



UNIVERSITÄT
BAYREUTH

Master of Arts

Religion and Global Futures

*How is religion transforming worldwide and
how is this shaping our shared futures?*





The master's programme is open to students with a BA from various disciplines in the humanities or one of the social sciences, such as Cultural and Social Anthropology, Study of Religion, Sociology, Islamic Studies, Political Science, History, Geography or African Studies.

Addressing religion and global issues.

What role does religion play in global crises such as human-induced climate change? What could peaceful co-existence look like in globalised and diverse societies? How are religious traditions changing in an entangled world? And how does this shape efforts to imagine and build different social futures?

In the English-taught master's programme *Religion and Global Futures*, which is unique in Europe, you will explore emerging forms of religious life from a global perspective – and particularly in relation to questions of global futures.



The world is changing dramatically. Against the backdrop of climate change, globalisation, population growth, and urbanisation, religion has an enduring and often growing influence.

A master's degree grounded in innovative research.

The master's programme builds on cutting-edge research in the study of religion and related fields which explores dynamics of diversity and relationality within transforming societies across the world. You will investigate emerging forms of religious life and encounters between different religious movements in various global settings. You will explore how these dynamics are closely interwoven with global realities and relevant to issues of global concern, such as climate change, resource scarcity, social discrimination and inequality, pandemics, international conflict and terrorism, neo-imperialism, poverty, migration, (ethno-)nationalism and social cohesion. The programme's focus on diverse geographical perspectives allows you to engage with outlooks that challenge Global North-centred viewpoints.



In the two Core modules and the Methodology I module, you will become familiar with basic theories, methods, and perspectives from the study of religion and global futures, including post- and decolonial approaches.

A master's degree that broadens your horizons.

Your specialised knowledge of religion, as well as your transferrable academic skills, will qualify you for a variety of industries and professions. For example, you may want to pursue an academic career and work for institutions dedicated to research and higher education. Exciting opportunities are also available in transnational institutions that have a global focus such as international development, diplomacy and international relations, security and intelligence, and journalism and media. Graduates who are familiar with diverse cultural and religious traditions are also highly valuable to institutions and companies that engage with religiously diverse clients and communities, for instance, charities and NGOs, as well as roles in marketing and public relations, HR management, public policy, civil service and public sector, leisure and tourism, and social advocacy and political lobbying. You'll be amazed at the doors this master's degree will open for you.

Degree programme at a glance, 4 semesters.

1 st Semester	ECTS*
Core Module I: Introduction to the Study of Religion and Global Futures	5
Methodology I: Practical tools for studying religion	5
Central Concepts I: Rethinking religion and globality	5
Global Regions I or Language I at Language Center	5
Thematic Fields I	5
Interdisciplinarity I: Religion from different angles	5
2 nd Semester	ECTS*
Core Module II: Post/De-colonial approaches in the Study of Religion	5
Methodology II: Additional tools for studying religion	5
Global Regions II or Language II at Language Center	5
Internship or Independent Studies	10
Research Seminar I	5
3 rd Semester	ECTS*
Study Project	10
Central Concepts II: Rethinking religion and planetary transformations	5
Interdisciplinarity II: Globality from different angles	5
Thematic Fields II	5
Research Seminar II	5
4 th Semester	ECTS*
Master's Thesis	30
Total	120

*ECTS Credit points according to ECTS. The awarding of credit points (LP) according to the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS) supports the international comparability of academic achievements at European universities.



Our beautiful campus has everything you need right at your doorstep. In contrast to larger universities, it is easy to make contacts and you'll meet new friends quickly. There are also regular film screenings, art exhibitions, theatre performances, and music events, as well as the University's annual open-air festival and much more.

The programme's benefits at a glance.

The University of Bayreuth is the ideal place to study *Religion and Global Futures*. On the unique campus, where all faculties are only a short distance from each other, there is a lively exchange of ideas. Here you will quickly get to know students from other departments and benefit directly from the interdisciplinary orientation of the University:

- The interdisciplinary approach of the Bayreuth master's programme gives you the opportunity to acquire specialised knowledge, develop transferrable skills, and tailor your profile to meet your personal academic and professional goals.
- You will have the opportunity to study at one of our international partner universities for one or two semesters.



You will benefit from a uniquely supportive learning environment, including regular contact with the programme's three professors. This will enable you to cultivate your own individual research focus, professional profile, and specialised skills.

- If you would like to do a doctorate, for instance in the Study of Religion, Anthropology or Sociology, this master's programme will prepare you perfectly.
- You will have opportunities to benefit from the university's widely acclaimed research focus on African Studies which offers you a wide variety of academic, social and cultural events, for example at the *Iwalewahaus* (Centre for contemporary arts and cultures in Africa).
- The instructor-to-student ratio is excellent. This means that you will have regular personal contact with your lecturers, who are experts in their fields. You will also receive close support as you work in small groups.
- Living in Bayreuth is affordable, and the beautiful city provides a great setting for student life, with plenty to do in your free time.



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Now it's your turn.

We are pleased that you are interested in the *Religion and Global Futures* master's programme. Admission to the programme is only possible at the beginning of the winter semester. The deadlines for enrolment will be announced on the homepage of the University of Bayreuth in good time.

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