An Invitation to the Study of Religion

Why you should think about a degree in Religious Studies and Theology

“If I went back to college today, I think I would probably major in religion… that’s how integrated it is in everything that we are working on and deciding and thinking about in life today.”

John Kerry, US Secretary of State
We invite you to

... explore what makes people tick

When you study religion, you study what people live for and what they die for; what they love most and what they hate most; how they make sense of the world and how they shape the world. You think about the questions that matter most to people, and the ways they answer them. And the answers are as complex and fascinating and varied and ever-changing as people are.

... get people thinking harder about religion

The world urgently needs people who are good at thinking about religion.

For good and for ill – globally, nationally and locally – religion makes a difference to the world. It makes a difference to politics, to society, to families, to education, to culture and to economics. It makes a difference to you and to every context you work in. Worldwide, the influence and importance of religion has never been greater.

Religion is too important and too powerful to be left to the large number of people who don’t think about it. We invite you to become one of the people who think about religion.

We don’t just want you to know a few facts about religion, or have some opinions about religion, or be able to talk about religion; we want you to think about it. This will be hard work, but it will be rewarding; and it will make a positive difference.
... challenge yourself

Thinking about religion is enormously challenging. You will need all the resources you have from your studies so far. You will learn to think critically, logically and with empathy. You will learn to understand how the world makes sense from someone else’s point of view. You will learn to see beyond the prejudices, shaky assumptions and unfounded claims that shape much public talk about religion.

And if you can do that, you will be prepared for the most challenging careers in all areas of society. You will be able to make a positive difference in the world. You will have skills that employers recognise and welcome – in critical thinking and analysis, communication, cultural and ethical awareness and understanding complex situations.

... the most varied programme of study

Religion isn’t only about beliefs, isn’t only about texts, isn’t only about practices, and isn’t only about anything. So, to understand it well, you will draw on sociology, philosophy, literature, history, languages, theology, politics, art, psychology and more. You will be able to use all the skills you have learned in your studies so far and apply them to one vital subject.

... a diverse academic community

You do not need to have any prior qualifications in Religious Studies to take up the study of religion. Theology and Religious Studies at university is much broader than Religious Studies or Religious Education at school. Our students come from backgrounds in arts, humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

You do not need to be religious to study religion. You do not need to be certain of your own religious views. You just need to believe that religion is worth thinking about. Theology and Religious Studies lecturers and students are of all faiths and none.
Why I studied Religion

‘Religion infuses our society and every society both past and present and is such a rich and wonderful subject.’ Student, MA RS

‘Studying Theology and Religious Studies was a great experience, challenging at first, but I persevered and really enjoyed learning about different religions and how society today views different religions.’ Student, BA Theology and Religious Studies

‘I learnt to assimilate information from different sources, and to write up essays clearly and concisely.’ Company Director

‘It has been a challenging, stimulating and mind-broadening experience, in which I have been helped and encouraged to develop my own ideas and skills and pursue my own interests, and which I have absolutely loved!’ Third year student

‘The experience of studying a range of faiths was particularly useful.’ BBC Radio Producer, religion

‘I developed general skills: time management, self-motivation and organisation skills.’ Department Manager, Service company

‘I developed tolerance and respect for all people, irrespective of race, sex or creed. Critical analysis. Listening skills.’ Solicitor

‘Since graduating I have worked in South East Asia for two NGOs. It’s been an amazing start to my career, and I have relied heavily on the skills I developed studying both theology and religion. Report writing, analysing complex written information and giving accurate presentations are all vital. I really value my background in TRS and the aptitude it has given me for understanding history, cultures and beliefs.’ NGO Project Manager

To find out more about opportunities to study Religion(s) or Theology at university, please visit: http://trs.ac.uk/

TRS UK

teaching and researching religion across the UK’s universities