



University of  
**BRISTOL**

Erasmus+ Study Guide  
2019/20  
Department of  
Religion and Theology

## Department of Religion and Theology, The School of Humanities

### GUIDE FOR RELIGION AND THEOLOGY ERASMUS STUDENTS (2019-20)



Welcome to the Department of Religion and Theology in the School of Humanities.

We have a lively and intelligent academic community that provides students regular opportunities and confidence to participate in discussions in lectures, seminars and personal tutorials. As a student here, you will be encouraged to think critically and analytically about various belief systems and practices and to consider why individuals respond to religion in the way they do.

We are known for the quality of our teaching, which spans the Judeo-Christian and Buddhist traditions and is balanced by a thorough understanding of Christianity, Chinese and Japanese religions, Hinduism, Judaism and Islam. The methods we adopt to analyse our subject include anthropology, history, philosophy and psychoanalysis; while the languages of Latin, Greek, Hebrew, Chinese, Sanskrit and Pali are also important components of our study. Three of our teachers - Carolyn Muessig, George Ferzoco, and Gavin D'Costa - have won University awards for their teaching.

We have an active programme of conferences, lectures, reading groups, weekly symposiums and seminars, and fortnightly departmental seminars. Our staff and students also participate regularly in conferences and guest lectures organised by the Department of Religion and Theology, the Centre for Medieval Studies and the Faculty of Arts.

Your point of contact is the School of Humanities Support Office, located in G.44A, 11 Woodland Road.

### **Academic Calendar for 2019-20**

	Start Date	End Date
Welcome Week	23 September 2019	27 September 2019
<b>Teaching Block 1</b>	30 September 2019	20 December 2019
January Assessment Period	13 January 2020	24 January 2020

<b>Teaching Block 2</b>	27 January 2020	8 May 2020
Summer Assessment Period	18 May 2020	5 June 2020

Vacations	Start Date	End Date
Christmas	23 December 2019	10 January 2020
Easter	30 March 2020	17 April 2020
Summer	15 June 2020	TBC

### **Units and Credits**

As a Religion and Theology Erasmus student, you will be expected to take the majority of your units within the Department of Religion and Theology in the School of Humanities.

You are required to take units amounting to 60 credits in each Teaching Block (i.e. Semester), which is equivalent to 30 ECTS credits.

The University of Bristol's Unit and Programme Catalogue 2019-20 provides full information on the units available in the Department of Religion and Theology: [Programme Catalogue](#). The unit choices for the coming academic year 2019-20 will be made available to our students mid to end of March 2019 and the unit catalogue will be updated sometime after that. Please contact the Department of Religion and Theology's Study Abroad Academic Director is Dr Rita Langer ([Rita.Langer@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Rita.Langer@bristol.ac.uk)) if you want to know which units are running in the coming year.

When reviewing unit choices, please consider:

- The amount of credits for the unit (all Religion and Theology units available to you are 20 credits)
- The Teaching Block it is running in – please make sure you select a unit which runs in the semester you are here

- Are there any pre-requisites?
- Are there any co-requisites? (are you expected to take the class alongside another class?)
- The form of assessments you will be required to complete (this could include coursework, examinations, and/or class presentations)

All this information can be found on the unit's description entry in the Unit and Programme Catalogue.

You are responsible for selecting units appropriate for your level of study, and for informing your University of your choices. Our Office is happy to answer any questions you may have about units within the Department of Religion and Theology but cannot confirm what your University requires you to take.

### **English Language Skills**

If you need to develop your academic English language skills, you can take optional units at CELFS (the Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies). These units focus on listening and speaking, reading and writing, and advanced grammar. Visit the CELFS website to register for these units: [www.bristol.ac.uk/english-language/study/current-students/for-undergraduate/open-units/](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/english-language/study/current-students/for-undergraduate/open-units/)

### **Commonly asked questions**

- Can I take a unit outside the Department of Religion and Theology?

Yes – the majority of your units should be within the Department to reflect your registration as a Religion and Theology Erasmus student. However, please discuss with your University how many units they will permit you to take outside Religion and Theology. Your University may have specific requirements about what you can and cannot take, or they may allow you the freedom to choose units from across the University of Bristol.

- I have looked at the unit catalogue and it says that a unit is 'not open'. What does that mean?

The majority of units within the Department of Religion and Theology are not open to University of Bristol students on programmes outside the department. A few are, and these are called 'open units'.

As a Religion and Theology Erasmus student, you will not be affected by the open unit constraints. You can register interest in units across the department, as we recognise you are taking a Religion and Theology pathway.

- Can I change my unit options at a later date?

This is possible, but not guaranteed. The School of Humanities will register you on the units you include in your Learning Agreement before you arrive at Bristol. During your first week here, our School runs a unit registration session where you can request to drop or take a class. Our Office cannot guarantee unit availability, so it is not always possible to grant a unit change request. We also grant these changes early on and cannot amend unit registrations throughout the semester, as this can have a detrimental impact on your academic progress.

- I am studying here for one term and will return to my home University in January. I want to take a unit that has an exam in January, but I will not be able to attend. Can I still take the class?

Yes – you can choose to take a unit which has an exam in January even if you intend to return home by that date. The exam will be replaced with an alternative form of assessment, which is normally an essay of 2,500 words. Our Office contacts students a few weeks into term to ask if you intend to sit the exam in January or will require an alternative form of assessment. These assignments are submitted online, so you can return home and continue to complete work.



## **Contacts**

To contact the Study Abroad coordinators for the School of Humanities please email them at [hums-schooloffice@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:hums-schooloffice@bristol.ac.uk). Alternatively, please visit the School of Humanities Student Support Office in 11 Woodland Rd.

The Department of Religion and Theology's Study Abroad Academic Director is Dr Rita Langer ([Rita.Langer@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:Rita.Langer@bristol.ac.uk)).