Why do some people consider religion a private concern, while others treat it as a public duty?

To what extent does religion shape attitudes towards economy, politics or environment?

Do truth and reconciliation processes have religious dimensions?

Does religion still determine shared moral values or legal norms?

How or why do faith-based social services exist in modern democratic states?

What is the influence of religion on common beliefs about gender and sexuality?

Are religions particularly prone to communal or interpersonal violence?

How are religious ideas communicated within and between societies or cultures?

Our master’s degree can be completed in one year (12 months). Our interdisciplinary program is innovative, provocative and engaging. You can explore religion and public life in a variety of historical contexts and religious traditions, around the world, from antiquity to the 21st century, and you can study with award-winning, internationally-recognized faculty. To find out more about research being conducted at Carleton, visit our website. Contact us now for an adventure into religion, politics, culture and the ways of the world.

Degrees Offered

MA

Career Options

This degree is designed as a springboard for pursuing or advancing careers in public policy, community and cultural organizations, and public service. Recent graduates have also gone on to further studies in such fields as Anthropology, Biblical Studies, Canadian Studies, Indigenous Studies, Islamic Studies, and Religious Studies, both in Canada and abroad.

Student-centered discovery guided by Religious Studies experts

In this MA, you will develop your own interests in religion and public life, under the supervision of dedicated religious studies professors in Carleton’s College of Humanities. While all faculty members pursue specific research programs (most of them on historical topics related to Buddhism, Chinese Religion, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, Judaism), we also share scholarly interests in broader questions of how religion operates in relation to contemporary societies, cultures and politics.

Deadline for Fall Admission

Review of applications for fall admission (regular session) begins March 1. To be guaranteed full consideration for admission and funding, complete applications must be received in advance of that date. Applications received after March 1 may also be considered, subject to availability of space and funds.

Admission Requirements

A BA (Honours), or the equivalent, with a B+ standing or higher in religion, religious studies or a related discipline. Students without a prior Method and Theory course in Religious Studies will have to complete RELI 4741 (Theory and Method).