Durham University

Durham University
Faculty Handbook Online
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These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's core regulations for undergraduate programmes, and the marking and classification conventions for undergraduate programmes.

BA RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE (V617)
BA RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE (With Year Abroad) (V618)
BA RELIGION, SOCIETY AND CULTURE (With Placement) (V619)

1. This programme is available at Durham City, in full-time and part-time modes of study.

Level 1 (Certificate)

2. Candidates must study and be assessed in the following modules to the value of 80 credits:

		Credit value
Worldview, Faith and Identity	THEO1131	20
Introduction to the History of Christianity	THEO1171	20
Islam Observed: Ethnographic Accounts of Muslim Practice	THEO1951	20
Research Workshop in Theology and Religion	THEO1961	20

3. Candidates shall also study and be assessed in modules to the value of 40 credits from List A:

List A		**Credit value**
People and Cultures	ANTH1061	20
Societies in Transition	SOCI1312	40
Classical Sociological Theory	SOCI1331	20
New Testament Greek	THEO1161	20
Introduction to Christian Theology	THEO1191	20
Introduction to the Bible: Texts, History and Culture	THEO1931	20
Sources of The Self	LIBA1011	20
Level 1 open modules offered by other Boards of Studies up to the value of 20 credits (including appropriate credit-bearing language modules offered by the University's Centre for Foreign Language Study).		

Level 2 (Diploma)

4. Candidates must study and be assessed in the following modules to the value of 40 credits:

		Credit value
Research Project and Colloquium in Theology and Religion	THEO2461	20
Death, Ritual and Belief	THEO2231	20

5. Candidates shall study and be assessed in modules to the value of 40 credits by choosing one 20 credit module from each of lists List B1 and B2 below:

List B1 Michaelmas		**Credit value**
Catholic Theology in the Modern World	THEO2491	20
Theology and Comedy	THEO2681	20
War and Faith in Great Britain and the United States, c. 1690-1990	THEO2701	20

List B2 Epiphany		**Credit value**
Decolonising the Bible	THEO2641	20
Holy Spirit in Christian Theology and the Life of the Church	THEO2711	20

6. Candidates shall study and be assessed in modules to the value of 40 from List C:

List C		**Credit value**
New Testament Theology	THEO2051	20
Syriac	THEO2061	20
Reading the New Testament in Greek	THEO2271	20

Atheism, Belief and the Edge of Reason	THEO2361	20
Topics in Christian Ethics	THEO2381	20
Early Christian Doctrine: Trinity and Christology	THEO2391	20
The Though of St Bonaventure	THEO2591	20
Biblical Hebrew	THEO2651	20
Modern and Contemporary Sociological Theory (pre-req SOCI 1331)	SOCI2261	20
Communities and Social Justice	SOCI2301	20
Level 2 open modules offered by other Boards of Studies up to the value of 40 credits (including appropriate credit-bearing language modules to the value of 20 credits offered by the University's Centre for Foreign Language Study).		

Level 3 (Degree)

7. Candidates must study and be assessed in the following module to the value of 40 credits:

		Credit value
Dissertation ~	THEO3232	40

8. Candidates shall study and be assessed in modules to the value of 80 credits from List D:

List D		**Credit value**
The Body as Data: Technology, Power and Human Rights	SOCI3657	10
Gender, Health and Medicine	SOCI3997	10
Issues in Old Testament Studies	THEO3291	20
Religion and Film	THEO3441	20
Christian Fundamentalism and the Modern World	THEO3501	20
Theology through Literature, Music and the Arts	THEO3781	20
Making Christians in the Early Church	THEO3911	20
Queer Theology	THEO3921	20
Religion, Violence and Peacebuilding	THEO3941	20
The Cross of Christ	THEO3791	20
The Theology of Thomas Aquinas	THEO3691	20
Advanced Greek Texts	THEO3051	20
Intermediate Hebrew	THEO3951	20
Level 3 open modules offered by other Boards of Studies up to the value of 20 credits (including appropriate credit-bearing language modules to the value of 20 credits offered by the University's Centre for Foreign Language Study)		

Assessment, progression and award

9. With reference to the Core Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes pt 13 *"Where undergraduate modules are delivered entirely in a single term, students undertaking such modules should be permitted to take no more than 70 credits in total in a single term."*

10. Modules marked with a ~ must be passed at 40% or above for the award of an honours degree. A mark of 30-39% cannot be compensated.

11. Exceptionally for academic year 2025/26 only, candidates may, with the written permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, take 20 credits of programme-specific Level 1 modules during Level 2 study (subject to timetable compatibility).

12. Exceptionally for academic year 2025/26 only, candidates may, with the written permission of the Director of Undergraduate Studies, take 20 credits of programme-specific Level 2 modules during Level 3 study (subject to timetable compatibility).

Year 3 (Year abroad)

13. Students admitted to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) are able to apply to transfer to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) programme (V618).

14. Candidates wishing to transfer to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) (V618) must:

    a. have successfully completed Level 1 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) and progressed to Level 2 of the programme; and

b. during the first term of Level 2 study, apply to the Board of Studies in the Department of Theology and Religion to be admitted to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) (V618) and have their application approved by the Department's International Placements Coordinator; and

c. secure an international placement abroad/year abroad opportunity, agreed with the Department Exchange Co-ordinator; and

d. successfully complete Level 2 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) so as to be eligible to progress to Level 3 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617).

15. Students undertaking the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) (V618) will undertake an approved study placement in an overseas university taking a course of study chosen in consultation with the programme director and the host institution. During this year, at least half of the modules taken at the host university must be in the study of religion.

16. During the year abroad students will be assessed at module level by the host University. Assessment does not contribute to the marks used to determine the award of the degree but successful completion is required to qualify for the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) (V618).

17. Students whom the Board of Examiners for the Department of Theology and Religion deem to have made satisfactory progress on the year abroad will continue to Level 3 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) (V618). Students who have not made satisfactory progress on the year abroad will not be permitted to continue on the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Year Abroad) (V618) programme, but must instead proceed to Level 3 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) programme.

Year 3 (Placement)

18. Students admitted to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) are able to apply to transfer to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement) programme (V619). Students taking the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement) (V619) will undertake an approved placement in a UK or overseas organisation consisting of at least 40 weeks of professional-level work experience.

    Following the placement year, students will be required to successfully complete a placement assessment as agreed by the Department, to determine whether the programme learning outcomes have been met. Assessment does not contribute to the marks used to determine the award of the degree but successful completion is required to qualify for the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement) (V619). If a student fails, they will transfer to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) programme.

19. Candidates wishing to transfer to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement) (V619) must:

    a. have successfully completed Level 1 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) and progressed to Level 2 of the programme; and

    b. during the first term of Level 2 study, apply to the Board of Studies in the Department of Theology to be admitted to the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement) (V619) and have their application approved by the Chair of the Board of Studies; and

    c. secure a placement / year abroad opportunity comprising at least 40 weeks of professional level work experience, agreed with the Departmental Placement Year Convenor and Faculty Placement Officer; and

    d. successfully complete Level 2 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617) so as to be eligible to progress to Level 3 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (V617).

20. Students whom the Board of Examiners for the Department of Theology deem to have fulfilled the programme learning outcomes and who successfully pass the placement assessment will continue to Level 3 of the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement Year) (V619). Students who fail will not be permitted to continue on the BA Religion, Society and Culture (with Placement Year) (V619) programme, but must instead proceed to the final year of the BA Religion, Society and Culture programme (V617).