



GO BEYOND BOUNDARIES

Theology and Religion

UNDERGRADUATE GUIDE



1ST IN SCOTLAND
for Overall Satisfaction in
Theology & Religious Studies

National Student Survey 2025

Why is Theology and Religion at the University of Aberdeen the best choice for me?

Theology and Religion has been a cornerstone of the University of Aberdeen since its foundation in 1495. Here, students in our Divinity department, affectionately known as 'Divines,' immerse themselves in a rich tradition of academic excellence. Most students pursue a degree in Theology and Religion, while those interested in ministry can opt for a degree in Divinity.

Ranked 1st in the UK for research by the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021, our programme offers unparalleled teaching and research. You will delve into all facets of theology and religion, joining an international community of students and leading scholars. Whether your interest is personal, vocational, or intellectual, the University of Aberdeen is the perfect place to explore your interests in theology and religion.

Explore your interests

Aberdeen is structured a little differently from other universities, and these differences make Aberdeen special. To help you get started let us explain the basics.

At the University of Aberdeen, we have created a programme that ensures our students enjoy a rich and rewarding learning experience. You can choose from a variety of subjects, including contemporary theologies of ethics and lived experience, Christian doctrine, the Bible, the history of the church, and Ancient Languages. Our diverse selection allows you to explore your personal interests throughout your degree programme.

University shouldn't just prepare you for your first job, but for the rest of your life.

Nicky Campbell OBE
TV and radio presenter & Aberdeen alumnus



A variety of approaches to study

Our Theology and Religion degree pathways involve the study of religion in its theological, historical, philosophical, literary, institutional and contemporary contexts. There are also Joint Degree opportunities which combine study of Theology and Religion with other disciplines.

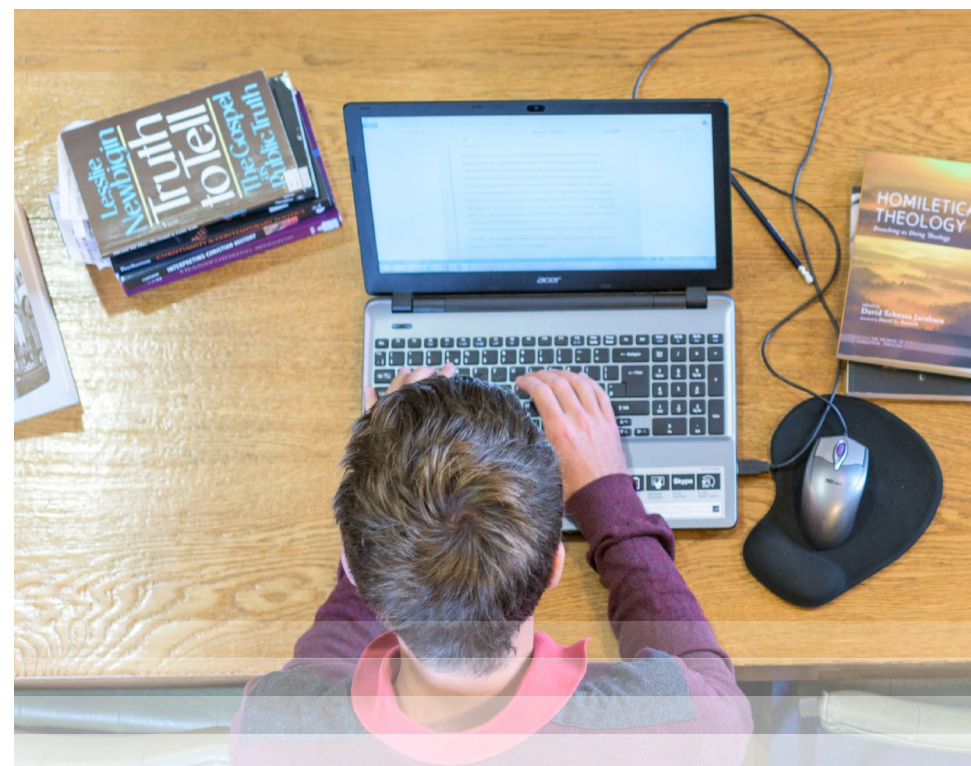
Years 1 and 2

- A History of Christian Mission
- Ancient Empires: Religion, Power and Politics
- Christianity in Scotland: The History and Theology of the Church in Scotland
- Exploring the New Testament
- God, Power, and Politics: Theology and the Public Square
- God, Sexuality and Identity
- Greek
- Hebrew
- History and Religion of Ancient Israel
- Introduction to Christian Theology
- Jesus to Calvin: The History of Christian Thought
- Latin
- Literature and Society in Ancient Israel
- Magic, Mystery, Spells, and Potions in Ancient World
- Pastoral Care
- Sacramental Theology
- The Theology and Practice of Preaching and Worship Leading
- The Practice of Biblical Interpretation
- The Rise of Christianity
- Utopia and Apocalypse
- What does it mean to be dead?
- What does it mean to be human?
- Why believe: Thinking about God and the Good

Our courses are offered on a biennial cycle, meaning students benefit from a broad subject choice. Examples of the types of courses that may be available are listed below.

Years 3 and 4

- Animals and Monsters in the Greek World
- Beautification and Defilement
- Christianity in Scotland
- Contemporary Issues in Practical Theology
- Creation and Cosmos in the Ancient World
- Encounters with Great Theologians
- Evil after Darwin
- God and Salvation in Gospels and Acts
- God, Power, Politics: Read New Testament Letters
- Major Themes in Christian Theology
- Readings in Philosophy of Religion
- Reformation, Reason and Revolt
- Theology in Divided World: Conflict, Peace, and Transformation
- Wine, Revelry and Dangerous Women



A day in the life of a Divinity student

Here is an example of a typical day as a 'Divine' studying towards a degree in Theology and Religion:



Exploring the New Testament Lecture - 11:00

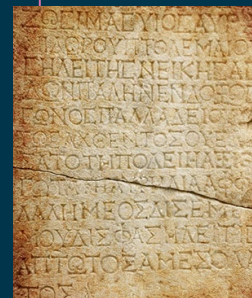
The New Testament is a small library of 27 texts, which have had a unique impact on Western civilization. This course explores the authors, situations, audiences, and themes of the texts of the New Testament; the diverse voices and genres across the New Testament; the relation of early Christian literature to its Jewish and Graeco-Roman contexts; and an overview of some major critical debates and approaches relevant to New Testament Studies.

God, Sexualities and Identity - 13:00

What is God's gender? Is religion inherently misogynistic? Explore gender, sexuality, and identity through the lens of religion in this course. You will be joined by an array of expert lecturers as they unravel the historical, philosophical, ethical, and theological dimensions of sexuality and identity. This course tackles pressing issues shaping our world today in an engaging and thought-provoking way.

Greek Language (New Testament) - 15:00

This course will introduce students to the form of Greek found in the New Testament and help students to begin to read and write in ancient Greek.



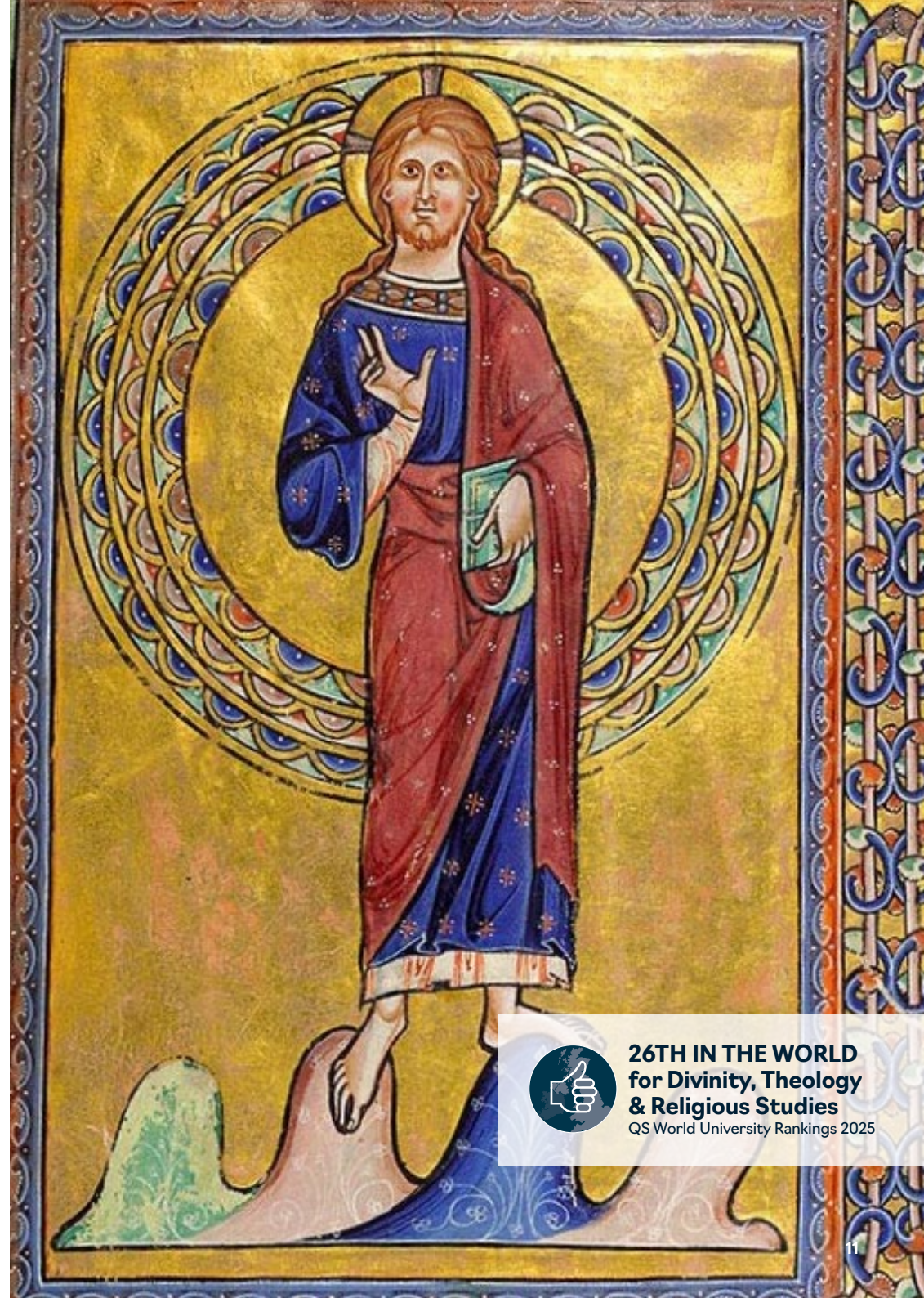
Magic, Mystery, Spells and Potions in the Ancient World - 16:00

This course focuses primarily focus on Greece, Rome and the Ancient Near East, from C16 BCE to C4 CE. Main themes of focus will include: What is magic?; Magical rituals: spells and potions; Practitioners of magic: the magoi, sorceress, prophetess; Magic and Religion: ancient mystery religion and Christianity; and Magic and Science: medicine and warfare.



The Department of Divinity

Our programmes in Theology and Religion nurture core transferable skills – such as critical reading, independent thinking, written and oral communication, and interpersonal abilities – that will be useful in whatever lies ahead for our students.



26TH IN THE WORLD
for Divinity, Theology
& Religious Studies
QS World University Rankings 2025



Sharing our Treasures

Students carry forward the vibrant 500 year-old tradition in their own subject-specific library hosted in the historic surrounds of the King's Quadrangle. They also enjoy spectacular views from the top floor of our state of the art new university library.



Studying Divinity in Aberdeen is fantastic because the faculty is very helpful and competent, and they are not afraid to ask the difficult questions in Theology. There is also a great sense of community among students and professors. I would recommend students choose Aberdeen for studying Theology and Religious Studies because the classes are engaging and challenging...

Angelika

Second-Year Student in Theology & Religious Studies



I came to the University of Aberdeen because of its reputation as an elite university, its distinguished theologians and scholars of religions, and its ancient tradition in theological studies. I deeply appreciate the diversity in the Divinity department. Its international faculty boasts a broad spectrum of research interests and methods.

Daniele

Second-Year Student in Theology & Religious Studies

Graduating class



Michael Poobalan

My time as an undergraduate student of Divinity at Aberdeen has been a privilege and a delight. There a lot of areas covered in the first two years of the course such as systematics, biblical studies, church history and practical theology, which allows plenty of time and opportunity to choose the area(s) you are most interested in.



The Faculty are extremely helpful and always assist you in any way they can when you require help. In addition, the teaching staff are renowned experts in their respective fields, which brought world-renowned figures such as Professor Stanley Hauerwas to the University.

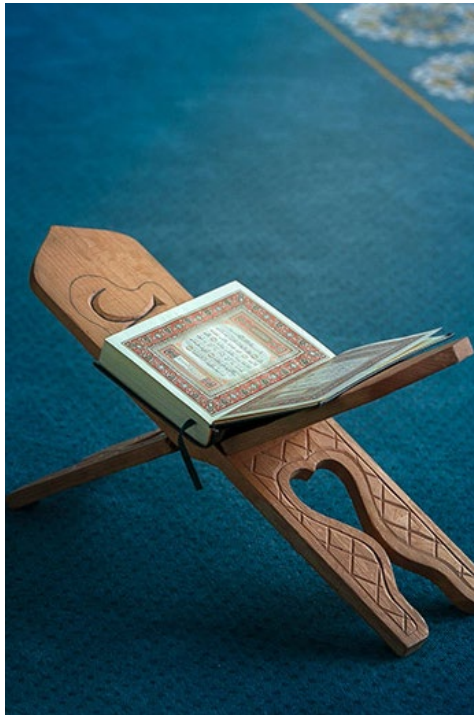
The campus is enticing, with a mix of both old and new architecture, and close together which makes travelling between classes easy.

The Divinity programme is a diverse and compelling course which I recommend to any aspiring theologian.



Emily Metcalf-Corrison

When looking for universities to study Divinity at, Aberdeen was the one that stood out from the rest. The support from the department is second to none and the courses themselves are taught with enthusiasm from the lecturers. The variety of courses offered in the different areas of theology have meant that I have been able to engage in interesting topics and ideas while also pursuing the areas that I wanted to focus on. In doing this course my life has been enriched in many areas, as it not only provides academic growth, but also you are given the opportunity to grow as a person. This course has allowed me opportunities that I would not have otherwise been able to have. The department not only offers great courses, but is also invested in hosting extra events, such as the Gifford Lectures which provide an enlightening arena to engage with current theological issues. I would highly recommend this programme to anyone who is interested in Theology/Divinity and Religious Studies as there are many opportunities offered to explore different avenues related to them due to the wide variety of courses offered.



5TH IN THE UK
for Theology
& Religious Studies
The Complete University Guide 2026

What sort of career could I enter?

Employers highly value what humanities students learn at University, focus groups and surveys show. Studying for a degree in Theology and Religion will allow you to develop research skills, critical thinking, empathy, problem solving and an understanding of different cultures and histories, all of which are vital in today's global workforce.

University offers an unparalleled opportunity for you to explore your career options alongside your academic studies. The Careers and Employability Service exists to provide you with tailored advice and guidance both whilst you are a registered student and for life after you graduate.

We offer a range of internships, job shadowing, mentoring and skills development programmes and have been recognised as excelling in the resources and support we provide to students; we were ranked 15th in the national 'RateMyPlacement Best 50 Universities for Work Experience Awards 2024', based on student-written reviews.



Julia Leng “

Careers and Employability Adviser

You have your own reason for studying Theology and Religion and that means that your career path will differ from other people's, too. My job is to help you find work that's right for you, taking into consideration your personal values, skills, motivations, and experience.'

How has your degree helped you get to where you are now?

“ I never thought I would have to deal with so many legal documents, yet, having to read and analyse primary sources really isn't any different from analysing a contract. Also, having to form an opinion and back it up in essays has formed a good basis in being a good negotiator. It is not just about what is on the piece of paper after four years, but all the skills you have gained along the way.

Buyer for a major supermarket chain

“ It gave me confidence in myself and in my ability with words. It taught me not to always accept the accepted version of events, to try to see the 'big picture', to empathise with the people involved. It was essential in being able to distinguish the critical items from the merely important and to present them in a concise, legible manner.

CEO, European manufacturing company

“ I quickly found that the training I'd had at Aberdeen... was an excellent preparation: skills in researching a subject, analysing it, and explaining conclusions orally and in writing.

Civil servant in the Scottish Office

10 reasons to choose Aberdeen

01 The academic strength you would expect from a 500 year old university – yet right at the forefront for careers in the 21st century

A thriving, cosmopolitan community with students from 130 countries set within a beautiful, historic campus that has seen five Nobel Prizes.

02 Choice and flexibility

At Aberdeen our degrees can be studied with many other subjects and is offered as single BD or BTh degrees or Joint MA degrees.

03 500 years of Divinity and Theology

We have a long-standing, global reputation for excellence in the study of theology and the Bible.

04 Unrivalled expertise

Our department has an international community of world-leading scholars and specialists in all aspects of theology and ministry, allowing you to progress your learning or career aspirations.

05 Opportunities to develop yourself and your interests

Not only academic qualifications to rival the best, but also personal, communication and teamwork skills to make you an all-round achiever in whatever you choose to do. We offer excellent on-campus facilities and over 220 clubs and societies for students to join.

06 The very best learning resources

Our Divinity library is home to a collection of theological resources and materials exclusive to Divinity, Theology and Religious Studies students.

07 A supportive community

A self-contained friendly campus in a friendly city; we will do everything we can to help you feel at home quickly. We have excellent support services to ensure you have access to all the support and guidance you might need - academic, personal, medical or financial.

08 First class accommodation

All new students are guaranteed a place in student accommodation, either on the campus or close by - so no need to set the alarm too early!

09 A buzzing, friendly city that has it all

Aberdeen is everything a student city should be and more! Historic, international, fashionable and friendly.

10 We're connected!

Daily scheduled flights from Aberdeen International Airport mean we are just 90-minutes from London, Dublin, and Amsterdam. There are also trains and buses departing every hour from Aberdeen city centre to Edinburgh, Glasgow, Dundee, and the rest of Scotland.



Any questions? Phone us on 01224 272090 or email study@abdn.ac.uk




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