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Theology and Religion Course Information Sheet for entry in 2024

Theology is an ancient intellectual discipline, with continuing and momentous social significance around the world today.

Students gain an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious belief and practice.

In order to engage fully with the questions raised by the critical study of Theology and Religion, you will have to become something of a historian and a philosopher, a textual and literary critic, and a linguist. The range of disciplines that may be encountered on the course makes study vibrant and challenging and means that our graduates are versatile and equipped with a variety of skills.

Oxford has been at the very heart of religious debate, reform and turmoil in the British Isles for eight centuries and so the faculty here wears a mantle of history not available in many other universities. At the same time Theology and Religion at Oxford is embracing its 21st-century context: students have the opportunity to study five major world religions and their primary languages. They can also explore the relationship between religion and science, the philosophy of religion and the place of religious ethics in public life.

On completion of this course you will have gained knowledge and understanding of several religious traditions. You will have thought about what a religion is and how to approach learning about it. You will have studied the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, the development of Christian doctrine in its historical context, and the thought of modern theologians. In doing so you will be required to study a wide variety of texts, which will develop your critical, analytical and comparative skills.

You will also acquire competence in at least one of six languages and should find that being able to read sacred texts in their original language is a deeply satisfying experience.

Members of the Faculty of Theology and Religion include more than 100 academics. These range from experts in the ancient languages and literature of the world's religions to church historians and systematic theologians. The faculty's reputation and excellent library facilities attract scholars from all over the world.

A typical week

Your weekly timetable will be divided between one or two tutorials, which may take place at your college or at the college of a specialist tutor. A large part of your week will be spent in independent study to prepare for tutorials. In addition you will attend up to six lectures each week. In the first year this will include three hours of language instruction each week. Some course options in the second and third year are also taught in small classes instead of, or in addition to, tutorials.

Tutorials usually involve two students and a tutor. Class sizes may vary depending on the options you choose, but would normally have no more than around 10 students.

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Most tutorials, classes, and lectures are delivered by academics who are specialists in their subject. Many are world-leading experts with years of experience in teaching and research. Some teaching may also be delivered by advanced postgraduate students.

To find out more about how our teaching year is structured, visit our [Academic Year](#) page.

Course structure

TERMS 1-3	
COURSES Four papers are taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Religion and religions• Introduction to the study of the Bible• The figure of Jesus through the centuries• One of the following languages:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ New Testament Greek○ Biblical Hebrew○ Qur'anic Arabic○ Church Latin○ Pali○ Sanskrit	ASSESSMENT First University examinations: four papers each assessed by a written examination
TERMS 4-9	
COURSES Choice of seven papers across four subject areas, from which students select freely: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Biblical studies• Systematic theology and ethics• History of religions (Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism)• Religion and religions (Contemporary Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism) All students must also prepare a 12,000-word thesis on a topic of their choice	ASSESSMENT Final University examinations: seven papers (assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option), plus a compulsory thesis
<i>The options listed above are illustrative and may change. More information about current options is available on the Theology and Religion website.</i>	

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The University will seek to deliver this course in accordance with the description set out above. However, there may be situations in which it is desirable or necessary for the University to make changes in course provision, either before or after registration. For further information, please see the University's [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fees

These annual fees are for full-time students who begin this undergraduate course here in 2024.

Information about how much fees and other costs may increase is set out in the University's Terms and Conditions.

Please note that while the University sets out its annual fees as a single figure, this is a combined figure for both your University and college fees. More information is provided in your [Terms and Conditions](#).

Fee status	Annual Course fees
Home (UK, Republic of Ireland, Channel Islands & Isle of Man)	£9,250
Overseas (including most EU students – see Note below)	£38,550

Note: Irish nationals living in the UK or Ireland, EU, other EEA, and Swiss nationals who have been granted settled or pre-settled status in the UK under the EU settlement scheme are eligible for 'Home fee' status and student loan support, subject to meeting residency requirements. We will contact you directly if we need further information from you to determine your fee status.

Please refer to the [Undergraduate fee status](#) pages for more information.

Living costs

Living costs for the academic year starting in 2024 are estimated to be between £1,345 and £1,955 for each month you are in Oxford. Our academic year is made up of three eight-week terms, so you would not usually need to be in Oxford for much more than six months of the year but may wish to budget over a nine-month period to ensure you also have sufficient funds during the holidays to meet essential costs. For further details please visit our [living costs webpage](#).

Living costs breakdown

	Per month		Total for 9 months	
	Lower range	Upper range	Lower range	Upper range
Food	£315	£495	£2,835	£4,455
Accommodation (including utilities)	£745	£925	£6,705	£8,325
Personal items	£190	£320	£1,710	£2,880
Social activities	£40	£95	£360	£855
Study costs	£35	£85	£315	£765
Other	£20	£35	£180	£315
Total	£1,345	£1,955	£12,105	£17,595

In order to provide these likely living costs (which are rounded to the nearest £5), the University and the Oxford SU conducted a living costs survey to complement existing student expenditure data

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from a variety of sources, including the UK government's Student Income and Expenditure Survey and the National Union of Students (NUS).

The current economic climate and high national rate of inflation make it very hard to estimate potential changes to the cost of living over the next few years. When planning your finances for any future years of study in Oxford beyond 2024-25, it is suggested that you allow for potential increases in living expenses of around 5% each year – although this rate may vary depending on the national economic situation. UK inflationary increases will be kept under review and the [living costs webpage](#) updated.

[Additional Fees and Charges Information for Theology and Religion](#)

There are no compulsory costs for this course beyond the fees shown above and your living costs.