Why do some people consider religion a private concern, while others treat it as a public duty? 

To what extent does religion shape attitudes towards economy, politics or environment? 

Is the political significance of “reconciliation” linked to religious traditions? 

Does religion still determine shared moral values or legal norms? 

How or why do “faith-based social services” exist in modern democratic states? 

What is the influence of religion on common beliefs about gender and sexuality? 

Are religions particularly prone to communal or interpersonal violence? 

How are religious ideas communicated within and between societies or cultures? 

Our MA in Religion and Public Life focuses on the study of social and political aspects of religion from the comparative, historical and contemporary perspectives. The study of both religions and public life will be approached from domestic and international vantage points. As such, while the degree focuses on religion, it has an inherent interdisciplinary approach to this topic.

Why pursue an MA in Religion and Public Life at Carleton University? Our master’s degree can be completed in one year (12 months). Our interdisciplinary program is innovative, provocative and engaging. You can explore religion and public life in a variety of historical contexts and religious traditions, around the world, from antiquity to the 21st century, and you can study with award-winning, internationally-recognized faculty. To find out more about research being conducted at Carleton, visit our website. Contact us now for an adventure into religion, politics, culture and the ways of the world.

Degrees Offered

MA 

Career Options

This degree is designed as a springboard for pursuing or advancing careers in public policy, community and cultural organizations, and public service. Recent graduates have also gone on to further studies in such fields as Anthropology, Biblical Studies, Canadian Studies, Indigenous Studies, Islamic Studies, and Religious Studies, both in Canada and abroad.

Other Opportunities

Two affiliated research centres, The Max and Tessie Zelikovitz Centre for Jewish Studies and the Carleton Centre for the Study of Islam work closely with the national capital’s religious communities, building relationships that extend around the world. The presence of diplomatic missions and non-governmental institutions in the capital provide unique opportunities for research, educational partnerships and career development.

Deadline for Fall Admission

Review of applications for fall admission (regular session) begins March 1. To be guaranteed full consideration for admission and funding, complete applications must be received in advance of that date. Applications received after March 1 may also be considered, subject to availability of space and funds.

Admission Requirements

A BA (Honours), or the equivalent, with a B+ standing or higher in religion, religious studies or a related discipline. Students without a prior Method and Theory course in Religious Studies will have to complete RELI 4741 (Theory and Method).

Contact Info

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