

Options with religious studies/theology

Your skills

In addition to the subject knowledge you gain from your course, you will also develop transferable skills which are highly valued by employers. These include:

- ability to research, analyse and synthesise different types of information;
- analytical ability and the capacity to formulate questions and solve problems;
- good organisational and time management skills;
- presentation skills;
- IT skills, including word-processing; accessing information from electronic and non-electronic sources; communicating by email and using the web;
- teamwork and communication skills gained through tutorials and group work;
- writing skills, including accurate referencing and clarity of expression;
- ability to analyse texts and understand the meaning of complex written documents;
- empathy and imaginative insight;
- ability to work methodically and accurately;
- independence of mind and initiative.

If you took language modules, you may also be able to read texts in a different language.

Don't forget the skills, knowledge and experience acquired through work experience or extracurricular activities. Work experience - paid or unpaid - will demonstrate that you have initiative and can apply the skills learned in your course to the workplace. It will also show that you're motivated, hard working and reliable. Activities like sport or being on a committee again prove that you can work in a team and have good communication and social skills.

Consider the skills developed on your course as well as through your other activities, such as paid work, volunteering, family responsibilities, sport, membership of societies, leadership roles, etc. Think about how these can be used as evidence of your skills and personal attributes. Then you can start to market and sell who you *really* are, identify what you may be lacking and consider how to improve your profile. Take a look at [applications, CVs and interviews](#) for some useful tips.

Job options

Jobs directly related to your degree

- [Higher education lecturer](#) (in theology/religious studies) - teaches academic or vocational subjects to undergraduate and postgraduate students from age 18 upwards. You may also undertake research activities.
- [Further education lecturer](#) (in theology/religious studies) - organises and teaches one or more subjects in a general or specialist college of FE, a tertiary college or a sixth form college.
- [Primary school teacher](#) or [Secondary school teacher](#) - develops work and lesson plans and teaches in line with curriculum objectives.
- [Social researcher](#) - designs, formulates and conducts social research projects.

Becoming a Minister of religion is another possible job option.

Jobs where your degree would be useful

- [Youth worker](#) - promotes the personal, political, educational and social development of young people aged between 11 and 25 (though more usually between 13 and 19).
- [Advice worker](#) - responds to requests for help from members of the public and assists clients by providing information and confidential advice on a wide range of issues.
- [Archivist](#) - plans and organises systems and procedures for the safekeeping of records and historically valuable documents. Archivists manage and maintain collections and help to make them more accessible to a wide range of users.
- [Broadcast journalist](#) - generates story ideas or follows leads, then pitches the story to a programme editor. Research and interviewing those connected to the story are an important part of the role.
- [Commissioning editor](#) - responsible for building up a publisher's book list. Specialisms include consumer books; fiction or non-fiction; or a particular genre such as children's books.
- [Information scientist](#) - works in a huge variety of roles relating to information management and provision. Types of information include scientific, technical, legal, commercial, financial and economic.
- [Office manager](#) - organises and supervises the administrative activities that facilitate the smooth running of an office.

Although some of the jobs listed here might not be first jobs for many graduates, they are among the many realistic possibilities with your degree, provided you can demonstrate you have the attributes employers are looking for. Bear in mind that it's not just your degree discipline that determines your options. Remember that many graduate vacancies don't specify particular degree disciplines, so don't restrict your thinking to the jobs listed here. Look at [your degree... what next?](#) for informed advice on career planning and graduate employment, or take a look at [what jobs would suit me?](#), a helpful starting point for self-analysis.

[Explore types of jobs](#) to find out more about the above options and related jobs.

Career areas

Religious studies/theology graduates develop specialist knowledge and a wide range of transferable skills. These are useful for careers in teaching; law; management; social, youth, community and advice work; administration; publishing; broadcasting; and local and national government jobs.

In 2008, six months after graduating, over half of new religious studies/theology graduates were in full- or part-time employment. Of these, over 40% went into professional, associate professional and technical occupations, including the Civil Service, the legal profession and the social care sector, 15% took up clerical and secretarial jobs, 10% became teachers and 8% went into commercial, industrial and public sector management. The remainder entered a wide variety of other professions and occupations.

Other graduates may opt instead for postgraduate study and undertake full- or part-time voluntary or paid work to gain experience or while waiting for their courses to begin.

Where are the jobs?

Religious studies/theology graduates work in a variety of different roles in every employment sector. Many are employed by schools, colleges and universities for teaching positions. A variety of public and private sector organisations employ graduates in administration, financial and general management positions including: the National Health Service; universities; financial and legal organisations; and local and national government agencies.

Additionally, a wide range of organisations recruit for roles in advertising, human resources (HR), marketing and sales. Libraries and universities recruit for information work; charities advertise for roles in fundraising. Television companies need people for positions in research, production and broadcasting. Publishing houses and newspaper/magazine groups employ graduates as researchers, writers and editors.

For an insight into potential employment areas see:

- [Education](#);
- [Legal services](#);
- [Government and public administration](#).

See [industry insights](#) for further information on possibilities in other employment areas.

Statistics are collected every year by the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) (<http://www.hesa.ac.uk>) to show what HE students do immediately after graduation. These can be a useful guide but, in reality, with the data being collected within just six months of graduation, many graduates are travelling, waiting to start a course, paying off debts, getting work experience or still deciding what they want to do. For further information about some of the areas of employment commonly entered by graduates of any degree discipline, check out [what do graduates do?](#) and [your degree...what next?](#)

Further study

A consistently high proportion of religious studies/theology graduates choose postgraduate study. In 2008, six months after graduation, nearly 30% had taken this option and a further 10% were combining work and further study. Large numbers enrol on teacher training courses for primary or secondary education. Some graduates want to deepen and increase their knowledge of religion/theology by taking directly related postgraduate courses. Typical subjects include: contextual theology; biblical studies; and the history of religion.

Other graduates choose to broaden their skills and knowledge base by enrolling on management and business-related courses. Graduates who want to enter particular fields opt for conversion qualifications in subjects such as law or IT.

These trends show only what previous graduates in your subject did immediately upon graduating. Over the course of their career - the first few years in particular - many others will opt for some form of further study, either part time or full time. If further study interests you, start by thinking [about postgrad study](#). [Find courses and research](#) of interest to you; you can also [apply for courses online](#).

Look at [funding my further study](#) for details relating to finance and the application process.

What next?

This should have started you thinking about your future. Whether you are in the early stages of career planning, or you have definite ideas about what you want to do, you will find further information to help you in the following sections:

- Analyse your skills, interests and motivations to find out [what jobs would suit me?](#)
- [Explore types of jobs](#) to find out about entry requirements, salaries and working conditions.
- See [industry insights](#) for hints on breaking into various industries.

- [Find graduate employers](#) and see what they have to offer.
- You may want to investigate [self-employment](#) or [flexible working](#).
- Look at the advice on [applications, CVs and interviews](#).
- Get [work experience](#) through vacation work or a work placement.
- [Find courses and research](#) and investigate postgraduate study opportunities.
- If you are thinking about taking time out, volunteering or travelling consider a [gap year](#) or explore [working and studying abroad](#).
- If you have already graduated, get online [interactive advice](#).
- Visit [your university careers service](#) for a wealth of advice and resources to help with your career planning.

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