



Master of Arts
Religion and Global Futures
Module Handbook

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This Module Handbook was compiled with greatest care. Due to the wide-ranging subject of this handbook, possible mistakes cannot be ruled out completely. All information provided in it is subject to change. The legally binding documents are the official Study and Examination Regulations (“Prüfungs- und Studienordnung”).

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The Study of Religion and Global Futures

Contents

The Master of Arts programme “Religion and Global Futures” equips students with knowledge and skills that enable them to understand contemporary and emerging forms of religious life, both from a global perspective and in relation to questions of global futures. In addition to drawing on valuable insights and skills offered by the Study of Religion, the programme also allows students to engage with other fields of research at UBT, including earth sciences, political science, economic history, global nutrition and public health, anthropology, sociology, Islamic studies, African studies, and African legal studies.

The programme is **informed by innovative research** in the Study of Religion and adjacent fields which foregrounds dynamics of plurality and relationality. Students will not only have opportunities to develop basic knowledge of specific religious traditions and geographic regions, but also to examine translocal movements, encounters, and interdependencies between different religious groups and traditions. Core seminars will consider diverse global processes and arrangements with which religious cultures are entangled (e.g., social, economic, political, ecological, technological). This includes historical perspectives and a critical outlook on the construction of histories and identities. On completing the programme, students will be well-acquainted with pioneering approaches to studying religion.

The programme provides students with opportunities to engage with **some of the most prominent social issues of our time**. Climate change, resource scarcity, pandemics, social discrimination and inequality, international conflict and terrorism, neo-imperialism, poverty, (ethno)nationalism, migration and social cohesion—all these issues have a global resonance, and therefore demand to be apprehended and responded to at a global scale, with due attention to questions regarding the future worlds that we wish to cultivate and inhabit. Religion has a bearing on all these issues. In some cases, the influence of religion is quite explicit (e.g., some forms of [ethno]nationalism and terrorism; debates concerning discrimination and exclusion, as well as migration and social cohesion). In other cases, this influence stems from the fact that religion informs dynamics of human behaviour and interaction, and partly governs possibilities for enacting social or cultural change (e.g., questions of how to respond effectively to global pandemics or anthropogenic climate change). As such, the programme offers students opportunities to engage with these global issues and the question of how religion might be (or become) implicated in them. The programme also supports students in cultivating research and critical thinking skills which enable them to analytically examine such complex issues and potential solutions.

Study aims

Students will have opportunities to engage with a lively body of inter- and transdisciplinary research which unsettles Northern-centric perspectives on religion and global futures more broadly. More than simply foregrounding diverse manifestations of religious life in Southern contexts, the programme examines how religious lives and arrangements in different settings are intimately entangled with global processes, often participating in the very production of “the global”. The programme also **interrogates Northern-centric visions of global religious futures**, and therefore spotlights the historical situatedness of academia. At a time in which the world is rapidly transforming amidst global dynamics of ecological disruption, population growth, urbanisation, and economic development, it is notable that religion often has an enduring—even expanding—influence. This influence does not correspond with visions of a wholly “secularised” global future, informed by a linear teleological ideal extrapolated from (a partial account of) Western European experiences. Indeed, given current and projected levels of religious belonging, especially in African, Asian, and Latin American countries, as well as the levels of global interconnectedness that communications and transportation infrastructures now make possible, it is likely that the influence of religion will have a growing impact on the lives of people worldwide. Given the urgency of some of the paradigmatic “global challenges” outlined above, it is critical that collective efforts to anticipate and realise particular global futures are also geared towards understanding emerging dynamics of religious culture and social transformation. The “Religion and Global Futures” MA programme will provide students with insights into these important and highly topical lines of inquiry.

In addition to subject-specific knowledge, this MA programme will also support students in developing a series of valuable transferable skills:

- Ability to conduct research about people and social dynamics, ideas and texts
- Ability to think critically about complex problems and solutions from multiple perspectives and disciplinary vantage points
- Capacity to interpret, analyse, and condense various kinds of information
- Capacity to comprehend and apply complex concepts
- Capacity to communicate, evaluate, and critique ideas clearly and effectively — both orally and in writing
- Intellectual curiosity, creativity, and adaptability
- Ability to tolerate intellectual uncertainty and ambiguity
- Cultural knowledge and ability to recognise and address individual, social, and structural biases
- Global mindset and orientation
- New or honed language skills
- Self-management skills and ability to work independently to meet objectives
- Interpersonal skills and ability to work effectively as part of a team of diverse people

Programme Structure

The programme has a modular structure according to the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) initiated by the Bologna Process. The required workload for the UBT Master's Degree in "Religion and Global Futures" amounts to 120 ECTS. This entails either 30 ECTS per semester over the course of two years or four semesters (full-time), or a maximum of 20 ECTS per semester over the course of four years or eight semesters (part-time).

The programme combines **mandatory**, **elective**, and **optional** modules (see below for definitions). Most of the modules are composed of one Seminar and 5 ECTS. Exceptions are the optional *Independent Studies* and *Internship* modules (10 ECTS), the *Study Project* (10 ECTS), and the *Master's Thesis* module (30 ECTS).

The **mandatory modules** comprise (a set of) seminars that are mandatory for all students. In the two *Core Modules* and the *Methodology I* module, students will become familiar with basic theories, methods, and perspectives in the Study of Religion and Global Futures, including post-/decolonial approaches. This will lay the groundwork for further study. From the second semester onwards, students will participate in the *Research Seminar* which accompanies the *Study Project* and the *Master's Thesis*. In the *Research Seminar*, students present their progress every semester, from the process of identifying a research topic to that of writing.

In the **elective modules**, each semester students can choose from a set of seminars offered within the scope of the module. This allows students to develop an individual focus, while equipping them with further important methodological and theoretical skills. Elective modules are *Central Concepts I and II* which introduce research on religion, globality and planetary transformations, two modules on *Thematic Fields* in the Study of Religion and Global Futures, the *Methodology II* module, and the two modules on *Interdisciplinarity*. The three latter modules provide students with insights from other disciplines in the Humanities and Social Sciences in order to broaden their perspectives and to help them think interconnectedly.

Optional modules give students the opportunity to choose from different pathways and thereby deepen their individual study focus and professional development. In choosing between *Global Regions I-II* or *Language I-II*, students can cultivate language skills or focus on improving their regional knowledge. Likewise, in choosing either the *Internship* or the *Independent Studies* option, students can gain important skills for the postgraduate job market (both in and outside academia), or they can prepare for an academic career by enhancing their research skills. *Independent Studies* can involve additional research activities, language courses, or participation in and reporting on a conference. For the

Internship module, students acquire experience in professional roles outside of academia in a 6–8-week internship.

In the **Master's Thesis** module, students continue to conduct their research project with guidance from a supervisor, analyse research material, and write their thesis (see *Research Seminar* and *Study Project*). The mandatory *Study Project* module will support students in preparing for their *Master's Thesis*. Students will have the opportunity to plan and conduct empirical research that can become part of their thesis.

General Information

Duration of Study

The duration of study is four semesters full-time and eight semesters part-time. Admission to the programme is only possible at the beginning of each winter semester. It is possible to complete the programme in less than four semesters if all requirements have been met.

Language

The programme language is English. All required courses will be offered in English. For the elective and optional modules, however, students are also free to choose from a range of courses from other Master's programmes at UBT, as well as from the Bachelor's programme in the Study of Religion which are usually held in German.

Content and Scheduling of Courses

Relevant information for each semester (regarding the courses to be taken) is provided in the general UBT Catalogue of courses (*Vorlesungsverzeichnis*) which is to be found on the UBT online platform CampusOnline (<https://campusonline.uni-bayreuth.de/ubto/webnav.ini>). An annotated version of the courses provided by the Study of Religion Department is to be found on our website (<https://www.religion.uni-bayreuth.de/de/index.html>) a couple of weeks before the start of the new semester.

Course formats

Main Seminar: These are the teaching format for mandatory courses. Their purpose is to create a space to explore and examine the fundamental concepts and issues addressed by the programme. This involves critically assessing scholarly arguments, applying different theories and methods to historical and empirical materials, and developing in-depth knowledge on specific topics. Students will be asked to engage with source materials, research articles, etc., on a weekly basis and to actively discuss and critically reflect on these within the broader context of the seminar. In some seminars, students will be required to give a presentation in class on a subject that they will later explore in their term paper during the semester break.

A **Research Seminar** is a specific type of main seminar where students discuss and reflect on the process of writing during their Study Project and the Master's thesis. Participants

will be asked to prepare source materials, engage with research articles, etc., and to actively engage in discussing and reflecting on the reports of fellow students. They will also be required to present a report in class.

Seminar: Seminars are the teaching format for elective courses. As in the case of main seminars, their purpose is to create a space to discuss and critically assess scholarly arguments, apply different theories and methods to historical or empirical materials, and to develop in-depth knowledge on specific topics. However, in contrast to a main seminar, a seminar usually has more participants and is also open to students of other programmes, thus allowing for a more interdisciplinary outlook. Students will be asked to actively engage in readings and discussions on a weekly basis. In some seminars students will be required to give a presentation in class on a subject that they will later explore in their term paper during the semester break.

Language class: These are organised by the UBT language centre (*Sprachenzentrum*): <https://www.sz.uni-bayreuth.de/index.php?id=11>

Self-study: In addition to attending seminars and classes, self-study provides students with the opportunity to develop/enhance skills of independent thinking, research, and analysis. Self-study includes class preparation and follow-up (and is therefore always factored into the ECTS for each module), as well as independent research and reading.

The general regulations for the methods of assessment can be found in the official Study and Examination Regulations (*Prüfungs- und Studienordnung*). These methods of assessment may vary according to standards that each lecturer is free to specify for their course. For seminars delivered by the Department for the Study of Religion, the most important forms of assessment will include:

Term Paper: These are usually written during the term break after participation in a specific seminar. They are similar to an academic research article, working with historical sources and secondary literature under a research question developed during the semester. The papers are generally around 4000-7000 words in length.

Oral Exam: Usually 30 minutes in length. The specific criteria for this mode of assessment will be clarified to students by the relevant lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

Written Exam: Usually 90 minutes in length. The specific criteria for this mode of assessment will be clarified to students by the relevant lecturer at the beginning of the semester.

Learning Portfolio: A combination of multiple, smaller requirements during the semester, such as essays, reading responses, minutes of a class session, which will be ungraded. The specific form and criteria of assessment will be clarified to students by the relevant lecturer at the beginning of the semester. The scope of the learning portfolio is determined by the size of the module; for modules with five credit points, six to eight written pages apply as a guideline.

Research Paper: In contrast to a Term Paper, a Research Paper does not connect to a seminar. Instead, students elaborate the topic they choose for their own research, develop a research design, as well as a conceptual and methodological approach and research questions. This form of assessment is relevant for the Study Project modules (mandatory).

Independent Studies Report: With this report, students present what they achieved during the module. It can have different forms, such as a Research Paper or conference report (both ~2500 words; not graded), as well as a language course certificate. Details are to be discussed with the relevant lecturer.

Internship Report: In this report (~2500 words, not graded), students summarize and reflect on their experiences during the internship and how these connect to their academic training.

Essay: An essay is a written reflection paper (~2000 words) that is usually produced during the term as part of a seminar. In an essay, students develop their own line of argument by discussing different points of view on a problem using secondary literature. May also be designed as a book review.

Master's Thesis: ~15.000-20.000 words. For more information see module description below.

Courses delivered by other Departments may feature alternative forms of assessment.

Requirements for admission

The requirements for admission to the Master's Programme in Religion and Global Futures are regulated according to the general statutes of the UBT and the official Study and Examination Regulations (*Prüfungs- und Studienordnung*) of this programme. The latter is to be found on our website (<https://www.religion.uni-bayreuth.de/en/index.html>).

Workload


















1 ECTS equals 30 hours of work. The average 30 ECTS per semester translate into a study workload of 900 hours per semester. The total 120 ECTS of the programme need to be fulfilled within the two years/four semesters timescale (full-time) or four years/eight semesters timescale (part-time).

Modules: Overview

Module Title	SWS	ECTS	Courses	Assessment	M/E/O	Sem
<i>Core Module I: Introduction to the Study of Religion and Global Futures</i>	2	5	Main Seminar	Essay (not graded)	M	1
<i>Methodology I: Practical Tools for Studying Religion</i>	2	5	Main Seminar	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	M	1
<i>Central Concepts I: Rethinking religion and globality</i>	2	5	Seminar	Term paper (graded)	E	1
<i>Global Regions I</i> OR	2	5	Seminar	Written/oral exam/essay (not graded)	O	1
<i>Language I at Language Center</i>	2	5	Language Course	Written Exam (not graded)	O	1
<i>Thematic Fields I</i>	2	5	Seminar	Written/oral exam/essay (graded)	E	1
<i>Interdisciplinarity I: Religion from different angles</i>	2	5	Seminar	Written/oral exam/essay (not graded)	E	1
<i>Core Module II: Post/De-colonial Approaches in the Study of Religion</i>	2	5	Main Seminar	Term paper (graded)	M	2
<i>Methodology II: Additional tools for studying religion</i>	2	5	Seminar	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	E	2
<i>Global Regions II</i> OR	2	5	Seminar	Written/oral exam/essay (graded)	O	2
<i>Language II at Language Center</i>	2	5	Language Course	Written Exam (graded)	O	2



















<i>Internship</i> OR <i>Independent Studies</i>	0	10	---	Internship report (not graded)	0	2
	0	10	Self-Study	Independent Studies Report (not graded)	0	2
<i>Research Seminar I</i>	2	5	Research Seminar	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	M	2
<i>Study Project</i>	0	10	Self-Study	Research paper (graded)	M	3
<i>Central Concepts II: Rethinking religion and planetary transformations</i>	2	5	Seminar	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	E	3
<i>Interdisciplinarity II: Globality from different angles</i>	2	5	Seminar	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	E	3
<i>Thematic Fields II</i>	2	5	Seminar	Written/oral exam/essay (graded)	E	3
<i>Research Seminar II</i>	2	5	Research Seminar	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	M	3
<i>Master's Thesis</i>	0	30	Self-Study	Master's Thesis (graded)	M	4
<i>Sum total</i>	28	120				

Ideal Study Plan (full-time)

1	 Core Module I: Introduction to the Study of Religion and Global Futures	 Methodology I: Practical Tools for Studying Religion	 Central Concepts I: Rethinking religion and globality	 Global Regions I OR Language I	 Interdisciplinarity I: Religion from different angles	 Thematic Fields I	
2	 Core Module II: Post/De-colonial Approaches in the Study of Religion	 Methodology II: Additional tools for studying religion		 Global Regions II OR Language II	 Internship OR Independent Studies		 Research Seminar I
3	 Study Project		 Central Concepts II: Rethinking religion and planetary transformations		 Interdisciplinarity II: Globality from different angles	 Thematic Fields II	 Research Seminar II
4	 Master's-Thesis						

 =Mandatory Modules  =Elective Modules  =Optional Modules

Ideal Study Plan (part-time)

1	 Core Module I: Introduction to the Study of Religion and Global Futures	 Methodology I: Practical Tools for Studying Religion	 Central Concepts I: Rethinking religion and globality	5	 Interdisciplinarity II: Globality from different angles	 Thematic Fields II	 Central Concepts II: Rethinking religion and planetary transformations
2	 Core Module II: Post/De-colonial Approaches in the Study of Religion	 Methodology II: Additional tools for studying religion	 Research Seminar I	6	 Study Project		
3	 Thematic Fields I	 Interdisciplinarity I: Religion from different angles	 Global Regions I OR Language I	7	 Master's-Thesis		 Research Seminar II
4	 Global Regions II OR Language II	 Internship OR Independent Studies		8	 Master's-Thesis		

 =Mandatory Modules  =Elective Modules  =Optional Module

Mandatory Modules

Module name	Core Module I: Introduction to the Study of Religion and Global Futures	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module provides a comprehensive overview of major approaches to the Study of Religion, particularly those that relate to globalising dynamics, social issues with a global resonance, and questions of global futures. The module introduces major theoretical and analytic frameworks that are applied to these subjects, as well as their respective merits and limitations. It also explores salient points of debate in this field of study.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have broadened your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of major approaches to the study of religion and global futures • comprehension of selected debates in the study of religion and global futures • understanding of key criticisms and limitations of theories of the study of religion and global futures 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 Seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Essay (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Essay	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Methodology I: Practical Tools for Studying Religion	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module provides a comprehensive overview of how researchers of religion go about designing and conducting empirical research. It explores various research methods and their relation to broader research processes. It also addresses questions of research ethics and reflexivity, especially as they relate to the Study of Religion. In addition, the module explores research methods and methodologies that are adopted by researchers who are particularly interested in globalising dynamics and questions of global futures, both within and beyond the Study of Religion.	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • familiarity with key methodological questions in the Study of Religion and Global Futures • understanding of the benefits and limitations of key methodologies used in the Study of Religion • basic knowledge of empirical research tools 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Learning Portfolio	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Core Module II: Post-/Decolonial Debates in the Study of Religion	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	<p>The module introduces debates about post-colonialism and decolonisation as well as the implications these have for the study of religion, esp. regarding theoretical approaches, research designs and teaching.</p> <p>The seminars in this module deal theoretically and empirically with the multi-layered connections between colonialism, its politics of knowledge, and religion. They also cover the question of the colonial legacy as mirrored in today's religious landscapes and the role of religious traditions in global issues, such as discrimination and inequality, conflict, health policies, migration or development.</p> <p>The discipline itself also comes into critical focus: classes discuss to what extent researchers, institutions, academic forms of knowledge production and concepts in the study of religion (such as "religion" and "secularity" or "world religions") can be understood as part of colonial power dynamics and ask how the study of religion and its curriculum could be decolonised.</p>	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • understanding of post-/de-colonial debates and the connections they make between power, knowledge and religion • knowledge of key concepts and theoretical approaches and the ability to critically engage with selected cases in the study of religious traditions from a post- or decolonial perspective • awareness of the role of the academic discipline in colonial contexts and recognition of its colonial legacy 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently summer semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Term paper (graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	30 hrs
	Term Paper	90 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Research Seminar I	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	The <i>Research Seminar</i> modules accompany the <i>Study Project</i> as well as the writing of the <i>Master's Thesis</i> . This module offers guidance and support for the development and critical discussion of research topics and their translation into a research design. It provides space for intellectual exchange about diverse research foci. It also helps students to elaborate a research problem, explore the state of existing research, and to develop appropriate research questions and practical tools for ongoing work in the context of the <i>Study Project</i> / the <i>Master's Thesis</i> . This also involves critical discussion of methodological, theoretical and ethical questions of qualitative empirical research.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadened your knowledge of central methodological, theoretical and ethical questions of qualitative research and your ability to critically discuss these • increased your capability to compare different theoretical and methodical approaches and to choose appropriate approaches to develop your own research design • enhanced your awareness of ethical issues that arise in the project development and research phase • developed competence to present your own research project, and to give feedback and constructive criticism on other projects • increased your capability to formulate a sound research question and an appropriate strategy for addressing it 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently summer semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Learning Portfolio	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Study Project	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	In this module, students independently plan, conduct and evaluate a research project of their own choice in preparation for the <i>Master's Thesis</i> . The module consists of, for example, an extensive analysis and evaluation of primary or secondary literature, empirical research, and/or archival research. The <i>Study Project</i> is supervised by a professor or another member of academic staff, with whom the project topic and plan of action will be discussed, and who will offer feedback on a research paper which can serve as a basis for the <i>Master's Thesis</i> . The work on the study projects will be accompanied by and supported in the <i>Research Seminars</i> .	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity to independently design, initiate, and evaluate a research project as a basis for your <i>Master's Thesis</i> • experience in undertaking preliminary research necessary for the completion of your <i>Master's Thesis</i> • familiarity with existing literature concerning a specific research topic as well as relevant scholarly debates • improved self-management skills 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	10	
Composition of courses	Self-Study	
Method of assessment	Research paper (graded)	
Workload	Self-Study	240 hrs
	Research paper	60 hrs
	Total	300 hrs
Module name	Research Seminar II	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	The <i>Research Seminar</i> modules accompany the <i>Study Project</i> as well as the writing of the <i>Master's Thesis</i> . This module offers space to discuss ongoing work, to enhance methodological knowledge and analytical skills and the ability to communicate research findings convincingly. Central to this module are questions such as how to structure, interpret and analyse research materials; how to document the state of research and link it to one's own research question; how to develop an	

	argument and present research results? The module also addresses the ethical issues that arise in the process of analysis and writing. Students discuss academic articles, research papers and each other's projects and thus compare different ways of doing research and writing about religion.	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of different ways how to code, structure and analyse empirical materials • ability to interpret/analyse research material and to develop an appropriate way of organising material and presenting it orally and in writing • capacity to relate a research question to scholarly debates and the state of research • awareness of ethical issues in the phase of analysis and writing • competence to present a research project, and to give feedback and constructive criticism on other projects 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Learning Portfolio	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Master's Thesis	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	<p>In their <i>Master's Thesis</i>, students demonstrate that they can conduct and communicate independent research on a specific topic in the field of religion and global futures at an advanced level. In doing so, students present their research findings as they relate to a core research question that they have formulated, framing their discussion with reference to current debates in the Study of Religion and other relevant fields, as well as matters of methodology.</p> <p>Students are strongly encouraged to participate in the <i>Research Seminar</i> during the process of writing their <i>Master's Thesis</i>.</p>	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • capacity to produce a piece of academic writing grounded in independent research, analysis, and critical reflection • in depth understanding of your research topic and related scholarly debates, as well as a capacity to concisely describe and evaluate these • ability to communicate research findings clearly and convincingly with reference to how they relate to scholarly debates and your research question • capacity to critically reflect on the limitations of your thesis, as well as broader questions that it elicits • improved self-management skills 	
Requirements for admission	Students must have successfully completed all other modules.	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Every semester	
Duration	Six months	
ECTS-points	30	
Composition of courses	self-study	
Method of assessment	Master's Thesis (graded)	
Workload	Master's Thesis	900 hrs
	Total	900 hrs

Elective Modules

Module Name	Central Concepts I: Rethinking religion and globality	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module explores how recent debates about “the global” and processes of “globalisation” contribute to thinking about religion. In doing so, it investigates debates within academic contexts but also beyond them — particularly at a historical moment characterised by contestations about “globalism” and emerging dynamics of “deglobalisation”. The module explores how such transformative processes and arrangements (social, economic, political, technological, and ecological) help us to understand emerging forms of religion which they shape and enable, but also how religion is implicated in the production of the global and its politics — and in ways that often go unacknowledged.	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of major concepts, theories, and methodologies for studying Religion and Globality • analytical skills necessary for the study of Religion and Globality capacity to transfer the acquired knowledge and analytical skills to diverse contexts and broader questions of public interest at a global scale	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Term paper (graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	30 hrs
	Term Paper	90 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Thematic Fields I	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	Starting with empirical cases, this module deals with a range of established as well as newly emerging thematic fields in the study of religion and global futures. At the same time, it aims at revisiting recurrent debates in the Study of Religion in new theoretical and empirical light, such as on the issues of diaspora, secularity, or religious extremism. The course thus connects a variety of themes that attract the attention of academia and/or the public with the theoretical readings and reflections that our discipline offers.	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of themes and related concepts as well as their genealogies in the Study of Religion • expertise in identifying and approaching new and emerging themes • capacity to relate to topics of public interest in a scientific way 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written/oral exam/essay (graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written/oral exam/essay	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Interdisciplinarity I: Religion from different angles	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	The module allows to explore how “religion” is understood and researched from different academic perspectives. Seminars in this module introduce different ways to deal with the concept of “religion” as well as diverse theoretical and methodological approaches and key questions which guide the study of religious life worlds and religious traditions. Be it the study of a specific religious tradition like Islam, the search for the social function of religion or the literary examination of religious motives – depending on individual research interests, seminars can be chosen which complement or even challenge one’s research perspective. Courses can be chosen from several disciplines.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadened your knowledge of key categories and guiding questions of another academic approach to religion • increased your ability to name, identify and distinguish theoretical and methodological approaches to religion from diverse academic disciplines • enhanced your capacity to develop an interdisciplinary research outlook based on this knowledge 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written/oral exam/essay (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written/oral exam/essay	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Methodology II: Additional tools for studying religion	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module allows students to deepen their knowledge of research methods and methodologies that are relevant to the Study of Religion and Global Futures. It explore and critically assesses a range of different research methods and diverse strategies of designing and conducting research projects. This module also offers the opportunity to attend method seminars offered by other disciplines and learn about methods and methodologies used, for example, in Sociology, History, Islamic Studies.	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have attained: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • greater familiarity with key methodological questions relevant to the Study of Religion and Global Futures • deepened understanding of the merits and limitations of key methodologies that are relevant to the Study of Religion • more extensive knowledge of empirical research tools 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently summer semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Learning Portfolio	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Central Concepts II: Rethinking religion and planetary transformations	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module explores how religion relates to dynamics of planetary transformation, such as those of anthropogenic climate change, urbanisation, migration, and conflict. Drawing on empirical and theoretical accounts, the module deals with cases where religious configurations are initiating, steering, and themselves being remade by these processes. It also examines how religion factors into how people perceive, respond to, and live amidst these transformations.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of how the Study of Religion contributes to efforts to understand and respond to dynamics of planetary transformation • capacity to transfer this knowledge to diverse contexts and broader questions of public interest at a global scale • understanding of the merits and limitations of different attempts to think about religion through a planetary lens 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Learning Portfolio	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Interdisciplinarity II: Globality from different angles	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	The module allows to explore how globality, globalism or globalization is understood and researched from different academic perspectives. Depending on individual research interests, seminars can be chosen which complement or even challenge one's research interest. The courses in this module offer insights into diverse theoretical and methodological approaches and key questions, which guide the study of globality, processes of de-/globalization and global futures. Courses can be chosen from several disciplines.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • broadened your knowledge of key categories and guiding questions of another academic approach to globality • increased your ability to name, identify and distinguish theoretical and methodological approaches to study global worlds and processes of globalization from diverse academic disciplines • enhanced your capacity to develop an interdisciplinary research outlook based on this knowledge 	
Requirements for admission	None/Depending on the regulations of the respective course	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Learning Portfolio (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Learning Portfolio	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Thematic Fields II	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	Starting with empirical cases, this module deals with a range of established as well as newly emerging thematic fields in the study of religion and global futures. At the same time, it aims at revisiting recurrent debates in the Study of Religion in new theoretical and empirical light, such as on the issues of diaspora, secularity, or religious extremism. The course thus connects a variety of themes that attract the attention of academia and/or the public with the theoretical readings and reflections that our and other disciplines offer.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have broadened your:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • knowledge of themes and related concepts as well as their genealogies in the Study of Religion • expertise in identifying and approaching new and emerging themes • capacity to relate to topics of public interest in a scientific way 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written/oral exam/essay (graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written/oral exam/essay	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Optional Modules

Module name	Global Regions I	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module provides background knowledge of geographical regions located mainly in/between Africa, Europe, and Asia, and the ways they are shaped by their global entanglements, histories, landscapes, infrastructures, borders and junctions. The seminars offer a contextualized understanding of how religion is part of local and global histories and developments and therefore subject to shifting relations and boundaries.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have attained</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • basic knowledge of the history and present political situation of geographical regions from a global perspective • understanding of how religious history is shaped by spatial conditions and their trajectories • ability to reflect critically on the politics and interests behind identifying and naming regions and their boundaries 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently winter semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written/oral exam/essay (not graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written/oral exam/essay	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Language I	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	Depending upon their individual research focus, students can learn a relevant language or enhance their pre-existing language skills. The idea is to work on languages beyond the required English and German. Depending on the offer of the UBT language center possible languages may include (but are not limited to): Arabic, Bambara, Chinese, French, Hausa, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish. In a short essay, students will briefly reflect on how their studies in Religion and Global Futures benefitted from the language course they have taken.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanded your vocabulary in a foreign language • improved skills in communication • improved understanding of academic texts in a foreign language • greater capacity to read and analyse source materials in their original language 	
Requirements for admission	All language courses are provided by the UBT language centre (<i>Sprachenzentrum</i>). Therefore, the requirements for admission depend upon the specifications of the UBT language centre. See the course catalogue provided by the UBT language centre for each semester: https://www.sz.uni-bayreuth.de/index.php?id=11	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Every semester	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 language course (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written exam (not graded) +essay	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written exam	50 hrs
	Essay	10 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Global Regions II	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module provides background knowledge of geographical regions located mainly in/between Africa, Europe, and Asia, and the ways they are shaped by their global entanglements, histories, landscapes, infrastructures, borders, and junctions. Students may also attend seminars from other disciplines to gain an understanding of how to study global regions and their histories.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • attained more knowledge of the history and present political situation of geographical regions from a global perspective • broadened your understanding of how religious history is shaped by spatial conditions and their trajectories • improved your ability to reflect critically on the politics and interests behind identifying and naming regions and their boundaries 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Once a year (currently summer semester)	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 seminar (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written/oral exam/essay (graded)	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written/oral exam/essay	60 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Language II	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	Depending upon their individual research focus, students can learn a relevant language or enhance their pre-existing language skills. The idea is to work on languages beyond the required English and German. Depending on the offer of the UBT language center possible languages may include (but are not limited to): Arabic, Bambara, Chinese, French, Hausa, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Swahili, Turkish. In a short essay, students will briefly reflect on how their studies in Religion and Global Futures benefitted from the language course they have taken.	
Learning objectives	On successful completion of this module, you will have <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • expanded your vocabulary in a foreign language • improved skills in communication • improved understanding of academic texts in a foreign language • greater capacity to read and analyse source materials in their original language 	
Requirements for admission	All language courses are provided by the UBT language centre (<i>Sprachenzentrum</i>). Therefore, the requirements for admission depend upon the specifications of the UBT language centre. See the course catalogue provided by the UBT language centre for each semester: https://www.sz.uni-bayreuth.de/index.php?id=11	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Every semester	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	5	
Composition of courses	1 language course (2 hrs per week) = 2 SWS	
Method of assessment	Written exam (graded) +essay	
Workload	Active participation	30 hrs
	Preparation and revision	60 hrs
	Written Exam	50 hrs
	Essay	10 hrs
	Total	150 hrs

Module name	Internship	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	The 6–8-week internship provides experience that will be highly valuable for students to orient and position themselves in the job market. Students get the chance to apply their theoretical knowledge and critical skills to practical issues and thus deepen and embed their overall knowledge and understanding. They will also have the opportunity to expand their professional networks. The assessment for this module provides students with a chance to demonstrate and critically reflect on their internship experience in the context of the wider Master’s programme, as well as their broader professional development goals in conjunction with envisaged career paths. Students should get in touch with the coordinator of the study programme (Studiengangsmoderator/in) before they start their internship to enquire about its eligibility for the curriculum, or to receive help in find an internship.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have attained:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • experience in, and skills for undertaking a professional role outside of academia • ability to apply theoretical knowledge and critical skills to practical issues • enhanced capacity to work both independently and as part of a team to accomplish objectives • opportunities to expand your professional networks 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Every semester	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	10	
Composition of courses	---	
Method of assessment	Internship report (not graded)	
Workload	Internship	240 hrs
	Internship Report	60 hrs
	Total	300 hrs

Module name	Independent Studies	
Responsibility	Three professors of the department for the Study of Religion	
Contents	This module provides space for intensified engagement with study contents. It can be filled individually, according to one's own needs and interests. Possible options are taking language classes, participation in and reporting on a conference, or research activities. Students are asked to contact a member of the academic staff in order to set up an individual plan for their Independent Studies and to discuss how they will be documented.	
Learning objectives	<p>On successful completion of this module, you will have</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquired a stronger individual academic profile and expertise • improved your self-management skills • strengthened your ability to work independently 	
Requirements for admission	None	
Compatibility	-	
Frequency	Every semester	
Duration	1 semester	
ECTS-points	10	
Composition of courses	Self-Study	
Method of assessment	Independent Studies Report (not graded)	
Workload	Self-Study	240
	Independent Studies Report	60
	Total	300 hrs