



THE UNIVERSITY
OF QUEENSLAND
AUSTRALIA

School of Historical and
Philosophical Inquiry

STUDIES IN RELIGION

Studies in Religion is about reflecting upon and understanding religious traditions, issues, questions and values.

Why study religion?

Religion plays a pivotal role in social, political and economic issues across the globe.

In almost all cultures, people have wrestled with issues of human existence through religious ideas, and today people continue to look to religions for meaning, ethics and explanations for life-questions.

Studying religion at UQ

The University of Queensland's discipline of Studies in Religion is the largest such unit in Australia, with a rapidly growing postgraduate school and an international reputation for research. The discipline offers a critical, multi-disciplinary approach to a range of traditions, and is devoted to the scholarly discussion and analysis of the role of religion.

Both undergraduate and postgraduate students undertake courses in the major world religions, as well as indigenous belief systems and new religious movements, applying the methods developed by historians, philosophers, psychologists, sociologists and linguists.

Many courses have a natural fit for students in other programs/majors including:

- Anthropology and sociology
- Classics and ancient history

- Literature
- History
- Philosophy
- Psychology and
- Social work.

The Studies in Religion unit offers flexible delivery, with most courses available online.

Career opportunities

The study of religion develops critical thinking, cross-cultural understanding and in-depth knowledge of religious beliefs and practices.

In a practical sense, these skills are advantageous for many careers, but particularly in:

- Broadcasting
- Community development
- Diplomatic/foreign affairs
- Education and academia
- Health and social care
- International business
- Journalism
- Religious organisations
- Law
- Travel and tourism

Undergraduate study in religion is an excellent foundation to progress to postgraduate studies in law, business and education.



Student profile

Francesco Gimelli | BA (Hons)

"UQ offers one of the biggest programs in Australia, with a world-class staff profile and ample opportunity for further development.

In my thesis I am critically analysing the power dynamics present in online groups and interactive media relating to ordained women in Theravada Buddhist and Roman Catholic traditions. I am interested in how the internet contributes to maintaining traditional religious beliefs and ideologies.

The Studies in Religion program at UQ is great because it manages to successfully balance the breadth of having researchers and staff that cut across wide-ranging topics, while providing an intimate and supportive study environment.

During my studies, I've been presented with an abundance of opportunity, and have:

- discovered where my passions lie
- realised I have an aptitude for teaching
- met some amazing people with similar research interests
- gained intellectual maturity which impacts every aspect of my life.

My UQ experience has been life-changing. I am pursuing an academic career and look forward to commencing my PhD next year."

Undergraduate study

Courses offered at undergraduate level introduce you to the spectrum of religious topics, religious texts and spiritual beliefs, including:

- Asian religions
- Belief and unbelief
- Ecology and the sacred
- Famous thinkers on religion
- Peace and violence
- Reporting religion
- Representation in media, film and music
- Ritual, religion and performance
- Sacred languages
- The future of religion
- The supernatural
- World religions

You may also progress to Honours level Studies in Religion at UQ.

Research Higher Degrees (RHD)

Outstanding supervision and support is offered to students wishing to pursue research in Studies in Religion at UQ.

The Faculty's Research Higher Degree programs provide the opportunity for you to follow your interest in an area of research, to focus on this for several years and make an important contribution to the development of that area.

Two types of study are possible at the postgraduate level:

- Masters of Philosophy (MPhil)
- Doctor of Philosophy (PhD)

RHD students make a vital contribution to the research culture of the School, and play an important role in creating a dynamic learning and discovery environment.

Topics covered range from: the place of sacred texts in Australian public high schools; atheism and providence in early modern England; Buddhist manuscript history; the theory and practice of yoga; and the significance and interpretation of religious texts; and practical theology.

Outstanding expertise

Our academics are very active in their community and industry engagement. In addition to their significant research output, the discipline also delivers a suite of professional development courses to religious study teachers in high schools.

Research interests are broad-ranging and include:

- Corporate spirituality
- History and phenomenology of religion
- New Testament and Early Christianity
- Religion and sustainability
- Sanskrit narrative literature
- Social and sacred ecology

- South Asian history
- Therapeutic God images in preaching.

Academics have either active or previous service as members of the:

- European Forum on Religion and Ecology
- International Academy of Practical Theology
- International Society for the Study of Religion, Nature and Culture
- Ministerial Education Board and Counselling Committee of the Uniting Church of Australia
- Society for New Testament Studies
- South Asian Studies Association of Australia

More information

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