We make every effort to ensure that entry requirements are up-to-date in our printed literature. However, because brochures are produced well in advance, our entry requirements and offers may be subject to change.

For up to date details regarding entry requirements and programme specifics, please see our Theology and Religion pages at www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology

We strongly advise that you check this before attending an Open Day or making your application. Some programmes require prior study of specific subjects and may also have minimum grade requirements at GCSE or equivalent, particularly in English Language and/or Mathematics.

**International students**
The University recognises a wide range of international qualifications as well as A levels and the International Baccalaureate. You can find further information about academic and English language entry requirements at www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/international

For information on the application, decision, offer and confirmation process, please visit www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/applications

**STREATHAM CAMPUS, EXETER**
Website: www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology
Email: hums-ugadmissions@exeter.ac.uk
Phone: +44 (0)1392 724202
Theology and Religion

1st in the National Student Survey 20141

Ranked top 10 in all major UK university league tables for the subject

2nd in the UK for world-leading and internationally excellent research2

Varied programme including biblical studies, Judaism and Christianity, philosophy of religion, ethics, science and religion, and art history

Flexibility to customise your degree around your own interests

Opportunities to take a work placement, field trips or study abroad

Theology is one of the most challenging and stimulating subjects you can study. Religion is a major factor in shaping the world we live in and all religions raise ethical and philosophical questions which are among the most basic and important we face as human beings: Is there a meaning and purpose to human existence? Is there a god or gods? How should we understand good and evil? How do we decide what’s right or wrong in relation to war and peace, birth and death, sex, and the environment? Can we better understand the tensions in Eastern Europe, the Middle East or Northern Ireland if we first understand the religious traditions that often separate communities from one another?

Studying Theology and Religion at Exeter gives you the opportunity to wrestle with these questions in depth, through a disciplined and rigorous framework. Good theology engages with the political, cultural and social issues that affect our lives and communities, and we offer a demanding and rewarding programme enabling you to develop a wide range of skills that will stretch your intellectual abilities to the full. You’ll work as a historian, literary critic and philosopher; all essential skills that you’ll need to fully equip you for a wide range of future careers.

Our department is welcoming and supportive, with a lively and dynamic team of scholars of theology, religion, history, ethics, philosophy of religion, biblical studies and anthropology. We pride ourselves on the quality of our undergraduate programmes, and our staff are at the forefront of innovative research; our research feeds directly into your undergraduate studies, ensuring you are taught cutting-edge ideas that are relevant to contemporary society. Our research interests and teaching expertise span a wide range of subject areas, with particular research strengths in biblical studies, the reception of Christian and Jewish traditions, disability studies, religion in the public sphere, sex and gender, and religious art and architecture.

Our broad and varied curriculum spanning theology and religion, ethics and philosophy and biblical studies is taught by enthusiastic staff and goes well beyond many of the issues you may have explored at A level. You will have the chance to study outside the lecture room with options to take field trips, a work placement or study abroad. You don’t have to be religious to find the issues our Theology and Religion programmes raise, or the ways in which we tackle them, compelling. Our friendly department is made up of students and staff with diverse opinions and ideas about religion and faith, atheism and secularism. All you need is the desire to study with enthusiasm and an open mind.

1 based on the average percentage of positive responses across all survey categories for full service universities
2 Research Excellence Framework 2014 based on percentage of research categorised 4* and 3*
Our degrees offer a stimulating and rewarding combination of topics and approaches. You will receive a solid grounding in the core subjects that are fundamental to the study of theology (for example, biblical studies, historical and contemporary theology and ethics), and you’ll also be able to explore more specialised areas through optional modules. These include familiar topics like the relationship between science and religion or feminist theology, and less familiar ideas like the built environment or depictions of heaven and hell throughout the ages.

We’re concerned with understanding both tradition – what was thought then – and our own contemporary world in theological perspective. You’ll be taught by academics who are active in research and enthusiastic about their subject, so that you encounter the latest thinking and innovative approaches to their disciplines.

How your degree is structured
Our programmes are divided into core and optional modules, giving you the flexibility to structure your degree according to your specific interests. Individual modules are worth 15 or 30 credits each, and full-time undergraduates need to take 120 credits in each year. Within Theology and Religion, in addition to the core modules, you can choose from an extensive range of options in all three years, some examples of which are shown later in this brochure.

For up-to-date details of all our programmes and modules, please check www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology
**Single Honours**

**BA Theology and Religion**

The BA in Theology and Religion gives you an excellent grounding in all areas essential for a good understanding of these disciplines, from biblical studies to the relationship between Judaism and Christianity, church history and Christian cultures; and modern theology to philosophy and ethics. The programme enables you to explore the contexts, development and meanings of the texts of the Hebrew Bible and the New Testament, with the option of studying the texts in the original languages. You’ll study a wide range of Christian and Jewish thought, including aspects of the relationship between the Abrahamic faiths; the critical questions, philosophical, political, ethical and historical, raised in the modern and post-modern world about religion.

You will be able to customise your degree by choosing from a long list of modules covering issues as diverse as sexuality, criminal justice, feminism, the environment, science, anthropology, evolution, art, the body, the soul, heaven and hell, heresy, morality and ethics, martyrs and pilgrimage, life after death and the study of religions.

Opportunities are available to add value to your studies by undertaking field trips, a work placement, or studying abroad. You can also take modules in Biblical Hebrew or New Testament Greek, or take credits in the departments of Arab and Islamic Studies, Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology, Politics, History or Classics, many of which offer modules directly related to theology, world religions, ethics and philosophy.

**Year 1** In your first year most of the modules are core in order to give you a solid grounding in the broad areas of study essential to theology: The Bible: Past and Present; Christian Origins; From Jesus to the Early Church; Introducing Christian Theologies; Judaisms in Transition: Crises and Innovations; Philosophy of Religion and Christian Ethics; and Religion in the Modern World. You can also choose from a range of optional modules to begin exploration into more specific areas such as: Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics; Atonement and Salvation; Introducing Biblical Hebrew; Intermediate Biblical Hebrew; Elements of New Testament Greek; Intermediate New Testament Greek.

**Years 2 and 3** All modules in your second and third years are optional (except for the final year dissertation) enabling you to pursue your particular interests across diverse areas, including: Art in Syria and the Holy Land at the Time of the Crusades; Blasphemy and the Abrahamic Faiths; Deviant Bodies: Disability Studies and the New Testament; Evolution, God and Gaia; Legends of the Fall; Scribes, Apostles and Sages; Reading Augustine through the Confessions; Theology and Criminal Justice.

**Combined Honours**

**BA Classical Studies and Theology**

*No previous knowledge of Latin, Greek or Hebrew is required.*

This programme gives you a great opportunity to combine the challenge of exploring the culture and thought of the ancient world with the study of theology. Both disciplines focus on literary, historical, religious, cultural, political, philosophical and ethical issues debated in the ancient world – issues which continue to impact the world today.

Your study time will be divided equally between the two subjects, combining core modules in the first two years about classical epistemology, metaphysics and moral philosophy, with the philosophy of religion, Christian ethics and doctrine. In the third year you will study optional modules chosen from a diverse range across both philosophy and theology, and you will also write a dissertation on a philosophical or theological topic of your choice.

**Flexible Combined Honours**

Our innovative Flexible Combined Honours scheme enables you to combine modules from a number of different fields of study not otherwise available through an existing Combined Honours programme. You can combine Theology with up to two other subjects from an extensive list. Throughout your degree you will be given regular support to help you choose the most appropriate pathway for you. Further information and the full list of available subjects can be found at [www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/flexible](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/flexible)
LEARNING AND TEACHING

The nature of university learning, especially in the humanities, involves a lot of self-directed study and research. As well as traditional lectures, seminars, and small group tutorials, led by internationally respected academics at the forefront of research, you’ll be encouraged to take the initiative by organising study groups, taking advantage of online and traditional learning resources, and managing your own workload and time.

Class sizes and contact time
Your class sizes will be on average 25-35 students for lectures and 10-15 students for seminars, and you’ll have 10 hours of contact time with staff per week in your first year. You’ll also need to allow for additional hours of private study and should expect your total workload to average about 40 hours per week during term time.

Strong emphasis is placed on acquiring a variety of skills that will be attractive to employers in your future working life. Modules are specially designed to help you develop a range of intellectual, transferable and personal skills throughout your degree programme. Our Student-Staff Liaison Committee meets once a term to review existing modules, consider new ones and discuss ways the department can be improved.

Innovative teaching
Our approach to Theology and Religion is interdisciplinary and relates the broad areas studied to politics, social sciences, the arts, literary studies and more. We’re actively engaged in introducing new methods of learning and teaching, including increasing use of interactive computer-based approaches to learning through our virtual learning environment, where the details of all modules are stored in an easily navigable website. Students can access detailed information about modules and learning outcomes and interact through activities such as discussion forums.

In your final year you will write a dissertation on a topic of your choice, so you can examine a question of interest to you in detail, and apply the skills you have acquired during your degree.

Other opportunities
Each year we arrange various guest lectures and study days led by visiting speakers, including the series of Prideaux Lectures hosted every other year. Past lecturers have included Tom Wright, Sarah Coakley, Nicholas Lash, Robin Gill, James Dunn, John Rogerson, and Christopher Rowland.

Research-inspired teaching
We believe that every student benefits from being part of a culture that is inspired by research and where modules are taught by experts. Your lecturers will be contributing to the latest developments in their field and their teaching will be highly relevant to contemporary issues. We have a vigorous research culture spanning a wide range of subject areas with particular strengths in theology, ethics, social contexts and public issues.

Academic support
All students have a personal tutor who is available for advice and support throughout your time here. There are various other services on campus providing advice, information and support, including the Students’ Guild Advice Unit. You can find further information about all the services in the University’s undergraduate prospectus or online at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate

Study abroad
Studying at Exeter offers you the exciting possibility of spending up to one year abroad studying at a partner institution. Last year almost 500 Exeter students studied at one of our partner universities, which are in more than 40 countries around the world. Studying abroad can help you learn a new language and experience different cultures, become more self-confident and widen your circle of friends. You could get the chance to specialise in areas not available at Exeter, and when it comes to a career, your skills and knowledge of another country will prove invaluable to many employers. This of course applies equally to overseas students coming to study abroad at Exeter.

You can apply directly for our four-year programmes or transfer from another programme once you’re here. Full details of these schemes and our partner institutions can be found on our website at www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/studyabroad

Further details can be found on the International Office website at www.exeter.ac.uk/international/study/erasmus

Assessment
Assessment is based on essays, seminar presentations and exams. In the second and third year, coursework, including assessed seminar presentations and essays, can account for well over half of your assessment depending on which modules you choose.

Your first year does not count towards your final degree classification, but you do have to pass it in order to progress. If you study a three-year programme, assessments in the final two years both count towards your classification, and if you study a four-year programme then the final three years all contribute.

For full details of the assessment criteria for each module, check the undergraduate section of our website at www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology
Our programmes give you an excellent all-round education, where you will learn to understand other people’s points of view, to communicate your own position clearly and to argue effectively. You will also learn to collect, assess and present evidence and to work independently and in groups. Our programmes are demanding and encourage initiative and open mindedness, helping to ensure that you’ll be well equipped with a range of academic, personal and professional skills that will prepare you for future employment.

Our careers service runs a number of schemes which encourage you to participate in employability related workshops, skills events, volunteering and employment which will contribute to your career decision-making skills and success in the employment market.

Exeter has an excellent reputation with graduate recruiters, and our students and graduates compete very successfully in the employment market. Many employers target the University when recruiting new graduates.

Further information about what the careers service at Exeter offers can be found at [www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/careers](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/careers)

---

**CAREERS**

The Theology programme at Exeter is probably best described as a mental tin opener; rather than programming you, it opens your mind to the world and what may lie beyond it. I still remember leaving the room after our opening ‘Introduction to Theology’ lecture in the first year with a bemused face and sense of excitement, after we had been challenged by the idea that ‘theology is the exploration of the suggestion that in all reality, love might be final.’ The course and department fully embraces this exploratory nature, and with great student-staff relationships I’ve enjoyed having my horizons massively broadened here.

Benjamin Humphris, BA Theology

---

**Examples of the destinations of our recent graduates:**

**Occupations**

- Dentist // Development Foundation Programme Tutor // Learning Support Worker // Lecturer // Ministry Trainee // Nurse // Publicity and Fundraising Manager // Registry Officer // Teacher // Team Vicar // Youth and Families Worker

**Employers**

- Teach First // BBC // Devon County Council // St Michaels and All Angels Church // Soho House Group // Purple PR // Global Action Plan // Financial Times

**Examples of further study followed by our graduates:**

- MA Theology and Youth Ministry, Kings College London
- MA Theology, University of Exeter
- MSc Development and Security, University of Bristol
- MA Applied Criminal Justice and Criminology, Swansea University
- MA Religion and Culture, University of Birmingham
- MA Religious Conflict, University of Nottingham
- PGCE Religious Education, University of Oxford
- PhD in Oriental Studies, University of Cambridge
Please note that availability of all modules is subject to timetabling constraints and that not all modules are available every year. The modules detailed below are just examples of those offered recently. For up-to-date details of all our programmes and modules, please check [www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology](http://www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology).

## Example module details

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Module Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>The Bible: Past and Present</strong></td>
<td>This core module will introduce and interrogate the Bible not only as a library of ancient books reflective of the interests and ideologies of their authors and original contexts, but also as a material object, icon and persistent influence (for good and ill) in contemporary cultures. You will gain methodological skills of interpreting biblical texts through engagement with key cultural themes (ancient and modern) including religion, identity, politics, place and displacement, and body and gender.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Christian Origins: From Jesus to the Early Church</strong></td>
<td>This module will give you an introduction to the emergence of Christianity, in its diverse and varied forms, through the first six centuries of its existence. It will give you a sense of the context in which these developments took place, the historical sources at our disposal, the debates and divisions that occurred, and the diversity of modern scholarly approaches and perspectives.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Judaisms in Transition: Crises and Innovations</strong></td>
<td>This core module focuses upon the changes in Jewish thought that have developed out of historical crises. The case studies considered span antiquity to the present day and highlight the evolution in Jewish identities and tradition. They include the destruction of the first and second temples, the rise of Christianity and Islam, the Enlightenment and the rise of Hasidism and Zionism.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Introducing Christian Theologies</strong></td>
<td>This module introduces some primary concepts associated with the study of theology in the West Christian tradition. You will be introduced to the major sources of Christian theology, scripture, tradition, reason and experience, and the ways in which these have been understood to interrelate. Students will engage with the language of theological study and be introduced to major areas of Christian doctrinal theology, such as creation, theological anthropology, evil and suffering, the doctrine of God, Christology, pneumatology, eschatology, soteriology and ecclesiology.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Dead Sea Scrolls</strong></td>
<td>This module will introduce and analyse the Dead Sea Scrolls, in English, discussing the various genres found within them, such as Rewritten Bible, Apocalypse, Communal Texts, Liturgy, Magic and Pesharim, with attention to authorship, context and significance for the origins of Judaism and Christianity.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Deviant Bodies: Disability Studies and the New Testament</strong></td>
<td>This module introduces you to the themes and methodologies of disability studies through close readings of specific New Testament texts. You will consider the contribution of these readings to the historical understanding of those perceived as 'disabled' to incorporate sensory, physical and mental impairments. This will further inform your thinking in relation to the potential for freeing disabled communities from current attitudes to disability.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Evolution, God and Gaia</strong></td>
<td>This module examines the rise and development of evolutionary theory and explores the challenges it continues to pose for Christianity. You'll examine the issues evolutionary theory raises concerning the suffering of non-human creatures and the character and behaviour of humans.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Art in Syria and the Holy Land at the Time of the Crusades</strong></td>
<td>You’ll be invited to examine the art-historical and architectural impact of the Crusades on Syria and the Holy Land (modern Syria, Lebanon, Israel, Palestine and Jordan). You’ll concentrate primarily on the earlier Crusades and explore the beliefs and material culture brought from the west by the Crusaders, as well as study the native art and culture of the region.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Heaven and Hell Throughout the Ages</strong></td>
<td>This module traces the development of Christian doctrines of heaven and hell from the period of the Early Church to the present day. You’ll assess the social and political factors affecting belief in or the denial of hell, examine concepts such as purgatory and the role of the Devil, and engage with debates about war, the holocaust, universal salvation, and evangelical views of hell.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The Bible is probably the best known collection of texts in the Western world, and yet there’s still so much we don’t know about the cultures lying behind these texts. My research focuses on the cultures giving rise to the Hebrew Bible, in particular, the religious realities of these cultures – what people believed about the gods and other divine beings and how they expressed their beliefs through rituals, myths and social practice and this feeds directly into my undergraduate teaching.

Professor Francesca Stavrakopoulou
Head of Theology and Religion,
Professor in Hebrew Bible and Ancient Religion
**Introduction to Biblical Hermeneutics**

Questions about the appropriate way to use the Bible constantly arise in theology. Is it simply one fallible historical source among others? Is it the prime authority for Christian thought and practice? Is it historically trustworthy? You’ll explore these issues by investigating different forms of Biblical interpretation, and in doing so, develop the means to articulate and critique your own approach.

**Reading Augustine through the Confessions**

The module engages with one of the most influential works in western literature. You will investigate to what extent is it ‘autobiography’? How do Augustine’s reflections on his life relate to his conceptions of memory, time, desire and God? How should Augustine’s encounters with his mother, lovers, friends and teachers be interpreted? What can be learned about his aims in writing? How has the text been read? You will approach the text from literary, historical, theological and philosophical methods of interpretation.

**Scribes, Apostles and Sages: Early Jewish Biblical Exegesis**

In this module you’ll explore scribal activity and Jewish biblical exegesis by examining various Jewish texts including the Bible, Pseudepigrapha, the Dead Sea Scrolls, Mishnah and the Talmud. Linked themes and topics are considered at each stage, providing a combination of a chronological and thematic treatment of the various texts.

**Theology and Criminal Justice**

This module is designed to help you explore the connections between religion and criminal justice, as well as the implications of Christian doctrines such as justification for our understanding of the treatment of offenders. You’ll also become familiar with the main lines of the contemporary debate about criminal justice; considering the ethics of present policies for dealing with offenders.

**Blasphemy and the Abrahamic Faiths**

This module will focus on the evolving concept of blasphemy as articulated in Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Attention will be given to exploring how notions of blasphemy have historically interacted with understandings of sacredness, and enabled religious communities to establish boundaries of acceptable speech and action. You’ll also consider the changing relationship between blasphemy and law, with consideration given to whether governments should legislate against the religiously offensive.

**Critical readings in Theology and Religion**

You’ll be able to study this module if you have successfully completed relevant studies at Stages 1 and 2 to engage in close study of a specific text, in English, or in English translation. Each year, the department will offer supervision in a particular text or texts. Working with an allocated supervisor, you’ll have the chance to undertake independent (but guided) study, introducing you to skills and approaches relevant to research.

**Ways of Christian Living in the 4th and 5th Centuries**

You’ll learn about different forms of religious life in the 4th and 5th centuries and explore the connections between early Christian beliefs and the implications of these for ethics and politics. Key topics include the idealisation of virginity; the beginnings of Cappadocian monasticism; almsgiving and the development of hospitals; martyr cults and pilgrimage; and the role of women and slaves in Christian communities.
ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY OF EXETER

1st in the Russell Group for student satisfaction according to the National Student Survey 2014

7th in The Times and The Sunday Times Good University Guide 2015

Our teaching is inspired by our research, 82% of which was ranked as world-leading or internationally excellent in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework

Six months after graduation, 93% of our first degree graduates were in employment or further study (HESA 2012/13)

VISIT US TO FIND OUT MORE

Open Days
You can register your interest now for our Open Days and receive priority access to book your place*; visit www.exeter.ac.uk/opendays.

* Pre-registration guarantees priority access to the booking system and is not an absolute guarantee of a place at any of our Open Days. Booking is essential and is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Exeter campuses:
Friday 5 June 2015
Saturday 6 June 2015
Saturday 5 September 2015

Campus Tours
We run campus tours at the Streatham Campus each weekday, and at St Luke’s Campus on Tuesdays and Fridays during term time. You’ll be shown around by a current student, who’ll give you a first-hand account of what it’s like to live and study at the University.

Phone: +44 (0)1392 724043
Email: visitus@exeter.ac.uk

www.exeter.ac.uk/ug/theology

Find us on Facebook and Twitter:
www.facebook.com/exeteruni
www.twitter.com/uniofexeter

This document forms part of the University’s Undergraduate Prospectus. Every effort has been made to ensure that the information contained in the Prospectus is correct at the time of going to print. The University will endeavour to deliver programmes and other services in accordance with the descriptions provided on the website and in this prospectus. The University reserves the right to make variations to programme content, entry requirements and methods of delivery and to discontinue, merge or combine programmes, both before and after a student’s admission to the University. Full terms and conditions can be found at www.exeter.ac.uk/undergraduate/applications/disclaimer.