

Lancaster
University



Global Religions
Undergraduate Degrees
2025

Global Religions at Lancaster

Religion sits at the heart of the global issues which define our era. Our programme in Global Religions brings together the study of the world's major religious traditions and the most pressing global issues of today, including war, the climate crisis, decolonisation, development, gender, sexuality, state and government, violence, peace, protest, and race. Drawing on cutting-edge research and teaching across the department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion, you will study the religious dimensions of these and other issues in a truly global context, including the Middle East, China, North America, Russia, South Asia, the Persian Gulf, Latin America, and Africa, not to mention Europe and the United Kingdom.

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. In addition to studying demographically significant religions, primarily Islam, Christianity, Buddhism, and Hinduism, in relation to these challenges across the globe, you will also be introduced to a range of methods of studying Global Religions, including political, philosophical, sociological, historical, literary, and anthropological.

Aside from our Global Religions single honours degree, you also 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.

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.



**18th overall for
Theology and Religious Studies**
Complete University Guide 2025



Your degree

YEAR 1

BA Honours Global Religions

CORE - Global Religions and Society: Exploring Ethics, Values and Politics

This module addresses some of the most pressing issues facing the world today, including war, the climate crisis, nationalism, gender, and race.

In an increasingly polarised world, religion plays a vital role in shaping the debates around these issues. What are the religious dimensions of regional conflicts, such as war in the Middle East? How do religious

views affect responses to climate change? How does nationalism tap into religious identities, such as in India? How do religious worldviews intersect with perspectives on race and gender? How do the stories and myths that people tell about ethics and values convey social change and political consciousness?

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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.

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OPTIONAL - Minor Module

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

Some of the subjects you might choose from include Sociology, History, English Literature, or Criminology.

BA Combined Honours Global Religions

BA Hons Global Religions and International Relations

Core modules:

- + Global Religions and Society: Exploring Ethics, Values and Politics
- + International Relations: Theory and Practice

+

OPTIONAL - Minor Module

BA Hons Global Religions and Philosophy

Core modules:

- + Global Religions and Society: Exploring Ethics, Values and Politics
- + Moral and Political Philosophy

+

OPTIONAL - Minor Module

BA Hons Global Religions and Politics

Core modules:

- + Global Religions and Society: Exploring Ethics, Values and Politics
- + Politics in the Modern World

+

OPTIONAL - Minor Module

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.

+

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

- + Indian Philosophical and Religious Thought
- + Introduction to Chinese Philosophy
- + Women and Philosophy in the Ancient World
- + Philosophers on Religion
- + The Politics of Race
- + Death: From the Fall of Rome to the Reformation
- + Crisis and Continuity: Politics, Religion and Society in Tudor England
- + Gandhi and the End of Empire in India, 1885-1948

BA Combined Honours Global Religions

In your second and final year, you will study core and optional modules in both subjects in an approximately 50/50 weighting. More information about modules can be found online: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study



Final Year

CORE - Dissertation

This is your opportunity to pursue a topic from your studies in depth, culminating in a 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 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.

- + Buddhist Philosophy
- + Islamic Politics
- + Modern Religious and Atheistic Thought
- + Body in Text: Politics of Gender in Islam
- + Religion and Violence
- + The State and Religion
- + Decolonisation, Race and Empire
- + Wild Asian Goddesses: Power and Transgression in South and Southeast Asia
- + Sects and Sectarianism
- + Conspiracy Theories

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 your fourth year.



Degrees and entry requirements

Degree title	Award	Duration	UCAS code	Typical offer
Global Religions	BA Hons	3 years	See website	ABB
Global Religions (Placement Year)	BA Hons	3 years	See website	ABB
Global Religions (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	3 years	See website	ABB
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



Study Abroad and Vacation Travel

We partner with institutions around the world to provide exciting opportunities to travel, study and work abroad. Potential destinations currently include Australia, Canada, and the USA.

We also run short trips to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland during the summer vacation. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

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:

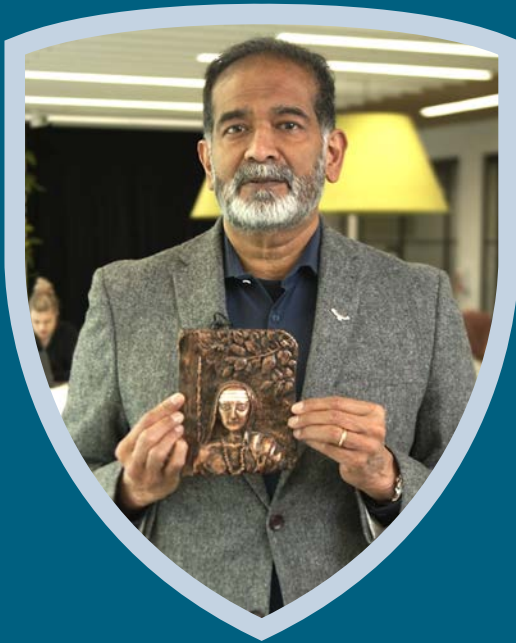
- Civil and diplomatic services
- Politics and government
- International charities and NGOs
- Consultancy
- Media, journalism and public relations
- Teaching and education

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 specialist 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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www.lancaster.ac.uk/ppr

Message a student: www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat

 @PPRLancaster

Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2025-26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). 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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