

Department of Theology  
and Religious Studies



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

*Theology*  
and  
*Religious Studies*  
at Leeds

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This information is also available in alternative formats.  
For further information contact us on (0113) 343 3212 or part-time@leeds.ac.uk

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# Theology and Religious Studies at Leeds

“

I thoroughly enjoyed my MA in Religion and Public Life at Leeds. Although I was working full-time, the Department were very supportive, friendly and helpful and the course has opened so many doors for me.

**Caroline Starkey** MA (with Distinction)  
Religion and Public Life: 2008

”

The Department, which was founded over 60 years ago, is based in a 19th-century building, with a student common room as well as seminar rooms where most postgraduate teaching takes place.

The University of Leeds emphasises life at the departmental level. This ensures that our postgraduate students enjoy all the benefits of a large institution, while remaining part of a community of scholars on a more personal scale. Currently, we have approximately 50 students, 30 research and 20 taught masters, studying with us. Brief profiles of the department's eight academic staff are detailed on the enclosed insert.

The Theology and Religious Studies Department prides itself on being a stimulating and friendly home to all students. Taught masters and postgraduate research tutors see that both students' intellectual development and their pastoral care are given high priority. The Department, like the University, is open to people of all faiths and none. It welcomes diversity in its membership, believing it to be personally enriching and intellectually creative [www.leeds.ac.uk/trs](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/trs)

**Rated excellent**  
Sunday Times  
University Guide  
2008





Since joining the Theology and Religious Studies Department at Leeds, I have completed an MA with distinction, have delivered papers at conferences, published book reviews in journals and am now undertaking a fully funded PhD. Come to Leeds, you won't regret it.

Jasjit Singh MA Religion and Public Life 2008, PhD ongoing



## Postgraduate study in Theology and Religious Studies

Whether you study a taught masters' programme or a research degree, the Department offers a vibrant and challenging environment for postgraduate study and training in Theology and Religious Studies. Our staff are nationally and internationally renowned scholars committed to the idea of studying religion from a variety of disciplinary and methodological approaches. Drawing upon both the humanities and social sciences, these include: theology, philosophy, textual and historical studies, sociology and anthropology.

A distinctive and coherent research identity is being developed in the Department, especially in the area of religion and public life. Staff are playing a leading role in drawing attention to the part that religion continues to play in apparently secularising societies across the globe.

The Department is home to the Institute for Religion and Public Life and the Community Religions Project, two centres for research on religion in contemporary society that are unique in UK higher education.

At the most recent teaching quality assessment in British universities, the Department was also recognised as a centre of excellence in learning and teaching. Leeds is joint sponsor of the Philosophical and Religious Studies Subject Centre of the Higher Education Academy, one of 24 Subject Centres covering all university disciplines taught in the UK.

Institute for Religion and Public Life:  
[www.leeds.ac.uk/trs/irpl](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/trs/irpl)

Community Religions Project:  
[www.leeds.ac.uk/trs/irpl/crp.htm](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/trs/irpl/crp.htm)

Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies:  
<http://prs.heacademy.ac.uk/>



## A thriving research culture: Religion and Society @ Leeds

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies is a community of scholars whose mutual interaction maintains a thriving research culture.

Four times a year the Department hosts the Religion and Society @ Leeds research day. This event attracts participation from staff and postgraduates from different departments across the University, as well as renowned key note speakers from outside the University. Topics include: Borders and Boundaries; The Body; Diasporas and Identities; and International Development. There are opportunities for both staff and postgraduates to present their work.

## The University of Leeds

The University of Leeds is the UK's second largest university with 30,500 students from over 130 countries.

Established in 1904, it is now one of the giants of the higher education system and a member of the Russell Group of the top 20 'research-led' universities. With its blend of Victorian and modern architecture, the campus provides a pleasant, traffic-free, environment and is less than ten minutes walk from the city centre.

With strong local roots and an international reputation for excellence in teaching and research, the University is one of the largest and most popular institutions of higher education in the UK. Its libraries, the Brotherton and the Edward Boyle, house over two and a half million books, journals, theses and special collection items. Holdings in Theology and Religious Studies are excellent. The University takes pride in providing students with first-class facilities and has invested heavily in computer clusters and modern, well-equipped, lecture theatres.

Attracting students from many different countries, the University is a multi-cultural as well as a multi-faith community. Together the University and Leeds University Union cater for a very wide range of cultural, sporting, recreational, political and social interests. There is also a wide range of religious societies, centres of worship, as well as dedicated pastoral and chaplaincy services.

[www.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.leeds.ac.uk) and  
[www.luuonline.com](http://www.luuonline.com)

## The City of Leeds

Located in the heart of the UK, rich in history and with a thriving economy, Leeds is the UK's third largest city.

An attractive and affordable place to live, it is an important commercial, financial, cultural and sporting centre. Leeds has good road and rail links with the rest of the UK and Leeds Bradford Airport is only 20 minutes drive from the city centre. It has many parks and is within easy reach of the Yorkshire Dales, home to some of the most beautiful countryside in Britain.

Leeds is very well liked by those who live and work here and many stay on after graduation in this student-friendly city. Cinemas, theatres, opera and concerts of every type of music are plentiful, and its shops, and especially restaurants, reflect multi-ethnic Leeds with options to suit all budgets.

[www.leeds.gov.uk](http://www.leeds.gov.uk)





## Taught masters programmes

MA programmes:  
one-year full-time, two-years part-time.

*N.B. Postgraduate diplomas are also offered, with the possibility of transfer to the MA for suitable candidates.*

MA programme content:  
consists of core and optional modules, and a 10,000-12,000-word dissertation (60 credits) on a specialist subject of your choice under the guidance of a supervisor.

Teaching and learning:  
typically 2 hours contact per week per module and independent learning / personal study with support from tutors.

Module assessment:  
typically a 6,000 word essay topic of your choice related to the themes of the module.

### Personal tutoring scheme

The Department operates a personal tutoring scheme for taught postgraduates to ensure that their student needs are being met on the academic as well as the pastoral side. Each student is invited to a minimum of three meetings with their tutor over the academic year.

## MA in Religion and Public Life

This innovative and challenging programme is closely linked with the Department's internationally-recognised Institute for Religion and Public Life.

It is designed to enhance students' understanding of the growing and contentious role of religion in the public sphere and will be of interest to recent graduates in Theology and Religious Studies, as well as other humanities and social science disciplines. The programme also provides an opportunity for public and private sector professionals, whose work requires expertise and 'literacy' in religious and faith matters, to reflect on best practice.

### Core modules (30 credits each)

- **Religion, Society and Public Life** offers a critical analysis of various sociological, theological and philosophical accounts of the social dimensions of religion and how these relate to different models of public and private life.
- **Religion and Society: Research Process and Methods** – enables the development of research skills that are vital to the scholarly investigation of contemporary religious life and to the development of an academic career.

### Optional modules (30 credits each; select two from a range of options in the following areas)

- Theology and public life
- Religion, theology and development issues
- Muslims, multiculturalism and the State
- Contemporary issues in theology, religion and gender
- Islam and public life in the Middle East
- Religion, politics and society in (post)colonial South Asia
- Religion, diaspora, ethnicity and identity in Britain
- Christian theology and Judaism
- Sin, public discourse and public life
- Race and Religion in Southern Africa: Apartheid and its Aftermath

## MA in Theology and Public Life

This is a newly introduced MA programme, beginning in 2009\*, which aims to offer an alternative to the MA programme in Religion and Public Life for students who wish to follow a more theological route.

It is designed to enhance students' understanding of the growing and contentious role of religion in the public sphere, and to explore theological responses to and modes of engagement with public life. It is most likely to be of interest to recent graduates in Theology and/or Religious Studies, and will also provide an opportunity for public and private sector professionals, whose work requires expertise and 'literacy' in religious and faith matters, to reflect on best practice.

### Core modules (30 credits each)

- **Theology and Public Life** exposes students to a range of themes and 'places' of engagement relevant to the interaction between theology and public life and civil society in Britain and beyond. It also introduces students to an array of methodological approaches and the contribution of distinct sub-disciplinary areas, such as Christian ethics, practical and pastoral theology, contextual theologies, systematic theology.
- **Religion and Society Research Process and Methods** – enables the development of research skills that are vital to the scholarly investigation of contemporary religious life and to the development of an academic career.

### Optional modules (30 credits each; select two from a range of options in the following areas)

- Christian theology and Judaism
- Sin, public discourse and public life
- Religion, theology and development issues
- Contemporary issues in theology, religion and gender
- Race and Religion in Southern Africa: Apartheid and its Aftermath

\*Subject to approval



Researching part-time can be quite lonely, people from the other areas of life don't tend to ask many questions about it, and there are few opportunities to involve people in discussion about the research subject; but I always found my Leeds supervisors supportive and encouraging, meeting frequently with them to help take the research forward.

**Graham Adams** Part-time PhD 2002-2008



## MA in Theology / Religious Studies and Development Studies

This well-established and popular programme is taught jointly by the Theology and Religious Studies Department and the Centre for Development Studies.

It aims to foster critical reflection on the religious dimensions and theological and ethical implications of development for human flourishing. The programme will be of interest to those wishing to further their academic understanding of this important area as well as to those working, or intending to work, in the varied professional disciplines of development studies.

### Core modules (30 credits each)

- **Development Theories, Strategies and Issues** introduction to the field of development studies, focusing on both theories and substantive issues; the historical process of development and underdevelopment; alternative theoretical approaches and their policy implications.
- **Religion, Theology and Development Issues** explores religion in relation to development theory and practice; religion as a resource, obstacle and critical participant in communities, aid agencies and wider society; and the relationships between religion, human values and community building.

### Optional modules (30 credits from each department)

- Theology and Religious Studies options** as per Religion and Public Life and Theology and Public Life.
- Centre for Development Studies options** (30 credit modules unless otherwise stated):
- Africa in the Contemporary World
  - Conflict, Complex Emergencies and Global Governance
  - Democracy and Development
  - Political Transitions in South East Asia
  - Development Management Techniques (15 credits)
  - Research Methodology for Development (15 credits)

“

This past year has been one of the busiest and most demanding ones of my life but it has also been one of the most enjoyable. It feels like I've finally found where I'm meant to be.

**Amy Russell** BA Theology and Religious Studies and English Literature 1999, MA (Distinction) Religion and Public Life 2005, PhD ongoing

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## MA in Theology and Pastoral Studies

This programme represents an exciting initiative involving a partnership between the Theology and Religious Studies Department, the College of the Resurrection at Mirfield and the Northern Ordination Course.

Many of the students on the programme will be candidates for the ministry. Nevertheless, the course is open to anyone and covers a range of topics - including biblical studies, religion and ethics, pastoral care and spirituality.

*Please note that all enquiries and applications for this programme should be made directly to the College of the Resurrection. <http://college.mirfield.org.uk/>*

“

The course was of immense benefit, if I could get a job within two weeks of finishing that really says a lot.

**Jamie Morrison**  
MA Theology and Development Studies 2008

”



## Research degrees

Three research degrees are available:

Research degree	Duration	Thesis
MA by research	1 year full-time, 2 years part-time	30,000 words
M Phil	2 years full-time, 4 years part-time	60,000 words
PhD	3 years full-time, 5 years part-time	100,000 words

## Supervision and scholarship

Postgraduate research students are trained under the active guidance of a supervisor, or, where the research involves interdisciplinary work, two supervisors.

You will meet your supervisor regularly – monthly if studying full-time, less frequently for those studying part-time.

During supervisions, research is planned and discussed, and feedback is given on work submitted. Research students are also encouraged to attend the wide range of University-run training courses on all aspects of the research process from *starting your degree* to *writing up*.

After a period ranging from 9 to 18 months, an assessment is made on the progress of those intending to complete a PhD. Those judged to have made satisfactory progress are officially 'transferred' to the doctoral programme.

Whilst most students commence their studies in September, it is possible to start a research degree at any point in the year.

Major areas of research degree supervision include:

- Christian theology, especially modern theology, ethics and interactions with missiology and modern philosophy;
- New Testament exegesis, particularly textual criticism;
- the sociological study of religion, especially with regard to the Durkheimian tradition;
- African religious studies in relation to theology, politics and traditional religions;
- contemporary Islamic and Indian traditions, including modern and pre-modern developments in Sufism;
- issues of gender and feminism;
- religious environmentalism;
- religion, migration, diaspora and identity, especially in relation to the minority ethnic communities of Britain;
- religion, theology and development.

For areas of supervision, please refer to our staffs' research interests on the enclosed insert or our staff profiles online <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/trs/staff.htm>

The Department of Theology and Religious Studies is a community of scholars whose mutual interaction maintains a thriving research culture. As well as individual supervisions, our students also have regular opportunities to meet together with their peers and other members of the Department to discuss the theory and the practice of scholarship. See also A thriving research culture on page 5.

## Training for teaching: PhD students

All PhD students are offered the opportunity to gain some tutoring experience on our level 1 module called Key Texts. Such experience is invaluable for those wishing to embark upon an academic career.

Each tutor selects a key text from their area of study / research and meets with a small group of students for a weekly seminar.

Training is provided by the Faculty of Arts and the University's Staff and Departmental Development Unit on aspects of small group teaching and assessment. <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/sddu/>

## Information for international postgraduates

International postgraduates play a vital part in student life at Leeds.

The University has developed an extensive network of special services, including a welcoming scheme, orientation programme and an International Student Advisory Service. Students on courses of at least 6 months duration have access to the British National Health Service. <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/international/>

### Language requirements

The English language requirement is normally as follows:

**IELTS:**  
6.0 overall (with no less than 5.5 in listening and reading, and no less than 5 in speaking and writing);

**TOEFL:**  
Paper-based test: 550, with 4.0 on the Test of Written English; TOEFL: Computer-based test: 220, with 4.0 on the essay rating.

### University Language Centre

The Language Centre at Leeds provides a range of services and facilities for students. There is a 50-seater self-access area for independent language study, which provides students with audio and video practice materials for listening and speaking, and CALL (computer-assisted language learning) software for practice in reading, writing, vocabulary and grammar. [www.leeds.ac.uk/languages](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/languages)

### Split-Site research degrees

In exceptional circumstances those teaching in an HE institution internationally may undertake a split-site research degree.

The conditions for acceptance include a minimum of 4 months in 4 years to be spent in Leeds, and access to appropriate facilities for study at the home institution. However, we encourage students to spend longer than the minimum, especially in the early stages of their course. The English Language requirement is an IELTS score of at least 6.5 (no component below 6).



## Information for all postgraduates

### Entry requirements and how to apply

Taught MAs (Religion and Public Life, Theology and Public Life and Theology / Religious Studies and Development Studies): a good honours degree or postgraduate diploma in Theology and / or Religious Studies, or equivalent qualifications in a relevant area of study.

### Research degrees

#### MA by research:

A good honours degree or postgraduate diploma in Theology and / or Religious Studies, or equivalent qualifications in a relevant area of study.

#### M Phil and PhD:

MA (taught or research) in a relevant area of study.

Applications to these programmes and research degrees may either be made online or by downloading and completing the taught or research application form available via <http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/index.htm>. All enquiries for these programmes and research degrees should be made to the Postgraduate Secretary (contact details on p2).

#### MA in Theology and Pastoral Studies:

All enquiries and applications should be made directly to the College of the Resurrection <http://college.mirfield.org.uk>

### Applicants with disabilities

The University encourages applications from disabled people and provides a high level of support for its disabled students. For more information, please visit [www.equality.leeds.ac.uk](http://www.equality.leeds.ac.uk)

### Fees

Fees tend to rise each year at least in line with inflation. They may be paid in instalments.

#### 2008-09 Postgraduate Fees:

UK / EU fees: £3,300 full-time; £1,650 part-time

International students: £9,700 full-time; £4,850 split-site.

<http://www.leeds.ac.uk/students/fees/>

## Scholarships

The University of Leeds is able to offer a number of scholarships and bursaries to both home and international students. For information, please see <http://scholarships.leeds.ac.uk/>

Possible sources of funding for 2009/10 include:

Student status	Award	Comments
UK and EU	Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC)	Awards are available for Masters and Doctoral study.
	Full Fee Scholarships	Available September 2009. One-year Masters' degrees, full or part-time.
	Bilbrough Scholarship	Taught Masters in Department of Theology and Religious Studies.
	University Research Scholarships	UK / EU candidates, with at least a UK Upper Second Class Honours degree or equivalent, commencing PhD study from October 2009.
International	British Council Awards	Available to certain international students.
	British Chevening Scholarships	Available to students from over 150 countries who wish to undertake postgraduate study in the UK.
	Fully Funded International Research Scholarship (FIRS)	Available for international students who are commencing full-time PhD study from October 2009.
	Ford Foundation International Fellowship Programme	Available for graduate-level study leading to a Masters or Doctoral degree for individuals from eligible IFP countries or territories.

## Residence requirements /part-time study

Students who live in the UK may also apply for part-time postgraduate study. For home students there is no requirement for permanent residence in Leeds, provided the University is satisfied that students have access to library and other facilities.

Part-time research students are required to meet with supervisors a minimum of six times a year and to attend study skills and other training courses. These requirements would usually involve no more than an overnight stay in Leeds.

## Accommodation

The University of Leeds guarantees accommodation to all single international students. A limited amount of married and family accommodation is available.

[www.leeds.ac.uk/accommodation](http://www.leeds.ac.uk/accommodation)

Full-time home students are normally expected to find accommodation in the private sector. See UNIPOL website at <http://www.unipol.leeds.ac.uk>

“ I’ve had three articles published based on my dissertation research and I have a book contract with Ashgate Press for my dissertation.

Megan Shore PhD 2006





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