

Lancaster
University



Global Religions and International Relations
Global Religions and Philosophy
Global Religions and Politics
Undergraduate Degrees
2024

Global Religions at Lancaster

Religion sits at the heart of the global issues which define our era: from the interconnections between race, gender and class, to how societies decide what is good or bad. By studying Global Religions at Lancaster, you'll cut through the complexity of our globalised world, and gain a grasp on our ever-shifting moral and geopolitical landscape.

You'll study in a department known for its cutting-edge research and international outlook. Our research and teaching spans the world's demographically significant religions: including Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, and Islam. Explore fascinating topics like gender in Islam, Indian religious and philosophical thought and the interplay between tradition and globalisation.

Our department is unique in that it combines the study of politics, philosophy and religion under one roof. Because of this, you'll have the opportunity to combine your study of Global Religions with a choice of International Relations, Philosophy, or Politics – allowing you to build a sophisticated, interdisciplinary understanding of global issues.

In international relations, you might explore the tensions between tradition and globalisation in a world in transition. In philosophy, you could explore the influence of religion on different philosophical traditions. In politics, you might study the spread of religious messages in South and South East Asia. Our research and teaching is underpinned by regular contributions to local, national, and international policy debates, meaning you'll be at the forefront of the latest developments in knowledge.

Whichever degree you choose, each of our programmes offers a wide degree of flexibility. You'll be in the driving seat of your learning experience, designing your degree from a diverse and internationally-oriented selection of module choices, alongside core modules which will get you to grips with the foundational theories and debates in religious studies and your chosen field.



**for Philosophy student satisfaction
(teaching)**
Guardian University Guide 2023



**for Philosophy student
satisfaction (course)**
Guardian University Guide 2023



for Politics
in the Times Good University Guide 2023

Your degree

Year 1

In your first year you take two compulsory (core) modules. The second module depends which joint degree you are taking. You also choose a third optional module.

CORE - Moral and Political Philosophy

We introduce you to key themes in practical philosophy, and develop your ability to reason and think clearly about the question of how we ought to act and organise our interaction. The course tackles these questions theoretically and in connection with a range of practical issues: to familiarise you with various accounts of moral and political theories, but also to use these theories to think critically about real-world problems.

Areas of study typically include:

- Moral philosophy
- Political philosophy
- Gender and philosophy
- Ethical controversies
- Applied political philosophy
- Environmental philosophy



Global Religions and International Relations

CORE - International Relations: Theory and Practice

This provides a firm grounding in the major concepts and debates necessary to understand the modern world of international politics. You will learn about power relations, sovereignty, security, and the real-world problems confronting the international community today. Areas of study typically include international relations theory, regional studies, international institutions and law, global politics and belief, international crises, and international relations and the domestic.

Global Religions and Philosophy

CORE - Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality

This module draws on a broad range of philosophical traditions – Continental, Analytic, and non-Western. It presents an overview of theoretical sub-disciplines within philosophy, but also equips you with the ability to reason and think clearly about the most fundamental questions of human existence. Areas of study typically include epistemology, metaphysics, phenomenology, philosophy of religion, philosophy of mind.

Global Religions and Politics

CORE - Politics in the Modern World

You will learn about the foundations of the modern nation-state, and the ways our institutions reflect or fail to meet the ideals of liberal democracy. You'll also explore the behaviour of individuals and groups in political contexts; the workings of national constitutions and international organisations; the interaction of global events and domestic agendas. Areas of study typically include political theory, British politics, comparative politics, ideologies, political behaviour, politics and religion, politics in a global world.



OPTIONAL - Minor Module

You will select a third module to complement your studies. The choice available will be subject to any timetabling restrictions or entry prerequisites.

Some of the subjects you might choose from include:

- Sociology
- History
- English Literature
- Criminology

Year 2

CORE - Global Religions

This core module will cover central themes in the study of religion – for example:

- Religions as involving the control of symbolic and even coercive power, and how this intersects with politics, international relations and philosophy.
- Religions as involving values expressed in norms, laws, and institutions which exercise social and political power, locally and globally.
- How religious identities, practices and values impact on politics, international relations and philosophical thought.
- Religions as diverse traditions in different regions, yet exposed to global changes, and involved in different aspects of globalisation.

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You will select seven further modules covering different religious traditions and aspects of religion, as well as options reflecting your joint subject – below we list a few of the relevant options. We allow flexibility so you may be able to choose modules from across the three degree schemes, subject to timetabling and availability.

Global Religions and International Relations OPTIONS

- China's International Relations
- Peace Studies in Action
- Russian International Politics
- The Politics of Race

Global Religions and Philosophy OPTIONS

- Indian Philosophical and Religious Thought
- Mind-Body Problem
- Moral Philosophy
- Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics

Global Religions and Politics OPTIONS

- The Politics of Race
- Public Policy
- Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
- Politics and History of the Middle East



Year 3

CORE - Dissertation

This is your opportunity to pursue a topic from your studies in depth, culminating in a 9-10,000 word dissertation.

The topic may be related to one of your other modules, or it may be less directly linked to course work. Supervised by a member of academic staff with relevant expertise, we encourage you to develop your research skills, and ability to work at length under your own direction.



You will select optional modules from the lists below and a wide range of further relevant modules offered by the Department of Politics, Philosophy & Religion. We allow flexibility so you may be able to choose modules from across the three degree schemes, subject to timetabling and availability.

Global Religions and International Relations OPTIONS

- Britain in the World
- Understanding External Intervention in Violent Conflicts
- Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
- Indian Politics, Society and Religion

Global Religions and Philosophy OPTIONS

- Modern Religious and Atheistic Thought
- Future Generations
- Logic and Language
- Darwinism and Philosophy

Global Religions and Politics OPTIONS

- Religion and Violence
- Politics of Global Danger
- Body in Text: Politics of Gender in Islam

Study Abroad or Placement Year students

If you take a study abroad or placement year degree, you spend your third year studying abroad or on work placement. You return to Lancaster campus to complete the above modules in Year 4.



Degrees and entry requirements

Degree title	Award	Degree length	UCAS code	Typical offer
Global Religions and International Relations	BA Hons	3 years	VL01	ABB
Global Religions and International Relations (Placement Year)	BA Hons	4 years	VL02	ABB
Global Religions and International Relations (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	4 years	VL03	ABB
Global Religions and Philosophy	BA Hons	3 years	V651	ABB
Global Religions and Philosophy (Placement Year)	BA Hons	4 years	V652	ABB
Global Religions and Philosophy (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	4 years	V653	ABB
Global Religions and Politics	BA Hons	3 years	LV01	ABB
Global Religions and Politics (Placement Year)	BA Hons	4 years	LV02	ABB
Global Religions and Politics (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	4 years	LV03	ABB

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements (such as BTECs).

www.lancaster.ac.uk



Your future career

Whatever your career goals, we're committed to ensuring you complete your degree with the skills and experience to make you stand out in the jobs market.

You'll graduate with an understanding of global issues and an international perspective that is increasingly in demand from employers in our interconnected world. The skills you build in critical analysis, communication, and research will make you an ideal fit for top graduate jobs in areas like the Civil and Diplomatic Services, international charities and NGOs, media, politics, and education.

Internships

One unique opportunity you'll have access to as a Lancaster student is applying for an internship with the Richardson Institute for Peace Studies, based in our department and known for its influential research. Here, you'll have the chance to apply what you've learned to a real-world research project with a faith-based organisation, NGO, or think tank.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Roles range from marketing and communications to research and policy work at national and local SMEs, a range of departments at Lancaster University and third sector organisations.

Placements

All of our Global Religions degrees are also available as placement year degrees. With specialist support, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement to conduct in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Find out more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Graduate destinations

The skills you will develop studying Global Religions are increasingly in demand by employers. Clear communication, the ability to strongly argue your case and a critical approach to thinking are transferable skills that will stand you in good stead and prepare you for a number of exciting graduate roles.

What's more, the international outlook you will develop on this degree will open the door to roles with an international focus.

Some of the careers a Global Religions graduate might choose to pursue include:

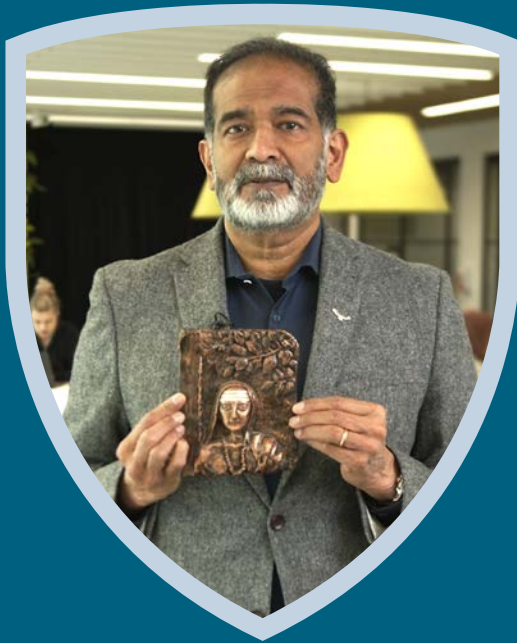
- Civil and diplomatic services
- Politics and government
- International charities and NGOs
- Consultancy
- Media, journalism and public relations
- Teaching and education

Many graduates from our department also choose to go on to further study, taking a Master's degree or PhD.

Careers service

We offer life-long careers support for our students. Our career advisers are available to support you with subject-specific careers guidance, as well as application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extra-curricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops. Find out more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers



"At Lancaster, we study religions across the globe. We cover Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, world Christianity, and new religious movements. We study them in many regions of the world – from their places of origin to contemporary Britain.

We combine approaches from many academic disciplines. We examine religious texts, philosophical ideas, histories, and changing social forms. We take decolonial and comparative perspectives. We engage with major themes in contemporary British and global politics and in international relations.

Our lecturers and professors are widely recognised in the study of religious traditions. We aim to show our students the many ways in which religion matters, and how this enriches the study of politics, international relations and philosophy.

Lancaster is the place to come to if you want to understand the place of religion in the world, past and present!"

Chakravarthi Ram-Prasad FBA,
Distinguished Professor of Comparative Religion and Philosophy

Get in touch

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 @PPRLancaster



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Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2024-25 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2023). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

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