



Carleton
UNIVERSITY

Canada's Capital University

Religion



carleton.ca

Are you interested in exploring the great religious traditions of the East and West? Would you like to understand how people express their deepest convictions through myth, ritual, symbol and story? Do you want to seek a better understanding of the rich multicultural texture of Canadian society or learn how others have probed the meaning of life?

If so, then the study of religion is the place to begin.

Religion has been a principal force in human social development throughout history. It has played a key role in defining relationships between and among peoples. It has been fundamental to the organization of human communities, from the village to the nation state. It has led to the development of legal codes and systems of justice, fostered social and economic reforms, created vicious wars and inspired great artists.

The Carleton advantage

As a non-sectarian, secular university, Carleton offers you an opportunity to examine critically how religious thought, values and beliefs have influenced individuals and societies, and how they have both oppressed and given voice to women, ethnic minorities and the socially disadvantaged.

You will benefit from the wide range of disciplines offered at the university that are central to the exploration of religious phenomena, including:

- history;
- philosophy;
- literature and art;
- sociology and anthropology; and
- music and language.

Studying religion through these disciplines allows you to hone your critical and analytical skills, teaching you to become more precise and expressive in speech and writing, more discerning in your reading, and more understanding of human behaviour.

Faculty expertise

Carleton professors specialize in a range of religious traditions—Christianity, Judaism, Islam, Hinduism and Buddhism. Their research focuses on historical aspects of particular traditions, past interaction and modern dialogue between religions, and contemporary religious thought.

The capital advantage

You will benefit from a rich array of resources in the National Capital Region. For example,

- Library and Archives Canada houses important collections on the history of religion in Canada;
- the National Gallery of Canada has an impressive collection of religiously inspired art;
- the Museum of Civilization is home to a vast collection of religious and cultural artifacts; and
- Saint Paul University in downtown Ottawa maintains a large library and extraordinary collection of journals on religion.

Farzaneh Sheida Rajae, *second-year Religion student*

Life is a journey for every person. I find the Religion program makes this journey both enjoyable and rewarding. Studying different religions with caring, passionate and attentive professors makes every class a life-brightening experience, and I am slightly changed each time the hour-and-a-half or three hours of class comes to an end. The class materials, the student-teacher interactions and my dynamic classmates allow my mind to cook in the oven of knowledge, enabling me to face the challenges of the future with confidence.

Choosing the right program

Bachelor of Arts (General)

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)

Carleton offers you several ways to make the study of religion part of your university experience.

The Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Religion is offered as a Bachelor of Arts (General) and a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) program. Both will help you develop a mature understanding of the myths, rituals, and systems of belief and practice in a variety of traditions; the rise and fall of religious leaders and movements; and the significance that religious traditions have had and continue to have in human culture and society.

The BA (General) in Religion requires 15.0 credits and is normally completed after three years of full-time study. Your required courses include 6.0 credits in Religion.

The BA (Honours) program in Religion is a more intensive program requiring 20.0 credits, normally completed in four years of full-time study. Your required credits for this degree include 9.0 credits in Religion.

Combined Honours

If you wish to combine the study of Religion with another discipline, you could consider a Combined Honours degree. You will need 6.0 credits in Religion and you must meet the requirements for a Combined Honours in the other discipline.

Minor in Religion

If you are majoring in another discipline but have an interest in Religion, you may wish to consider completing a minor in Religion. The minor requires 4.0 credits in Religion.

Minor in Jewish Studies

This minor requires 4.0 credits, including a half-credit in a specified Religion survey course. The remaining 3.5 credits must be in courses having a Jewish theme, from Religion or from other disciplines, with the approval of the Religion coordinator.

Minor in Muslim Studies

This minor requires 4.0 credits, including a half-credit in a specified Religion survey course. The remaining 3.5 credits must be in courses having a Muslim theme, from Religion or from other disciplines, with the approval of the Religion coordinator.

Courses in Religion fall into three categories:

- courses covering Judaism, Christianity and Islam that study the history and literature of these influential Western traditions;
- courses that examine the world view and evolution of Asian religions—especially Buddhism and Hinduism; and
- courses that consider themes common to the major religious traditions—such as the role of women, death and afterlife, and religion and ethics—and ways in which scholars have tried to comprehend and compare religious phenomena.

Your first-year experience

First-year Seminars

First-year BA students are strongly encouraged to include a First-year Seminar (FYSM) in their first-year course load. Our First-year Seminars will get you away from the lecture hall and give you the

chance, in a small class of no more than 30, to discuss and debate topics with your classmates and your professors. You will get early and frequent feedback on class assignments, as well as instruction in research, writing and study skills. Although some FYSMs count as courses leading to a major, you do not have to choose a FYSM in your major discipline.

A sample first year

- 1.0 credit in *Judaism, Christianity, Islam* (RELI 1710) and *Asian Religions* (RELI 1711)
- 1.0 credit in *Literature, Genre, Context* (ENGL 1000)
- 1.0 credit in *Western Civilization* (HIST 1001)
- 1.0 credit in *Introduction to Psychology I* (PSYC 1001) and *Introduction to Psychology II* (PSYC 1002)
- 1.0 credit in any First-year Seminar

Future opportunities

The workplace

The study of religion provides broad intellectual training and an understanding of a wide range of human cultures. Both of these assets are attractive to future employers.

It is increasingly recognized that a Bachelor of Arts degree is fine training for, and an indicator of, future success in many different kinds of careers. A BA will give you research, analytical, organizational and communication skills that are highly transferable in our knowledge-based economy.

Graduate studies

Graduates of our program are generally well qualified to go on to graduate studies in a variety of fields including religion, sociology and philosophy.

If you think that you may wish to pursue an advanced degree, you are encouraged to investigate graduate programs early in order to ensure that your program is suited to meet the relevant graduate-level requirements.

Anik Laferriere,
fourth-year Religion student

The Religion department at Carleton University, although a small one, is one of considerable depth and quality. With professors specializing in everything from esoteric Sufi poetry to New Testament textual criticism, the department provides its students with opportunities both to learn about many different cultures, modes of thinking and theological traditions, and to pursue individual interests with more specialized courses and options such as Directed Readings or the Honours Research Essay. Carleton's strong focus on primary sources gives its students the ability to think critically and analytically, leading them to success in the study of religion and elsewhere.

Professional programs

Many professional programs, including teaching, social work and law, encourage well-rounded applicants from a variety of backgrounds to apply.

Religion provides a strong foundation for such programs, and you are encouraged to pursue interests you may have in these fields after completing an undergraduate degree in Religion.

FAQs

- 1. Why would I choose an Honours program?**
Honours or four-year programs have many advantages including offering more courses in your chosen field and access to co-op and internship opportunities where available, as well as preparing you for graduate studies, professional programs and employment.
- 2. When do I have to declare a major?**
You will need to choose a major by the end of your first year. Course registration is generally easier for students who have declared a major, so even if you are not 100 per cent certain, it is best to choose a major upfront and change it later if you need to.
- 3. Where can I go for academic advice?**
Once you are studying at Carleton, you can visit our Student Academic Success Centre, which offers a

range of services including academic advising and free study-skill development workshops. Friendly academic advisors are available by appointment year-round to assist you with your educational planning needs. carleton.ca/sasc

Admission requirements

For admission to the Bachelor of Arts in Religion, you must have an Ontario Secondary School Diploma (OSSD) or equivalent including a minimum of six 4 U/M courses or equivalent. Your six 4 U/M courses must include 4 U English (or *Anglais*).

It is Carleton University policy to consider your best performance in any eligible course in the admissions assessment.

Since the number of qualified applicants may be greater than the number of available spaces, cut-off averages and required marks may vary.

Please refer to our website at admissions.carleton.ca/requirements for the current admission requirements.

For more information

...on Carleton's degree program in Religion please visit carleton.ca/religion or consult the *Carleton University Undergraduate Calendar* at carleton.ca/cuuc.

Daniel DiGiovanni,
fourth-year student in Linguistics and Religion

My study of Religion at Carleton has been an enriching experience. What I like most about the program is its interdisciplinary nature, which has given me the opportunity to study a multitude of subjects. I have been able to study different cultures and ideas from all over the globe and from a variety of perspectives. The Religion courses are all very insightful and are led by professors that are very friendly and approachable. I have made many friends and I've had many positive experiences through my study of Religion, and I highly recommend the program to anyone with an interest in the field of Religion.

**Do you want more information?
Please contact us at:**

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Religion**

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