

Theology and Religion at Oxford



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Theology and Religion at Oxford

The Faculty of Theology and Religion in Oxford is an internationally renowned centre of excellence for study, teaching and research in Theology.

We offer a range of courses at undergraduate level. You can choose between a BA in Theology and Religion and two joint degrees: a BA in Philosophy and Theology and a BA in Religion and Oriental Studies.

This prospectus will provide you with information on the content and set-up of every course and on-course requirements. For up-to-date information on course fees and which colleges offer your course, please consult the main University prospectus or get in touch with us.

Content

Why study Theology and Religion?	2
Theology and Religion at Oxford	3
BA in Theology and Religion	4
BA in Philosophy and Theology	6
BA in Religion and Oriental Studies	8
Learning and living	10
Your application	11
Your career after university	12
Getting in touch	14



Why study Theology and Religion?

Scholars of Theology and Religion critically study religious beliefs, practices and communities, across history and around the world.

While Theology is an ancient intellectual discipline, no-one can doubt the momentous social significance of religion around the world today. Study of the subject provides an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious belief and practice. Engaging fully with the questions that scrutiny of religions elicit will require you to become something of a historian and a philosopher, a textual and literary critic, and a linguist. To be able to employ these disciplines effectively will not only make you a scholar of religion but equip you to embark on a wide range of careers.



Theology and Religion at Oxford

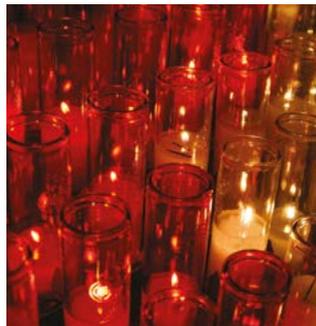
Oxford has been at the very heart of religious debate, reform, and turmoil in the British Isles for eight centuries so that the faculty here wears a mantle of history not available in other universities.

At the same time Theology and Religion at Oxford is embracing whole-heartedly the challenges of the twenty-first century with the opportunity to study all the major world religions and their primary languages. Students can also explore the relationship between religion and science, and the place of religious ethics in public life.

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. Our programmes will provide you with a solid

grounding in theological study in your first year and the opportunity to deepen your knowledge in particular areas that interest you in your second and third years. The joint degrees with Philosophy and Oriental Studies allow you to combine an interest in Theology and Religion with one of these two related disciplines. Whichever of our degree programmes you follow, you will be encouraged to take an inquiring and critical approach to your studies.

Oxford University provides excellent library facilities to its students. You will have access to the rich resources of the Bodleian Library and the Sackler, the libraries of the Theology and Religion Faculty itself, of the Philosophy Faculty, of the Oriental Institute, and the Leopold Muller Library. In addition to the University libraries, there are several specialist theological collections in college libraries available, as well as important printed and manuscript collections in Pusey House.



BA in Theology and Religion

If you have an enquiring mind and are passionate about asking the fundamental questions of human and divine nature, a BA in Theology and Religion might be the course for you.

This programme offers a broad and balanced curriculum. You will enjoy thinking critically about the complex relationship between religious texts and their social, political and cultural contexts.

Engaging with a wide variety of texts will develop your critical, analytical and comparative skills. You will acquire competence in at least one of six languages and be able to read sacred texts in their

original language, a deeply pleasurable and satisfying experience.

On completion of this course you will have gained knowledge and understanding of the Christian tradition, through study of the Bible, the development of Christian doctrine in its historical context, and the thought of modern theologians, and been given the opportunity to study another world religion.

You will be able to form your own judgment on the main themes in Theology and Religion. Your ability to think independently, critically, and to read with sensitivity texts from different ages and traditions will equip you well for life in our diverse and challenging world.

Terms 1–3

Courses

Four papers are taken:

- Religion and Religions
- Introduction to the Study of the Bible
- The Figure of Jesus through the Centuries

One of the following languages:

- New Testament Greek
- Biblical Hebrew
- Qur'anic Arabic
- Vulgate Latin
- Pali
- Sanskrit

Assessment

First University examinations: One written paper in each of four subjects.

Terms 4–9

Courses

Choice of seven papers across four subject areas, from which students select freely

- Biblical Studies
- Systematic Theology and Ethics
- History of Religions
- Religion and Religions (Contemporary Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, and Hinduism)

All students must prepare a 10,000-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.



בלוף וסימנהון וירקע
אוהה ידשו את עי הנגב

ונהבן אמת לאמר
עיר הגדולה וקרא
סלפני ויקס יונה
לפני הוה וירד יפו
דשישו יתן שכרה
סתר שיש מה מפני
וחגדולה אל הים
האנה חשבה לה שנו
עקו איש אל אלהיו
ישר ראונה אל דבר

בטפ
מלה

בלילה

בא

בא

BA in Philosophy and Theology

Philosophy and Theology brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding and assessing the intellectual claims of religion.

The study of Philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to many contemporary and historical schools of thought and individual thinkers, and to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to central questions in the philosophy of religion, including the existence and nature of God and

the relevance of religion to human life.

The study of Theology provides an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious belief and practice. It brings together a wide range of skills and disciplines, historical, textual, linguistic, sociological, literary-critical and philosophical.

The degree is constructed in the belief that the parallel study of these related disciplines leads to a deeper understanding of each.

Terms 1–3

Courses

Four papers are taken:

- The Figure of Jesus through the Centuries
- Introduction to Philosophy
- Logic and Moral Philosophy

and one of the following:

- Introduction to the Study of the Bible
- Religion and Religions
- New Testament Greek
- Biblical Hebrew
- Qur'anic Arabic
- Vulgate Latin
- Pali
- Sanskrit

Assessment

First University examinations: One written paper in each of four subjects.

Terms 4–9

Courses

Students take 8 papers, either five in Philosophy and three in Theology, or five in Theology and three in Philosophy, or four in each. A thesis may replace one of the eight papers.

- All students study the Philosophy paper Philosophy of Religion
- Remaining papers are chosen from a wide range of options, which can be found at www.theology.ox.ac.uk

Assessment

Final University examinations: Eight papers assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option, or seven papers plus a thesis.

Pars prima huius persuasionis in qua excluduntur. 2^o p^o mundales cæ totius ignora-
cie humane. habens. 2^o dis-
tinctiones. In prima sūt. 2^o
capitula in primo data tota
persuasionis intencione: rep-
bantur ille. 2^o cause p^omi-
sali sermonis. **Cap^m p^omi.**

Sapientie perfecta
consida^r consistit
in duobz. videt
ur ut videtur
quid ad eam
requirit quatenus optime sciat.
Deinde quomodo ad omnia com-
petur. ut p^o eam modis quibus
dirigitur. Nam p^o lumen sapie
ordnat^r ecclia dei. respublica
fidelium disponitur. nisi delictum
comissio procuratur. et illi qui
in malicia obstinati sunt. va-
lent p^o virtutem sapie reprimi
ut melius a finibus ecclie longi-
pellatur q^o p^o effusione sanguinis
pau. Quia vero q^o indiget recte
sapie ad h. 2^o reducantur. nec
pluribus pot^o appar. De hac igne
sapia tã relate q^o absolute
scienda nunc s^o tenore eple q^oq^o
possim ita persuasione ad p^oses
vire beatitudinis presentare conabor.

multis obsecrat
qm ipse se her ad
in sua natura. sic
tue et resp^otionem
et plus di. 2^o in
surdus a natu
tatem armonia
di. Xme. Quapp
in ignificox dita
imbecillitas et
cas et occasio
neas longius a
m^o relegemus
do sunt maxia co
tatis offendida
sapientie ipse dicit
p^omittit ad xerū
p^ouenire. videt
digne aucto^r ex
dicitur. vulen
et p^o igno^rancie
cū ostentacōne sa
hys ois ho inolu
status occupat. p^o
in sanguis actibz
et omis nettoci.
ad eandē q^o v
mentis. hoc ex
iores. h^o consuetu
tatu est. et tenen
q^oms longe meli
missis sicut p^o auct

BA in Religion and Oriental Studies

The course in Religion and Oriental Studies enables you to learn in depth about one of the world's great religious traditions, from a choice including Christianity, Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam and Judaism.

To engage with all the different aspects of the course, you have to be something of a historian and a philosopher, a textual and literary critic, and a linguist. These disciplines together not only enable students to appreciate the qualities of religions that can be radically different from those in western

societies, but also equip graduates to embark on a wide range of careers.

This degree offers the opportunity to study the major world religions and their primary languages. Students can also explore the relationship between religions and science, and the place of religious ethics in public life. Religion and Oriental Studies provides an understanding of the intellectual underpinning of religious traditions, and of the social and cultural contexts for religious belief and practice.

Terms 1–3

Courses

In the first year, you will be given an introductory course on Religion and Religions and you will follow intensive language instruction related to the world religion you have chosen.

- Religion and Religions

and one of the following languages depending on your choice of world religion:

- Christianity – Greek or Hebrew
- Judaism – Hebrew
- Islam – Arabic
- Buddhism – either Pali, Sanskrit or Tibetan
- Hinduism – Sanskrit

Assessment

First University examinations:
Four written papers, or three written papers and an oral examination, depending on the language option.

Terms 4–9

Courses

Students take seven papers, three in Oriental Studies and three from the Theology and Religion curriculum. The seventh may be chosen from either Oriental Studies or Theology and Religion. In addition, all students must prepare a 10,000-word thesis on a topic of their choice, which may be chosen from either Oriental Studies or Theology and Religion.

Papers are chosen from a wide range of options, which can be found at www.theology.ox.ac.uk and www.orinst.ox.ac.uk.

Assessment

Final University Examinations:
Seven papers assessed either by written examination or by submitted coursework, depending upon the option, plus a thesis.

यथापुत्रो पश्यमा
 त्नामिवाप पश्यमा
 यत्तनातिद्वरुसदाचिन
 तागताम्यानमदभिसात्रिड
 सइतायाप्रावितालाकाध
 दयवमाद्ययवमदायान



दक्षिकायुग्गारमितामवनवागत
 नूनत्तन्ननक्तमालासदवमावया
 यिनस्यत्वनयदवामथद्वयावादि
 ककालमिधदइधिमकलकलाध
 प्रयववचुद्वताम ॥ पश्यव
 नरुयातराप्र ॥ पलक



तासातावममुडावमाच्चव
 रातायुग्गारमिताममाय
 मसदीयिनकलाभप्रविलव
 कगनइह्वावनप्रदयाक्र
 वत्त्वयाश्चाभिनगवपवता
 यमातायित्युवद्वमकत्वा



Learning and Living

At the heart of your educational experience will be Oxford University's greatest asset, the 'Tutorial System'.

A tutorial is a one-hour meeting, once a week, between the tutor and one or two students. 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.

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.

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



Your Application

Tutors are primarily interested in previous academic achievements as demonstrated, for example, by GCSE or other examination results, and in the quality of submitted written work, but may also take other information on your UCAS application into account (such as your personal statement and reference).

A subject involving essay-writing to A-level, Advanced Higher or Higher Level in the IB or another equivalent can be helpful to students in completing this course, although this is not required for admission.

In interviews tutors will look for interest in the proposed fields of study, your ability to think clearly, form sound arguments and to listen and respond to counterarguments; your openness to learning; evidence of your enthusiasm and motivation for the course, and your oral communication skills. For the BA in Religion and Oriental Studies, admissions tutors will also be keen to find out about your linguistic aptitude and your commitment to a wide-ranging course. Please check the University website for more information on interviews, and how best to prepare.



Timetable

Stage 1: UCAS forms due by 15th October

Stage 2: Applicants for all three of our courses will need to submit written work. Criteria vary, so check requirements on an annual basis

Stage 3: Interviews. For the BA in Philosophy and Theology, you will need to take a written

test for Philosophy. For the BA in Religion and Oriental Studies, you will be required to take the Oriental Studies Language Aptitude Test. Please refer to the following website for more information: www.ox.ac.uk/admissions/undergraduate/applying-to-oxford/tests.

Your Career after University

Our degrees will enable you to enter a wide range of careers.

While some of our graduates go on to further academic study, other recent graduates have pursued careers as diverse as law, the Civil Service, social work, education, the media, publishing, banking, management consultancy, accountancy, personnel management, teaching, the police force and the churches.

Employers look very favourably on applicants who have learned oriental languages, and Oxford graduates with such skills are among the most successful each year in finding employment. See www.theology.ox.ac.uk for more information about careers after a degree in Theology and Religion or one of the joint schools.





Getting 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.

www.theology.ox.ac.uk

Email: general.administrator@theology.ox.ac.uk

Tel: 01865 270698

 www.facebook.com/oxfordtheology

Faculty of Theology and Religion

Gibson Building (2nd floor)

Radcliffe Observatory Quarter

Woodstock Road

Oxford OX2 6GG

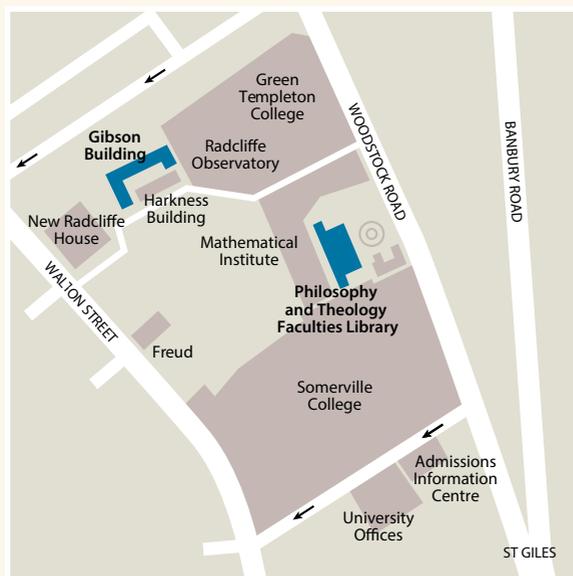


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