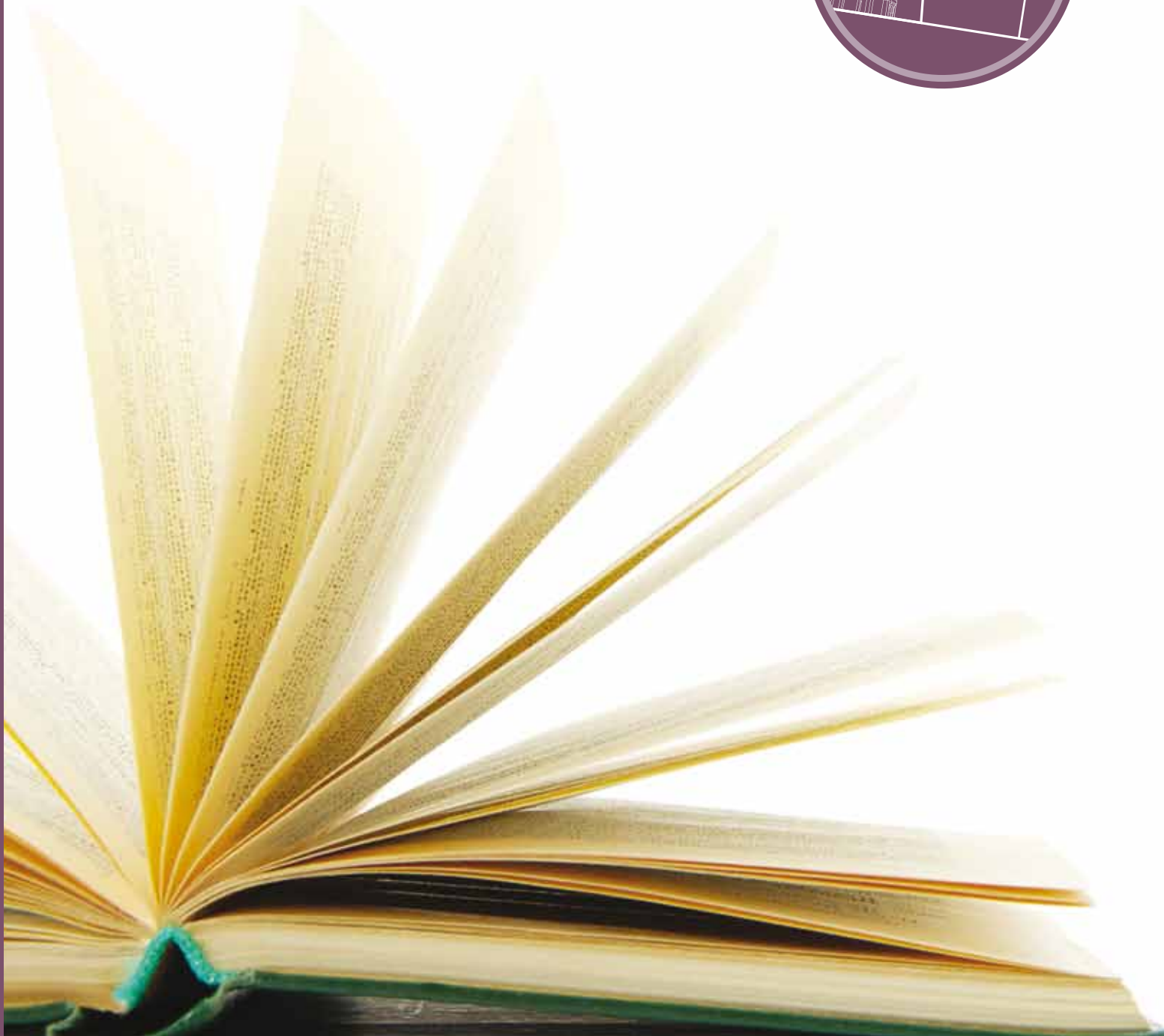




University
of Glasgow

Theology and religious studies

Undergraduate study



Founded in 1451, the University of Glasgow has inspired thinkers from the father of economics, Adam Smith, to the pioneer of television, John Logie Baird.



Choose Glasgow

Introduction

The University of Glasgow is rated as one of the top 100 universities in the world (*Times Higher Education QS World University Rankings*).

All of our students study for degrees that are recognised and respected by employers throughout the world, but we can guarantee you will receive a lot more besides. Some of the key benefits of student life at Glasgow are

Satisfied students

Our students report high levels of satisfaction with their studies. According to the independent National Student Survey, an impressive 90% of the University's final-year students rated themselves as satisfied with their course in 2009, well above the national average of 81%.

Flexible course choices

We offer more than 900 degree programme combinations and our flexible system allows you to study a broad range of subjects during your time at university and, in many cases, makes it possible to delay choosing specialist subjects until the end of second year.

Teaching based on research

Glasgow is a research-led university, which means that you will be taught by academics at the forefront of knowledge in their subject areas.

A student experience worth having

You will take away more than a degree from Glasgow. Over the last 550 years our students have built up a fantastic array of initiatives to keep you engaged, entertained and energised. The result is a student experience to be proud of. We have

- four award-winning student media teams
- over 100 clubs and societies
- two undergraduate student unions
- sporting facilities for all levels of fitness
- a study abroad and exchange programme that offers opportunities to study across the world as part of your undergraduate degree.

‘Glasgow is an exciting place, rich in culture, groaning with history, but most of all I found it to be welcoming.’

Laura Sayers graduated in 2001 and is a BBC Radio 1 producer

Our campus

The University's compact main campus combines grand historical buildings with up-to-the-minute facilities. It's centred on a neo-gothic building with a spire offering breathtaking views across the city.

Come and visit us

Open Day

www.glasgow.ac.uk/openday

In June and September we hold an Open Day to allow you, your family and teachers to visit us on campus and see a little of the city.

Open Day allows you to speak to academic staff, find out more about courses, tour the facilities, visit student accommodation and see for yourself what life would be like as a student at Glasgow. If you have a long way to travel you can also stay in one of our student residences.

Alternative visiting arrangements

Open Day is the best way for you to get a comprehensive picture of what being a student here would be like. However, if for any reason you can't make it on that date, then we will be able to make alternative arrangements.

To find out more visit:
www.glasgow.ac.uk/afternoonvisits.

Applicants' Visit Day

At Glasgow we go the extra mile. If you receive an offer of a place at Glasgow, we will invite you to visit us before making your final decision. Applicants' Visit Day usually takes place in March. Details will be sent to you together with your offer of a place.

Where can I find out more?

For more information, visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/theology, or tel: +44 (0)141 330 6524/6526.

The University is host to many prominent speakers – including Dr Rowan Williams, the Archbishop of Canterbury, pictured here in conversation with Professor Mona Siddiqui.



www.glasgow.ac.uk/theology

Academic excellence

Our staff are distinguished researchers and experts in their fields and are able to draw on the latest thinking in their teaching. We regularly come out near the top of university teaching league tables for religion. We also regularly host visiting lecturers who are world leaders in their fields.

A range of programmes

We offer three programmes of study – MA, BD and BD (Ministry) and all of these are available full or part-time, over three or four years. If you have prior credits or qualifications it may be possible to complete these programmes over a shorter period of time. Within these programmes, in addition to studying theology and religion, you can learn the varied skills of philosophy, history, anthropology, sociology and literary study as well as new languages from Greek and Arabic to Hebrew – all from beginner's level.

A degree for the 21st century

Reflecting our roots in the West of Scotland we remain committed to teaching traditional courses in theology, church history, philosophy of religion and biblical studies, plus innovative Christian-based courses such as 'Christianity and Bioethics' and 'Bible and Literature'. Moreover as the diverse expertise and interests of our teaching staff span all faiths, we also offer the opportunity to specialise in another of the major world religions – Judaism, Islam, or Hinduism and Buddhism. We have also developed expertise in religion and culture.

A diverse student community

We welcome students of all religious affiliations and none; one of our many strengths is the fact that practicing Muslims, Jews and Christians (including candidates for the ministry in the Church of Scotland) study alongside those who are simply fascinated by the subject without practicing a particular religion themselves.

Theology & Religious Studies

Typical offer

Highers AABB (first sitting)
AAAB (two sittings)

A-levels AAB (first sitting)
AAA (two sittings)

IB 34 points

For entry requirements visit www.glasgow.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/entryrequirements

Degree: MA, MA (SocSci)

Theology & Religious Studies is concerned with the critical study of religion. This programme is designed to cater for the interests of students of all faiths and none, allowing you to study a variety of religions or to focus upon the Christian tradition. It will develop your awareness of the rich scriptural, cultural, artistic and philosophical heritage of humankind. You will:

- appreciate and study the fascinating plurality of religious experience and expression
- study a broad range of subjects that span the disciplines of theology and religious studies.

As part of this programme you will be able to study a wide variety of subjects across the sub-disciplines of theology and religious studies and you may customise your degree by choosing to specialise in particular areas. You are also able to study subjects offered by the university and shape your own degree programme.

What can I expect in first year?

In first year you might choose to focus upon the Bible and Christianity or gain a greater understanding of a wide range of religious traditions. At the same time you will be introduced to some key concerns shared by those who work in theology and religious studies:

- How do we read sacred texts?
- How do we think and speak about God?
- What defines religion and culture?
- What impact does religion make upon our social and political life?

You can also combine your Level-1 studies with courses from other subjects.

What can I expect in second year?

In second year you will develop your understanding further by progressing in your studies of the Christian tradition or other world faiths. More advanced courses will enable you

to explore what religious believers consider to be the most significant aspects of their faith and how these impact upon their daily lives.

You are also required to take a study skill course prior to entry to year three.

What happens next?

If you successfully complete the courses in first and second year, you may progress to either Single or Joint Honours (years three/four).

As a single Honours student you will take six courses – usually four in your Junior Honours year and two in your Senior Honours year. If you wish to do Joint Honours you will take some courses from each of the two subjects you are studying.

Your Honours courses are chosen from a wide range of options including:

- Christianity and bioethics
- Bible, literature and culture
- Qur'anic studies
- Hebrew texts: prophets and psalms
- Old Testament texts
- Epistles (Greek)
- Gospels (Greek)
- New Testament theology
- Body and belief
- Doctrine of God
- Early church history (patristic studies)
- New Testament ethics
- Political theology
- Contemporary theology
- Reformation studies
- Pastoral theology
- Sufism
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Women, church and change
- Worship and witness
- Church and society in Scotland.

In addition, you may complete a 15,000-word dissertation on an approved topic of your own choosing in your final year.

You will also have the opportunity of regular visits to places of worship such as mosques, churches, temples and synagogues and other locations that can give you a feel for sacred space and ritual. You will also hear from external speakers who may be visiting scholars in the University.

If you do not progress to Honours we offer a number of level 3 options through which you are able to advance your studies. You may also

‘Here at Glasgow we are aware that you cannot understand our contemporary multicultural society if we exclude religion from the discussion. For us religion is not a separate sphere of study but something which is involved in all forms of cultural exchange – politics, history, literature – in life in its widest sense.’

Dr Heather Walton, lecturer

Questions that we explore include

- What does it mean to believe in rebirth?
- Why do some Muslim women wear headscarves?
- Why is there a caste system in India?
- Was Eve framed in the Biblical Garden of Eden?
- What is the future of the Church?
- What is Zen?
- Why did Jesus die?
- When we read do we derive meaning from a text or bring meaning to it?
- What is kabbalah?
- Why did the Romans throw early Christians to the lions?
- Witches or angels? How has religion in Scotland affected the lives of Scottish women?
- Is there only one true religion or are there many?
- Is the God of the Old Testament/ Tanakh as scary as many people believe?
- Why do Christians disagree on their responses to new technologies (eg the human genome project)?
- Is it morally and logically consistent to be in favour of capital punishment and against abortion?
- How is the Bible used by Israeli writers and politicians?
- How should Christians speak about their faith in contemporary Scotland?
- Why has Buddhism become so attractive to many people in the West?

You will also more information in the Honours course handbook which can be found at: www.glasgow.ac.uk/theology/undergraduatestudy.

Degree: BD/BD (Min)

The BD and BD (Min) are exciting new programmes recently developed in conversation with partners from a number of churches and voluntary bodies. These specialist degrees are primarily designed for those who intend to focus on theological concerns in their later professional life through working in pastoral ministry, the caring professions or voluntary organisations. They combine rigorous academic study with placement work and small group reflection. They offer the opportunity to reflect in depth upon experience in a supportive and challenging environment.

The BD (Min) programme is only available to recognised candidates of the Church of Scotland. However, the BD is open to all and covers a very similar syllabus. We have an open and ecumenical spirit and you will be enriched by relationships with staff and students from a wide variety of denominations and traditions.

Church of Scotland students who are candidates for ordination become members of Trinity College, an ancient Church of Scotland foundation allied to the University.

What can I expect in first year?

You will take introductory courses on the Bible, theology and religious studies. These will introduce you to some of the basic concerns of those studying religion today and give you tools for analysis and critical thinking. You will also take courses exploring theological reflection and worship which will help you to understand how theology is ‘put to work’ in the daily lives of Christians and the practice of the Church. You will undertake a placement which is an integral part of the degree programme

What can I expect in second year?

In your second year you will continue to take courses in the Bible and theology. You will also study ethics and pastoral practice. You will explore some of the issue that confront believers today as they seek to reconcile their faith with the many challenges presented by contemporary technological, social and environmental change. You will continue to reflect upon your experience through structured group work.





‘I have enjoyed the opportunity to have exciting debates with a mix of students and staff, both religious and non religious, over current, relevant and diverse topics.’

Victoria Telford, Theology & Religious Studies student

www.glasgow.ac.uk/theology

‘This is a very friendly place with a wide range of students covering all ages. The staff are always very helpful and create a great atmosphere to learn in.’

Alexander Hutchison, Theology & Religious Studies student

‘I have enjoyed the opportunity to have exciting debates with a mix of students and staff, both religious and non-religious, over current, relevant and diverse topics.’

Victoria Telford, Theology & Religious Studies student

‘Studying Theology & Religious Studies at Glasgow is not just about reflecting on the world; it is about meeting the people who shape the world.’

Professor Mona Siddiqui, Director for Centre for Islam, University of Glasgow

What happens next?

If you successfully complete the courses in first and second year, you may progress to Single Honours (years three and four).

As a Single Honours student you will take six courses – usually four in your Junior Honours year and two in your Senior Honours year.

Your Honours courses are chosen from a wide range of options including:

- Christianity and bioethics
- Bible, literature and culture
- Qur’anic studies
- Hebrew texts: prophets and psalms
- Old Testament texts
- Epistles (Greek)
- Gospels (Greek)
- New Testament theology
- Body and belief
- Doctrine of God
- Early church history (patristic studies)
- New Testament ethics
- Political theology
- Contemporary theology
- Reformation studies
- Pastoral theology
- Sufism
- Buddhism
- Hinduism
- Women, church and change
- Worship and witness
- Church and society in Scotland.

You can choose any of the Honours courses offered but you will be required to take at least one per year which incorporates an element of pastoral practice.

In addition, you may complete a 15,000-word dissertation on an approved topic of your choosing in your final year.

If you do not wish to progress to Honours we

offer a number of Level-3 options through which you are able to advance your studies. You may also write a dissertation.

Can I study abroad?

You may study for one year of your degree at an overseas university as part of a student exchange programme. In previous years our students have studied in countries such as Germany, the Republic of Ireland, Switzerland, as well as the United States, returning with a fantastic experience of different cultures and traditions.

The University holds a Study Abroad Fair every November. Information is also available on our website: www.glasgow.ac.uk/studying/exchange

What are my career prospects?

While there is no typical career path, or student, you will:

- have developed communication and analytical skills
- be capable of high quality oral and written presentations
- become computer literate.

Our graduates have gone on to become:

- Teachers
- Civil servants
- Managers
- Members of the armed forces
- Academics and university lecturers
- Christian ministers (of various denominations)
- Writers
- Entrepreneurs
- Support workers for charities and humanitarian organisations.

While giving you career-transferable skills is a high priority for us, our main aim is to broaden your horizons in a wider sense, to assist in the growth of confidence and independent thought. You may find that you gain ideas and experiences during your studies that could

We can offer you opportunities to

- visit places of worship and see how religious belief is put into practice
- visit religion-themed exhibitions
- attend regular research lectures from our own staff and invited scholars from the UK and abroad
- participate in ecumenical and confessional worship, should you wish to.

‘Scotland at its artsy, riotous, high-octane, good-time best.’

Lonely Planet



City of Glasgow

What is it like living and studying in Glasgow?

Named as one of the world’s top ten cities by independent travel guide *Lonely Planet*, Glasgow attracts the largest student population in Scotland. The city’s reputation for friendliness means that wherever you come from, you’ll soon treat it as your second home.

Music and nightlife

In an average week Glasgow hosts 123 bands, 72 classical composers, 49 choirs, 38 orchestras and 21 jazz bands. Renowned for discovering acts from Franz Ferdinand to Primal Scream, the city has fantastic venues for live music including King Tut’s Wah Wah Hut – voted UK’s best live venue by listeners of Radio 1 three years in a row.

More than 700 bars, pubs and nightclubs mean no two nights in Glasgow are the same. Whether you’re after a record-breaking 100-foot long bar where everyone can be a barfly (the Horseshoe), or a pub with a log fire, stuffed stags’ heads and kilted staff that’s as appealing as it is unpronounceable (Uisge Beatha), Glasgow has a venue to suit. Dance until you drop at the Subclub, or travel back to 1920s America at the Vegas clubnight on the Renfrew Ferry, it’s up to you.

Festivals

At least one festival every month of the year shows Glasgow loves to celebrate. Some of our favourites include Glasgow International Comedy Festival, Celtic Connections folk music festival, Glasgay, Piping Live!, Glasgow Film Festival and Aye Write!, the city’s book festival.

Culture

The city of Glasgow owns one of the richest collections in Europe, displayed in 13 museums and art galleries – and admission is free. You are spoilt for choice, with the city’s famous Burrell collection vying for attention beside Scotland’s most visited attraction, the Kelvingrove Art Gallery & Museum, located next door to the University.

Sport

The city will host the Commonwealth Games in 2014. Across the world people know Glasgow as home of Celtic and Rangers football clubs, but with no fewer than 27 public fitness centres including swimming pools, running tracks, 11-a-side pitches and tennis courts, you’re guaranteed to find something to get involved with, whatever your level of fitness.

Campus culture

Are you craving cosy campus living or do you prefer big city excitement. Whichever is your style, you’ll be impressed by the University’s excellent location in the compact West End. Just two miles from the city centre, with great bus and underground links, the West End has a reputation as the bohemian, trendy and cosmopolitan quarter of Glasgow.



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What our students say

‘Glasgow is such a diverse and vibrant city with lots to offer and a great social scene with a fantastic range of bars, clubs and music venues.’

Alexander Hutchison

‘I chose Glasgow because compared to the other cities I visited it just seemed like a much more lively place. I think the high student population makes it a very young city.’

Elizabeth Ritz

‘The campus at Glasgow is unbelievably beautiful. It’s hard to believe sometimes when walking down busy Byres Road and turning into University Avenue, that this Hogwarts is situated right in the heart of the West End.’

Beverley Simpson

‘Glasgow is very vibrant. The West End is like the village within the city.’

Sarah Gibson