



**Religion and Theology
3 Woodland Road
Bristol, BS8 1TB**

Dear Offer Holder,

We write to you to offer our congratulations on receiving an offer for our Religion and Theology programme. Our programmes are competitive and your offer is a real achievement. We are delighted to welcome you to the department.

You will be joining a diverse and collegial research and teaching community. We are a small and friendly department with a great reach from ancient India and Israel to medieval Europe and Japan to contemporary Middle East and South Asia. We cover a wide range of religious traditions and historical periods. All the staff by whom you will be taught are specialists in their fields and regularly publish articles and books (see <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/religion/people/>).

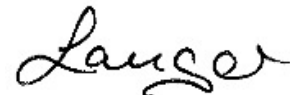
We do not expect you necessarily to have studied the subject before. Our programmes ([BA Religion and Theology V600](#) and [MArts Religion and Theology with Study Abroad V601](#) and [BA Philosophy and Theology VV56](#) are designed to introduce you in the first-year to the ideas and approaches to the study of religion. You will pick up key skills which give you the confidence and competence to pursue your own passions as you progress through the rest of the degree. Our key units in year 1 are [Introduction to Judaism, Christianity and Islam](#) and [Introduction to the Religions and Philosophies of Asia; Approaches to the Study of Religion](#) and [Issues in the Study of Religion](#).

Bristol is a very multicultural city and a wonderful place to study religions and religious communities. Next time you are in Bristol, why not visit [Bristol Cathedral](#) and its garden cafe, Bristol's "oldest and newest Jewish community" [Park Row Synagogue](#), or pop into [John Wesley's New Room](#) (the first ever Methodist chapel). Students are also welcome in the [Bristol Hindu Temple](#), and you could try out the evening meditation at the [Lam Rim Bristol Buddhist Centre](#), visit Bristol's oldest mosque [Bristol Jamia Mosque](#), marvel at the stain glass windows in [St Mary Redcliffe Church](#) and closer to university pop into the [Orthodox Church of the Nativity of the Mother of God](#).

All our Single Honours students have the opportunity to study abroad for a semester or year. We invite you to check out our partner universities around the world (including Jerusalem, Montreal, California, Singapore, Tokyo, Sydney and closer to home Leiden and Copenhagen). All our partner universities offer units taught in English and were chosen carefully for their high-quality teaching and research in Religion, Theology and related subject areas. For a full and up-to-date listing of partner universities browse the Global Opportunities website: <http://www.bristol.ac.uk/international-office/go-abroad/>.

When you become members of our community, you will have access to an enormous range of resources to explore the religions of the past and present subscriptions to major academic journals, primary source databases, books (both physical and electronic), and of course the academics themselves—more than you could consume in many lifetimes! We encourage our students to explore this material voraciously and independently. We hope that you will find it varied and richly rewarding.

We thought, though, that you might appreciate the opportunity to explore a selection of relevant material over the summer before you arrive in Bristol. As people with a passion for the study of religion, we have no doubt that you will want to take this opportunity, following the end of your school-level teaching, to focus on the subject in which you have chosen to become experts! Accordingly, we make a few suggestions, many of which are freely available online: <https://www.bristol.ac.uk/religion/study/undergraduate/further-resources/>, which you might like to take a look at between now and the start of the academic year. Again, many congratulations!



Dr Rita Langer
Head of Subject, Religion and Theology



Dr Benedetta Lomi
Director of Teaching, Religion and Theology