



Drawing on a wealth of knowledge and expertise to provide a first-class education in Theology and Religion

## BA in Theology and Religion BA in Philosophy and Theology BA in Theology and Oriental Studies



[www.theology.ox.ac.uk](http://www.theology.ox.ac.uk)



### What can I do after I finish my degree?

Our degrees will enable you to enter a wide range of careers from teaching, law, media, government, advertising, and the charity sector. Many of our students go on to do a postgraduate masters or doctorate either here, at Oxford, or at other institutions within the United Kingdom or overseas.

For more information on applying to Oxford, please visit [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk). The University's Admissions Information Centre (admissions i) at 55 Little Clarendon Street can help answer questions about applying for undergraduate degrees offered by Oxford. Please contact: +44 (0) 1865 288000 or [undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk](mailto:undergraduate.admissions@admin.ox.ac.uk)

#### Open Days

There's no better way to find out what Oxford is really like than to visit us. Many colleges and faculties welcome arranged visits throughout the year but our University Open Days remain the most popular time to visit. You will be able to explore colleges and faculties and talk directly to tutors and students.

For details, please see [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/opendays](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/opendays)

### Get in touch...

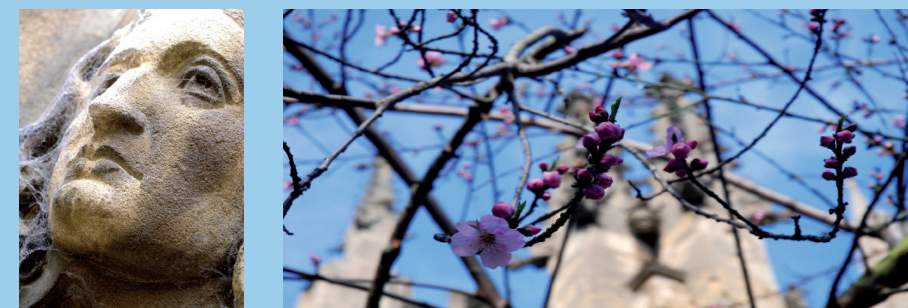
Our website provides more information about our courses and advice about applying, as well as information about the Faculty itself and its teaching and research.

If you have any further questions about studying Theology and Religion, Philosophy and Theology, or Theology and Oriental Studies at Oxford, please email assistant administrator@theology.ox.ac.uk

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### Is this course for me?

If you are a highly motivated student who is passionate about studying Theology and Religion, Philosophy, or Oriental Studies, Oxford University offers an unrivalled environment in which to explore these subjects. Our courses will introduce topics that may be completely new to you and will allow you to specialise in the areas that interest you the most.

You will be well suited to our course if you are:

- Studying a subject involving essay writing at A-level (or equivalent) and have an open and inquiring mind with the ability to engage with complex issues;
- For the BA in Theology and Oriental Studies experience of studying a language would be helpful, but is not required for admission.

### What is the role of the college?

All students who come to Oxford University belong to an Oxford college. Each college has its own particular history, ethos, and architecture but the quality of teaching you receive is identical. Oxford colleges also provide students with affordable accommodation for at least two (and often for all three) years of their course and act as a social hub. The extracurricular opportunities to be found within colleges are almost limitless and whatever your interests – music,

drama, sports, politics – there will be a society for you in Oxford.

Please be sure to check which colleges offer our courses by visiting [www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/colleges](http://www.admissions.ox.ac.uk/colleges). You can name a college at the application stage, but it is not necessary to do so. A quarter of Oxford students end up happily settled at a college different from the one to which they originally applied!

### What are our tutors looking for?

Our tutors will be looking for the following qualities at interview:

- Ability to think clearly, including the capacity to understand complex concepts, form sound arguments, and listen to and respond to counterarguments;
- Openness to learning;
- Capacity for close textual reading and interpretation;
- Evidence of motivation, including dedication and diligence in work and evidence of independent thought and reading.

#### Written work and test

Applicants for all three of our courses will need to submit two pieces of written work. For the BA in Philosophy and Theology, you will need to take a written test for Philosophy during the interview period in December. If you intend to study Islam or Judaism for the BA in Theology and Oriental Studies, you will be required to take the Oriental Studies Language Aptitude Test when you come for interview.







Have you ever wondered about the causes of religious conflict, the complexities of the relationship between science and religion, whether all religions lead to the same God, or whether there is, indeed, a God? Theology is an engaging field of study which seeks to further our understanding of humanity’s place within the world. It requires an inquiring mind which rises to the challenge of grappling with complex concepts and is open to new ways of thinking.

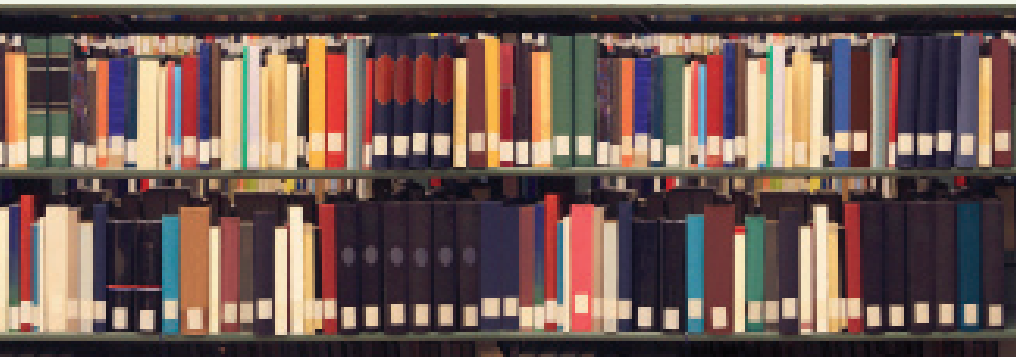


*‘Theology at Oxford has been intellectually stimulating for me not only because of the world-class teaching and facilities, but because it seeks answers to the most important questions in the human experience at a very deep level by drawing on many different skills and disciplines. After three years, I may not have all the answers, but I know better how big the questions are.’*

Greg Tucker, BA in Theology



Why study Theology and Religion at Oxford?



The breadth and quality of research undertaken in the Faculty of Theology and Religion means that you will be taught by world-ranking specialists in the discipline. You can study for a BA in Theology and Religion or, if you prefer, a joint degree with either Philosophy or Oriental Studies. Our programmes will provide you with a solid grounding in theological study in your first year and the opportunity to deepen your knowledge in the particular areas that interest you in your second and third years. If you decide to study Theology and Religion, you may choose to specialise in biblical studies, history and doctrine, or the study of religions. The joint degrees with Philosophy and Oriental Studies allow you to combine an interest in Theology with one of these two related disciplines.

Whichever of our degree programmes you choose to follow, you will be encouraged to take an inquiring and critical approach to your studies. At the heart of your educational experience will be the tutorial system. It is through tutorials that you will develop the transferable skills of communication, independent thinking, and critical analysis that the best employers look for in an Oxford University graduate. Beyond the weekly tutorial, you will have access to a wealth of other ways to challenge and develop your intellect, with lectures, classes, and seminars all contributing to the University’s reputation as one of the world’s centres for teaching and learning.

How are our courses structured?

TERMS 1 AND 2		TERMS 3 TO 9	
<p>All students will study 3 (or optionally 4) subjects from a choice of 11.</p> <p>Subjects on offer will include biblical studies, doctrine, church history, introductions to philosophy and the study of religions, and a variety of scriptural languages.</p>	PRELIMINARY EXAMINATION	BA THEOLOGY AND RELIGION	<p>Students will study at least 8 subjects over 7 terms, one of which can be a dissertation. Each student follows one of three 'tracks':</p> <p>Biblical Studies or History and Doctrine or Study of Religions</p>
		BA PHILOSOPHY AND THEOLOGY	<p>Students will study at least 8 subjects over 7 terms, 3 each in Philosophy and Theology and 2 which may be in either. Students can submit a dissertation in Theology or Philosophy or on a topic which combines the two disciplines.</p>
		BA THEOLOGY AND ORIENTAL STUDIES	<p>Students will study at least 8 subjects over 7 terms, 3 each in Theology and Oriental Studies and 2 which may be in either. Students must submit a dissertation in Theology or Oriental Studies or on a topic which combines the two disciplines.</p>
		FINAL EXAMINATION	

Students for the BA in Theology and Religion will need to demonstrate competence in a scriptural language in either their Preliminary Examination or Final Examination. The BA in Theology and Oriental Studies also involves the study of texts in their original languages.

Teaching at Oxford University

Oxford University’s greatest asset is the ‘Tutorial System’. Taught in this system, you are likely to receive much more personal tuition and greater pastoral support than other universities can offer. A tutorial is a one-hour meeting, once a week, between the tutor and one or two students. During this time, a piece of written work (an essay) is read and commented upon, with discussion frequently branching out beyond the original topic. At the end of the tutorial, the tutor assigns a mandatory topic of study for the following week and suggests a reading list. In addition to tutorials, you will attend lectures designed to tell you about the important issues, theories, and current debates in Theology and Religion, as well as in Philosophy and Oriental Studies for those studying for a joint degree.

Languages

Oxford University is well-placed to offer tuition in a wide variety of languages which will be relevant to your studies. There are few other places where you would have the opportunity to learn languages as diverse as Hebrew, Greek, Arabic, Pali, Sanskrit, and Armenian. By reading texts in their original languages you will be able to develop a keener understanding of Theology and Religion and its related subjects.

Dissertation

In all three of our degree programmes, you will have the opportunity to submit a dissertation on a subject of your choosing. You will be supervised by an expert in your chosen field who will offer advice and guidance as you carry out your own research. In the past, students have written on topics as wide ranging as gender and theology, religious experience, and early Islam.

Want to find out more about the subjects on offer in our courses?  
Visit [www.theology.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions](http://www.theology.ox.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions)