



Programme Specification

Section 1

Programme Title	Postgraduate Programme in Theology and Religious Studies
Qualification Aim	Masters in Theology and Religious Studies
Other possible exit awards	Postgraduate Graduate Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies; Postgraduate Graduate Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies.
FHEQ Level	7
JACS Code	V600
UCAS Code	n/a
Awarding Institution	Bishop Grosseteste University
Teaching Institution	Bishop Grosseteste University
School	Humanities
Department	n/a
Subject Benchmark	Theology and Religious Studies
Version Number	1.1
Date Approved	
Programme Length	12-24 months
Mode of Study	Full-time or part-time
Credits per year	60-180
September start only? (If no, please give details)	September
Entry Qualifications/ Requirements	Graduate status (level 6) (normally a minimum of a lower second class honours degree will be required).
Teacher Training Course?	No
Is this a subject knowledge enhancement course?	No
Major source of funding	Student Fees



Please note that this specification provides a summary of the main elements of the programme and is as accurate as possible. The University reserves the right to amend the information or modify the programme at any time.

Section 2: Programme Aims and Learning Outcomes

Educational aims of the programme:

1. Develop a deep and extensive knowledge and understanding of Theology and Religious Studies;
2. Develop the advanced skills required to understand and critically analyse, research and practice theological processes in a disciplined and reflective way;
3. Apply resources and advanced skills to initiate, sustain and evaluate current debates and discourse in the field of Theology and Religious Studies.

Modules for Amendment:

This is a request to amend the MA in Theology and Religious Studies programme specification, sections 1 and 3 in accordance with the recommendation made by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) in January 2016, after their The Higher Education Review (HER).

The qualification aim for the MA in Theology and Religious Studies is a Master of Arts; however, those students who do not achieve such aim, may be able to qualify for two other intermediate possible exit awards: a Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert, completing 60 credits) and a Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip, completing 120 credits).

The following programmes' learning outcomes are informed by the QAA Theology and Religious Studies Subject Benchmark Statement (February 2015), the QAA Master's Degree Characteristics (draft December 2014), the QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education (2015), the QAA The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and in accordance with BGU Awards and Credit Framework (2013).

Programme Learning Outcomes for the Postgraduate Certificate (PG Cert.)

Knowledge and understanding (KU)

On completing 60 credits, this Postgraduate Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies is awarded to students who have demonstrated:

KU 1 a developed knowledge and understanding of, and a critical awareness of a range of current debates and/or new insights, much of which is at the forefront of, or informed by, theological and religious studies;



KU 2 conceptual understanding that enables their critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in theological and religious studies; their evaluation of methodologies, and their critiques of them.

Subject Specific skills (SPS)

Typically, holders of the Postgraduate Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies will be able to:

SPS 1 test, interpret and analyse theological and religious texts, subjects, and evidence independently, and critically produce from that analysis well-developed cogent arguments and decisive judgements;

SPS 2 articulate their own and other people's ideas accurately, concisely, and persuasively.

Intellectual skills (IS)

Typically, holders of the Postgraduate Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies will be able to:

IS 1 continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level.

Transferable skills (TS)

Typically, holders of this Postgraduate Certificate in Theology and Religious Studies will be able to show:

TS 1 a developed ability to engage critically and systematically with current research and advanced scholarship in theological and religious studies.

Programme Learning Outcomes for the Postgraduate Diploma (PG Dip.)

Knowledge and understanding (KU)

On completing 120 credits, this Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies is awarded to students who have demonstrated:

KU 1 a systematic knowledge and understanding of, and a critical awareness of a range of current and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of Theological and Religious Studies;

KU 2 developed conceptual understanding that enables their critical evaluation of current research and advanced scholarship in theological and religious studies; their evaluation of methodologies, and their critiques of them;

KU 3 a wide-ranging understanding of techniques applicable to their own research in theological and religious studies.

Subject Specific skills (SPS)

Typically, holders of this Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies will be able to:

SPS 1 test, interpret and analyse theological and religious texts and subjects and evidence independently and critically, producing from that analysis well-developed cogent arguments and decisive judgements;



SPS 2 articulate their own and other people's ideas accurately, concisely, and persuasively both orally and in writing;

SPS 3 articulate advanced knowledge and understanding of theological and religious texts, concepts and theories (and of their historical relations where appropriate) from the ancient times to the present.

Intellectual skills (IS)

Typically, holders of this Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies will be able to:

IS 1 continue to advance their knowledge and understanding, and to develop new skills to a high level;

IS 2 deal with complex issues both systematically and creatively, make sound judgements in the absence of complete data, and communicate their conclusions clearly to specialist and non-specialist audiences.

Transferable skills (TS)

Typically, holders of this Postgraduate Diploma in Theology and Religious Studies will also be able to show:

TS 1 a well-developed ability to evaluate critically and systematically with current research and advanced scholarship in theological and religious studies;

TS 2 a well-developed ability to identify, evaluate, analyse, interpret and present considerable bodies of information independently while working to deadlines.

Programme Learning Outcomes for Master of Arts (MA)

Knowledge and Understanding - Upon successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

KU1: a systematic understanding of knowledge and critical awareness of current problems and/or new insights, much of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the academic disciplines which are theology and religious studies;

KU2: a well-developed critical reflection on their own particular standpoint, and a high level of understanding of the methodological and hermeneutical issues that are raised;

KU3: a strong ability to be critically reflective, with integration of academic literature relating theory and practice, where students are drawing on practical experience.

Subject Specific - Upon successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

SPS 1: a sophisticated ability to represent views other than the student's own sensitively and intelligently with fairness and integrity, while, as appropriate, expressing their own identity without denigration of others through critical engagement in a spirit of generosity, openness and empathy;

SPS2: demonstrate with a high level of sensitivity awareness of the conviction and claims to certainty that may arise in religious traditions, with their positive and negative effects;



SPS3: demonstrate sophisticated understanding of the multi-faceted complexity of religions, for example, in the relationship between specifically religious beliefs, texts, practices and institutions, and wider social and cultural structures, norms, aesthetics and aspirations;

Intellectual Skills - Upon successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

IS1: a high degree of independence and self-direction in learning, taking responsibility for their own learning experience;

IS2: a high degree of engagement, interaction, and independent thinking and ability to find their own source material and literature;

IS3: a comprehensive understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.

Transferable Skills - Upon successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

TS 1: An advanced ability to work autonomously exercising initiative and personal responsibility;

TS 2: A well-developed ability to identify, evaluate, analyse, interpret and present substantial bodies of information independently while working to deadlines;

TS 3: an advance ability to evaluate critically current research and advanced scholarship in the disciplines of theology and religious studies.

Section 3: Subject Benchmarking

There is no Subject Benchmark statement for Theology and Religious Studies at master's level, however full reference has been made to the undergraduate *Subject Benchmark for Theology and Religious Studies* (QAA 2014).

Professional standards/requirements

n/a

Section 4: Course Structure

Students will complete 'core' modules of 30 credits (TRS701 & TRS704) that provide a wide-ranging introduction to the study of Theology and Religious Studies at an advanced level. Either alongside these modules, or in the case of part-time students subsequently, four modules of 15 credits will be taken. These 'topic' modules will allow students to engage in a closer critical study of a variety of different aspects, contexts and approaches to Theology and Religious Studies. Finally students will undertake a 60 credit dissertation module (TRS707) allowing them to engage in a research driven piece of analysis and writing at an advanced level.



Fulltime pathway

SEMESTER 1 – OCT- JAN	
TRS701 On the Shoulders of Giants: Great Religious Thinkers from Plato to Pannenberg 30 Credits	One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
	One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
SEMESTER 2 – FEB-MAY	
TRS704 War of the Worlds: Religions in Conflict & Dialogue 30 Credits	One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
	One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
SEMESTER 3 - JUNE-SEPT	
TRS707 Dissertation (60 credits)	

Part-time pathway:

SEMESTER 1 – OCT- JAN (year one)
TRS701 On the Shoulders of Giants: Great Religious Thinkers from Plato to Pannenberg (30 credits)
SEMESTER 2 – FEB-MAY (year one)
TRS704 War of the Worlds: Religions in Conflict & Dialogue (30 credits)
SEMESTER 3 – OCT- JAN (year two)
One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
SEMESTER 4 – FEB-MAY (year two)
One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
One of TRS702 to TRS706 Topic module 1 (15 credits)
SEMESTER 5 - JUNE-SEPT (year two)
TRS707 Dissertation (60 credits)



Section 5: Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy

Knowledge and Understanding:

The course will offer students a range of teaching and learning contexts appropriate to the level of study in which to build and demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding. This will include classroom, field and VLE-based approaches: lectures, seminars, workshops, tutorials and field visits. Assessment will, in all cases, test knowledge and understanding at the appropriate level.

Intellectual Skills:

Students will acquire, develop and apply advanced intellectual skills in classroom, field and VLE-based contexts. Students will achieve and exercise the required level of advanced intellectual skills through a rigorous and well-focused pattern of assessment practice.

Practical/Professional and Transferable Skills:

Experiential, individualised and self-directed teaching and learning strategies are used to enable students to develop personal, professional and transferable skills. Staff-led, peer-supported and independent strategies, which relate closely to relevant professional contexts, are manifest in the activities, studies and assessment practices undertaken.

