
- If you will be continuing graduate studies, apply for SSHRC and OGS funding.

- Consult with your supervisor about submitting a paper for a conference or for publication.
- Attend a major conference in your field, such as the [Canadian Society for the Study of Religion](#) or the [American Academy of Religion](#).
- Consider putting an article in [The Conversation](#).

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- Consider positions in student services, the SGPS, or media outlets like the Queen's Journal, CFRC, and the SGS Blog. Look in the \_\_\_\_\_

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