

Explore it with us.

Staff

Our expert staff enrich the department with a range of thematic specialisms across the major religions including the study of bible interpretation, Buddhist studies, Catholic theology, medieval religions, philosophy of religion, and East Asian religions. This will enhance and focus your knowledge of the rich cultural context of religion in a global context. In particular you will develop an informed, critical and ethologically complex understanding of religions, both past and present.

In the academic year 2013-14, we begin an exciting new time in our department's history with the appointment of two new members to the

team: Eric Greene and David Leech. Dr Greene completed his PhD in Buddhist Studies in 2012 and joins us as Lecturer in East Asian Religions. His research focuses on the history and development of Chinese Buddhism, Buddhist meditation practices in China, Chan/Zen Buddhism, Chinese translations of Buddhist texts, the transmission of Buddhism to China, and Buddhism in the West. Dr Leech joins us from the University of Cambridge and King's College London, and his current research focuses on the metaphysical origins of modern atheism, and contemporary Platonically-inspired defences of theism and religious agnosticism.

For general enquiries, please contact:

Undergraduate Admissions Office
 Senate House
 Tyndall Avenue
 Bristol BS8 1TH

Tel +44 (0)117 928 9000
Email ug-admissions@bristol.ac.uk
Web bristol.ac.uk/prospectus/
 undergraduate/2014/contacts

The deadline for applications for starting in 2014 is 15th January 2014.

You can apply online via Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) - see the website for further information at ucas.ac.uk. The institution code for the University of Bristol is **BRISL B78**. You can also view our online prospectus for all the information you will need about the course, life as a Bristol student, and how to apply.

We look forward to welcoming you to the
 Department of Religion and Theology.

wor·ship [wur-ship] *noun, verb*,
 wor·shipped, wor·ship·ping

1. reverent homage or honour paid to God or a sacred personage, or to an object
 2. formal or ceremonious rendering of such honour:

religion and theology



“Bristol University's Department of Religion and Theology is unparalleled in the UK for the diversity of courses it offers across the entire religious spectrum. Academic staff are experts in their focus areas and produce exciting, cutting-edge, and peer-respected work through a variety of prestigious journals and book publishers.”

Marek Sullivan, 3rd year student

The Department of Religion and Theology offers intellectually rigorous taught and research programmes in religion and theology. As an undergraduate, you will be part of a dynamic academic community in a friendly department. During your degree, you will be encouraged to think critically while studying religion in ways that reflect the challenging realities of the modern world and the complexities of the past. When you graduate, you will have acquired a range of transferable skills, the ability to understand today's multi-cultural global society, as well as the role of religion through the ages.

Department of Religion and Theology
bristol.ac.uk/religion

“I have found the department to be a friendly, engaging and stimulating place to study which provides a broad basis for future academic work and opens many doors for the future.”

Tom Francis, 3rd year student

Undergraduate Programmes

We offer three undergraduate degree programmes which allow the study of religion either as a single honours discipline or as joint honours programme with philosophy or sociology.

BA Religion and Theology

The various religious traditions of the world represent significant expressions of cultural values and ideas about the meaning of life and death. Understanding the past and the present state of the world is not possible without some knowledge of these traditions. The programme introduces you to the history, practices and ideas of some of the world's principal living religions, focusing in particular on Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism. With reference to ethics, sexuality, politics and law, you will consider the diverse ways religion informs the way people, both individually and collectively, live their lives and seek to find meaning and purpose.

You will have the opportunity to explore key approaches to the study of religion (including anthropological, comparative, historical, psychological, philosophical, sociological and theological approaches) and to engage with a number of important issues that cut across the various religious traditions (the environment, fundamentalism, gender, orientalism, pluralism, and secularism). The programme also offers the opportunity to explore practical aspects of religion through fieldwork and work placements.

BA Philosophy and Theology and BA Theology and Sociology

These degrees combine the study of religion and theology with either philosophy or sociology by taking an equal number of credits in each subject. Units in philosophy include an introduction to philosophy, logic, realism and normativity; in sociology they include issues of ethnicity, the sociology of religion and multiculturalism. On the theology side, you will take the Symposium in Religion and Theology unit (a small, intensive seminar) and two further mandatory units (Approaches to the Study of Religion and Issues in the Study of Religion in your first and second years) as well as various optional units. You will have the option of writing a third-year dissertation.



Why study religion and theology?

A degree in religion and theology from the University of Bristol will provide you with numerous skills and attributes that are attractive to a wide range of graduate employers. Our graduates enter a variety of fields including, among others, teaching, international development, law, social work, and some go on to study at PhD level for a vocational career in religion and theology, or to enter into academia. Your developed understanding of cultural and religious diversity, coupled with the ability to solve problems and analyse critically, mean that you will be highly sought after by employers, who value our internationally-recognised, research-led teaching.

Where are they now?

Benny Carter, BA (hons) Theology and Religious Studies, 2005

Director and head of auction sales at Sotheby's Middle East Department

Tilly Kneale, BA (hons) Theology and Religious Studies, 2005

Music publicist for Murray Chalmers PR, with previous work experience at One Little Indian Records and FatCat Records

Katie Buxton BA (hons) Theology and Religious Studies, 2005

Real Estate solicitor at Collyer Bristow, London, UK

Sam Earle, BA (hons) Theology and Religious Studies, 2005

Communications for local Green politics, and exploring connections between the arts and sustainability in a novel, which will raise money for Climate Justice.

“I was able to study various world religions in their modern context. The programme offers opportunities to engage in field work and to understand how religions function in the modern world.”

Ed Allistone, 3rd year student

The Department

The department is recognised nationally and internationally for its quality of its teaching and for its innovative research in Buddhist traditions and Judeo-Christian religions. We offer a stimulating research environment. Our graduates leave us, linked by their advanced knowledge of, and ability to, analyse world religions, both in the past and present.

Our teaching is led by research; as an undergraduate you will benefit from the latest thinking as you develop your knowledge of world religions. We use a mixture of teaching methods, ranging from large lectures and smaller seminars and personal one-to-one tutorials. We have a Peer Assisted Learning process where you will be mentored by more senior students as you progress through your degree programme.