History of Religions explores the importance of religion in our world. It situates religion in the historical, cultural, and socio-political contexts that together constitute the story of humanity, and acknowledges how religion shapes and is shaped by this story. The program’s approach involves (but is not limited to) the study of particular religious traditions, the comparative study of religion, and the study of the religious dimension of human experience and of common historical phenomena. Its subject includes ancient and indigenous religions as well as present-day world religions.

We want to help you maximize your university experience, so we’ve pulled together information and interesting suggestions to get you started, although there are many more! As you review the chart on the inside pages, note that many of the suggestions need not be restricted to the year they are mentioned. In fact, activities such as joining an academic society, engaging with faculty and seeking opportunities to gain experience should occur in each year of your study at UTM. Read through the chart and create your own plan using My Program Plan found at www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans

Programs of Study (POSt)
- Specialist Program ERSP0151 History of Religions (Arts)
- Major Program ERMAJ0151 History of Religions (Arts)
- Minor Program ERMIN0151 History of Religions (Arts)

Check out...
How does the study of religion enhance your understanding of horror and sci-fi films? Find out in RLG332H5, Reel Religion - a course that examines the narrative and visual aspects of films that are not explicitly religious.

What can I do with my degree?
There are many destinations for graduates of this program. Some pursue further education, while others seek employment. For assistance on various options see the next pages for links to resources and people to talk with. Below are some ideas of career areas and workplaces for graduates:

Careers for graduates: Archivist; Community developer; Communications specialist; Diplomat; Equity officer; Historian; Human rights advocate; International aide worker; Journalist; Lawyer; Political consultant; Public policy advisor; Researcher.

Workplaces: Education; Government; Historical societies; Inter-religious dialogue organizations; Legal agencies; Media; Non-profit agencies; Preservation boards; Social services.
## History of Religions

### Major Program Plan

**1st Year**
- Enrol in RLG101H5.
- Choose a program of study (Subject POS) once you complete 4.0 credits. Use the Degree Explorer and the Academic Calendar to plan your degree.
- Develop foundational academic skills and strategies by enrolling in a stdONE course. Build community and gain academic support through LAUNCH. Join a RGASC Peer Facilitated Study Group.

**2nd Year**
- Enrol in RLG312YS. Attain 3.5 RLG 300-level credits.
- View the Academic Calendar for details.
- Consider applying for Research Opportunity Program (ROP) courses RLG299Y, RLG399Y and RLG499Y. Visit the EEU website for ROP Course Prerequisites. Attend the RGASC’s P.A.R.T. to enhance your research skills.
- Use the Co-Curricular Record (CCR). Search for opportunities beyond the classroom, and keep track of your accomplishments.
- Attend the Get Hired Fair through the Career Centre (CC) to learn about on- and off-campus work and volunteer opportunities.
- Attend the Experiential Education Fair.
- Networking simply means talking to people and developing relationships with them. Start by joining the Historical Studies Society (HSS). Go to the HSS Meet & Greet to meet professors and fellow students.
- Visit the UTM Library Reference Desk.
- Do you have a professor you really like or connect with? Ask them a question during office hours. Discuss an assignment. Go over lecture material. Don’t be shy! Learn Tips On How to Approach a Professor available through the Experiential Education Unit (EEU).
- Engage in programs like the Global and Intercultural Fluency Training Series (GIFTS) or learn about and prepare for a future UTM Abroad Experience through the IEC to strengthen and enhance your intercultural skill set, and learn about other cultures while sharing your own!
- Attend events held by the International Education Centre (IEC), such as the Global and Intercultural Circles, debates, and activities to enhance your global and intercultural mindset.
- Go to a conference such as the Graduate Conference on South Asian Religions (GCSAR).
- Learn about working abroad. Read up on worldwide employment trends and industry outlooks through GoinGlobal. Attend the Global Expo. See if you are eligible for International Experience Canada.
- What’s your next step after undergrad?
- Considering further education? Research application requirements, prepare for admission tests (LSAT, GMAT) and research funding options (OGS, SSHRC). Market your skills to employers. Get your resume critiqued at the CC. Attend the CC’s workshop: How to Approach a Professor?
- Explore careers through the CC’s Job Shadowing Program.
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### How to Use This Program Plan
Read through each year. Investigate what appeals to you here and in any other Program Plans that apply to you.
Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans to create your own plan using My Program Plan. Update your plan yearly.

[Visit www.utm.utoronto.ca/program-plans for the online version and links.]

*Consult the Academic Calendar for greater detail on course requirements, program notes and degree requirements.*

Revised on: 10/14/2022
Skills developed in History of Religions

Students gain valuable knowledge and skills while studying History of Religions. Visit the Career Centre to learn how to articulate the following skills:

**Communication:** gain understanding of history and development as it applies to nations/groups of people; understanding of cultural diversity; formulate and defend positions; mediate in disputes and conflicts; listen objectively; and adapt in cross-cultural setting.

**Problem-solving:** decision-making; reason logically; and think critically.

**Organizational:** apply theoretical knowledge in practical settings (e.g., via internships).

**Research:** develop attention to detail; examine evidence; evaluate ideas and research; gather information and data; and interpret research and data.

Get involved

Check out the 100+ student organizations on campus. Here are a few:

- Historical Studies Society (HSS)
- UTM Student Union (UTMSU)
- UTM Athletics Council (UTMAC)

For a listing of clubs on campus visit [www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/clubs).

Services that support you

- Accessibility Services (AS)
- Career Centre (CC)
- Centre for Student Engagement (CSE)
- Centre for South Asian Civilizations (CSAC)
- Equity, Diversity & Inclusion Office (EDIO)
- Experiential Education Unit (EEU)
- Health & Counselling Centre (HCC)
- Indigenous Centre (IC)
- International Education Centre (IEC)
- Office of the Registrar (OR)
- Recreation, Athletics and Wellness Centre (RAWC)
- Robert Gillespie Academic Skills Centre (RGASC)
- UTM Library, Hazel McCallion Academic Learning Centre (HMALC)

Department of Historical Studies

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[www.utm.utoronto.ca/historical-studies](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/historical-studies)

FUTURE STUDENTS

**Admission to UTM**

All program areas require an Ontario Secondary School Diploma, or equivalent, with six Grade 12 U/M courses, or equivalent, including English. The admission average is calculated with English plus the next best five courses. The approximate average required for admission is mid- to high-70s. More information is available [at utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook](http://utm.utoronto.ca/viewbook).

**NOTE:** During the application process, applicants will select the Humanities admissions category but will not officially be admitted to a formal program of study (Specialist, Major, and/or Minor) until after first year.

**Sneak Peek**

How does religion shape popular culture? How does popular culture shape religion? Trace the history of these questions from the early modern period through the twenty-first century in RLG211H5. Learn about the vast array of global Indigenous religions, with a focus on North American traditions, in RLG209H5.

History of Religions is excellent preparation for living and working in a cosmopolitan and multiconfessional world.

**Student Recruitment & Admissions**

Innovation Complex, Room 1270 University of Toronto Mississauga 3359 Mississauga Rd Mississauga ON Canada L5L 1C6

905-828-5400

[www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students](http://www.utm.utoronto.ca/future-students)