

Lancaster
University



Global Religions
Undergraduate Degrees 2026



Welcome



This degree brings together the study of religious traditions from around the world with the major global issues that are impacting societies, including war, decolonisation, development, gender, sexuality, state and government, violence, peace, protest, and race. In our teaching we emphasise curiosity, exploration, openness and understanding.

Religion plays a vital role in shaping societies, cultures and politics around the world. From Britain to the Middle East, South Asia, Africa, and Europe, this degree invites you to explore questions of ethics and values that define how individuals and societies understand themselves and their place in the world. How can modernity integrate with tradition? How can ethics influence politics? What does it mean to have agency and freedom of choice? How have people expressed the struggle for agency across cultures and time? And how can one navigate the world's constraints while maintaining personal freedom?

You will learn to navigate the religious dimensions of these and other issues in a global context, including the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa, not to mention Europe and the United Kingdom. In addition to studying global religions such as Islam, Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism, you will also be introduced to a range of new religions, indigenous traditions, and contemporary spiritualities. These will be explored using a number of methods drawn from anthropology, sociology, philosophy, politics, and history.





Degree title		Degree (Hons)	UCAS code	Course duration (years)	Typical A level offer
Global Religions		BA	V600	3	ABB
Global Religions (Placement Year)		BA	V601	4	ABB
Global Religions (Study Abroad)		BA	V602	4	ABB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements (such as BTECs)
lancaster.ac.uk



Made for *learning*

We use a range of teaching methods that are appropriate for the wide variety of topics that you will study in global religions.

- + Lectures are used to provide overviews of the core theories, themes and evidence you need to know.
 - + Discussion seminars will provide you with a space to expand on your own views on topics through engaging in vibrant debates to improve your critical understanding in safe supportive environments.
 - + Workshop activities will provide you with the chance to engage in problem solving exercises, comparative thinking, and develop important team working skills.
 - + Your time will be divided between timetabled learning, independent learning time for reading and research tasks and meetings with academic staff.
 - + Every module will have a dedicated Moodle website as part of the University's virtual learning environment. This is used for uploading key learning and support content and for contacting staff and other students.
 - + You will have a dedicated academic advisor who will provide you with regular meetings and academic guidance throughout your studies.
- + Assessment tasks vary according to what is appropriate for each subject area. We place particular emphasis on giving you the opportunity to research topics of interest more widely as your studies progress and in using assessment to develop key professional skills. This can include essays, research diaries, and case study research.



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*At Lancaster,
we study
religions
across the
globe.*

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Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad FBA

**Distinguished Professor of
Comparative Religion and Philosophy**

We cover Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, world Christianity, and new religious movements. We study them in many regions of the world – from their places of origin to contemporary Britain.

We combine approaches from many academic disciplines. We examine religious texts, philosophical ideas, histories, and changing social forms. We take decolonial and comparative perspectives. We engage with major themes in contemporary British and global politics and in international relations.

Our lecturers and professors are widely recognised in the study of religious traditions. We aim to show you the many ways in which religion matters. Lancaster is the place to come to if you want to understand the place of religion in the world, past and present!

Gain *real-world* experience



We know you want to graduate confident in your professional skills that prepare you for work and further study. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work and life experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities as well as opportunities to travel.

Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance.

Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience and get paid for it with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities in areas such as public affairs, marketing, business development and events. The scheme is delivered by our faculty employability team who are here to support your access to direct work experience while you study.

Richardson Institute internships

Our School is home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. Research themes include transnational repression, human rights, conflict resolution, and identity and belonging. The Institute runs an internship programme where you can gain research experience working alongside leading policy and research organisations such as NGOs, think tanks, charities and faith-based organisations. You'll develop analytical skills and put your academic learning into practice in real-world contexts.

Study abroad

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying your subject from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

Vacation travel and overseas summer schools

You can also discover the world during your vacations. We run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

In addition, you can attend summer schools at one of our many overseas partners.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience



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The careers support has gone above and beyond my expectations.

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Katie, placement year student

Throughout my time at Lancaster, the support available for enhancing my future employability has been instrumental in preparing me for life after graduation, particularly through the dedicated careers advisory teams and various internships I have participated in.

My experience with the Faculty Internship Scheme allowed me to gain valuable work experience that fit around my studies. I gained several placements within the scheme, but my most notable was Assistant Manager with The Bay International Film Festival, where I developed several transferable skills such as organisation, teamwork, and management skills. The internship scheme gave practical insights that complemented my academic learning and strengthened my CV.

Additionally, the dedicated careers advisors have been incredibly supportive in shaping my career path. From career insight events, to reviewing my CV in depth, to one-to-one discussions about cover letters and mock interview sessions, their guidance has helped me feel confident entering the competitive job market. Their around-the-clock support, from application tips to weekly check-ins and emotional support and encouragement, is something I'll be forever grateful for.

When looking for a university, the career support and opportunity to develop outside of my degree were very important. I can genuinely say that Lancaster University's careers support has gone above and beyond my expectations. I would highly encourage everyone to get involved with everything on offer whilst you are at university, to help give that competitive edge and prepare you to confidently begin your future career.

Global Religions

BA (Hons)

Religion is central to our ever-evolving relationships with the world, others, and ourselves. You'll explore themes such as women and gender, conflict and peace, and societies and states, all in a truly global context.

This degree brings together the study of religious traditions from around the world with the major global issues that are impacting societies, including war, decolonisation, development, gender, sexuality, state and government, violence, peace, protest, and race. In our teaching we emphasise curiosity, exploration, openness and understanding.

From India to the Middle East, and Africa, religion plays a vital role in shaping political and cultural identities. You will explore questions of ethics and values that lie at the heart of how individuals and societies shape themselves. How can modernity integrate with tradition? How can ethics shape politics? What is choice and a free self? How have people expressed the struggle for agency across cultures and time? How can one live in the world and yet be free of its constraints?

You will learn to navigate the religious dimensions of these and other issues in a global context, including the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa, not to mention Europe and the United Kingdom. In addition to studying demographically significant religions such as Islam, Christianity, Buddhism and Hinduism, you will also be introduced to a range of methods of studying global religions through political, philosophical, sociological, and anthropological ways of thinking.

Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future.

Information within this publication with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

Year 1

Core Modules

Place and Global Religions

This module introduces students to the study of religions in cultural spaces, exploring myth, philosophy, and worship within different societies.

State, Law and Religion

This module integrates perspectives from religious studies, politics and law. It offers the opportunity to think about key political and religious concepts and themes.

Community and Global Religions

This module introduces you to the study of religions through the perspective of communities. You will assess the dynamics between communities and societies—including conflict and rapprochement.

Global Challenges in World Politics

This module provides you with a nuanced understanding of the forces driving change in the international system and their implications for global order and human security, equipping you with the tools to navigate and contribute to a complex and interconnected world.

Global Philosophy

Encounter philosophical traditions that have until recently tended not to be studied in Western universities, but in which Lancaster has particular expertise.

Thinking Globally

What does it mean to think in and about the world? This module will draw on disciplines from across the School of Global Affairs to think about the very different ways in which the world can be imagined.

Year 2

Core Modules

Critical Approaches in Global Religions

Learn about the major critical approaches, themes, theories, and issues in the study of global religions. You will gain an understanding of key methods, including those drawn from sociology, anthropology, psychology, cultural studies and philosophy.

Global Religions, Conflict and Peace

This module explores the relationship between religion, culture, conflict and peace. As well as introducing you to particular examples drawn from Africa, Asia, Europe, North America, and the Middle East, it will also provide you with a good understanding of key theories and debates about peace and conflict, intercultural and interreligious relations, and peacebuilding. Through this module, you will acquire critical and practical skills which may be applied in your career and everyday life.

Women and Gender in Global Religions

Explore how issues concerning gender, womanhood and sexuality have played out in relation to religious life and thought across the world and through time.

Plus one from:

Employability, Purpose and Social Impact

Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

Cultural Diversity and Professional Contexts

Taking an Idea and Making it Happen

Optional Modules

+ African Indigenous Religions

+ Buddhist Philosophy

Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

Placement year degrees

In your third year you will undertake as core the 'Placement Year Work Based Learning Module'.

Final Year

Core Modules

Voices from Global Religions

This module prioritises authenticity, with sensitivity to context and the ways followers understand and feel about their beliefs. Focusing on scriptures, stories, songs, and philosophical discussions from religions and spiritual traditions around the world, the module provides a view of belief 'from the inside.' You will study materials from, for example, Hinduism, Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, African traditions, new religions, and contemporary spirituality.

Love and Friendship: Global Perspectives

This cross-disciplinary module explores how love and friendship have been understood and lived across cultures and eras, from antiquity through to modern times. The course will survey materials from Africa, the Middle East, South Asia, China, and Europe, examining diverse intellectual traditions and literary genres. You will explore the development of ideas about love and friendship in philosophical, religious, and literary contexts, comparing the works of diverse range of thinkers, artists, poets, and mystics.

Global Religions Dissertation

Under the guidance of a supervisor, you will spend time researching an area of particular personal interest. The topic may be inspired by a module you've taken, or it may be something you've been fascinated by for a long time. Whatever you choose, the aim is to enable you to develop your research skills by exploring a topic that appeals to you.

Plus one from:

Technology and Social Justice

Queer Futures

People Power, Community Engagement and Collective Action

Confronting the Climate Crisis

The Power of Ideas

Artistic Fusions

Futures Beyond Borders

Optional Modules

+ Conflict and Colonialism in Text and Film

+ Classical Indian Religions and Philosophies

Careers and employability



Whatever your career goals, we're committed to ensuring you complete your degree with the skills and experience to make you stand out in the jobs market.

You'll graduate with an understanding of global issues and an international perspective that is increasingly in demand from employers in our interconnected world.

The skills you build in critical analysis, communication, and research will make you an ideal fit for top graduate jobs in areas like the civil and diplomatic services, international charities and NGOs, media, politics, and education.

Graduate destinations

The skills you will develop studying global religions are increasingly in demand by employers. Clear communication, the ability to strongly argue your case and a critical approach to thinking are transferable skills that will stand you in good stead and prepare you for a number of exciting graduate roles. What's more, the international outlook you will develop on this degree will open the door to roles with an international focus. Some of the careers you might choose to pursue include:

- + Civil and diplomatic services
- + Politics and government
- + International charities and NGOs
- + Consultancy
- + Media, journalism and public relations
- + Teaching and education

Many graduates also choose to go on to further study, taking a Master's degree or PhD.

Careers service

We offer dedicated careers support for you. Our career advisers are available to support you with specialist careers guidance, as well as application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extracurricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops.



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My studies provided me with invaluable analytical skills and intellectual curiosity.

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Leah, graduated 2016

My undergraduate degree at Lancaster University gave me the opportunity to not only learn, but understand a wide range of cultures, religions and communities within the UK and across the globe.

My studies ultimately changed my way of thinking, providing me with invaluable analytical skills and intellectual curiosity I wouldn't have held had I not attended the university.





lancaster.ac.uk/global-religions

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2026 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2025. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice.