



CAREERS IN **RELIGIOUS STUDIES**

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The Open
University



CAREERS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Contrary to the general misconception that the only career open to a student of Religious Studies is the priesthood, there are a large number of career pathways that are open to you. The top careers are:

1. Advertising
2. Archivist (Museums and Libraries)
3. Charity work
4. Human Resources
5. Law
6. Politics / Civil Service
7. Media (journalism)
8. Medicine
9. Publishing
10. Social / Public services
11. Teaching

And 'yes', the church.

For further info, go to www.open.ac.uk/Arts/religious-studies

The employability skills you gain from studying Religious Studies are transferable to most careers:

- Clear and logical thinking
- Critical evaluation
- Literacy and expression
- Negotiating
- Organising
- Planning
- Problem solving
- Research
- Working to deadlines

WHERE TO FIND JOB ADVERTS IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

As you can see, there are a wide variety of careers open to you, having completed a Religious Studies degree. Some have specialist online recruitment websites or can be found in local and national newspapers on their recruitment pages.

EXAMPLES:

For teaching jobs: www.tes.co.uk

Specific charities may well have a 'job vacancies' tab on their website – e.g. on the Oxfam website, you can click on 'what we do' – 'about us' – 'working at Oxfam', to see current vacancies.

www.jobs.the-guardian.com is an example of a national newspaper website dedicated to advertising current vacancies.

DEGREES IN RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Information about degrees

At degree level, courses usually go under the title of 'Theology' or 'Philosophy and Ethics' or there is also 'PPE' (Philosophy, Politics and Economics).

The top universities offering degrees in the subject, according to the complete university guide (www.thecompleteuniversityguide.co.uk) are:

- Durham
- Cambridge
- Oxford
- Exeter
- St Andrews
- Birmingham
- Aberdeen
- Lancaster
- Bristol
- Sheffield
- Edinburgh

Look at the websites for individual institutions, to find out the specific content of their degree courses.

GRADUATE PROSPECTS

According to the website, www.prospects.ac.uk/options, graduates in Religious Studies were employed in the following areas:

- Legal, social and welfare (27.7%)
- Retail, catering and bar work (14.1%)
- Secretarial and numerical clerks (10.3%)
- Caring and educational work (10.2%)
- Other (37.7%) – reflecting the wide range of jobs available to graduates

Overall employability rates are high due to the transferable skills mentioned above.

Work Experience

This will depend on the career path you select, from the many open to you as a Religious Studies graduate. Most likely you will be looking for work experience opportunities in media; legal, public or social services; advertising and publishing.

CELEBRITIES WHO STUDIED RELIGIOUS STUDIES

Ricky Gervais / Hugh Bonneville / Ed and David Milliband / Miles Jupp / Aung San Su Kyi / Matt Groening /
JB Gill / Martin Luther King / General Sir Richard Barrons / Christy Turlington / Iris Murdoch / Katy Brand /
Evan Davis / Krishnan Guru-Murthy / Monica Ali / Chad Varah / Elizabeth W. Grant (Lana Del Ray)

