

Religious Studies | Leiden | 2019-2020

Mission of the Programme

Religion permeates culture and society across the world. The number of people affiliating with a religious tradition will rise to 87 % in 2050 (from 84 % now). Religion is intimately connected with education, health care, politics and international relations – and this will not change anytime soon. The Religious Studies programme in Leiden has as its mission to educate students to be ambassadors of religious literacy – i.e. to spread knowledge of religion in their job functions as teachers, journalists, civil servants, and NGO workers.

Structure of the Programme

In 2019, we start with a completely revised programme.

Semester 1 (Autumn)	Semester 2 (Spring)
Religion Explained: From Cognitive Foundations to Social Realities (10 EC core course)	Elective or Internship or Fieldwork (10 EC)
Religion on the Move: From Local Origins to Global Networks (10 EC core course)	Job Market Preparation and Thesis Seminar (5 EC)
Elective (10 EC)	Thesis (15 EC)

- **Religion Explained** offers a coherent set of theories to explain how religion works on the cognitive, cultural, and social levels. Students also learn to turn these theories into effective analytical instruments to help them study what they are most interested in.
- **Religion on the Move** looks at how religions move in modern times. Major case studies include Christianity in Africa and European Islam. The course also looks at religious diversity in the Netherlands, home to two of the world's four most religiously diverse cities (Amsterdam and Rotterdam).
- **Electives** are offered on the world's major religious traditions, in various areas of the world, and from antiquity till the present time.
- **Internship** opportunities include both internal internships (for example connected to the ongoing research of a staff member) and external internships.
- The **Job Market Preparation** module is unique among Leiden University's master programmes. Students are actively involved in organising relevant workshops and maintaining contact with alumni. We are proud that 93 % of our students find a job within two months after graduating.

More information

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