



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

2025



Undergraduate programmes in

Divinity

london.ac.uk/divinity

World class. Worldwide.

Join the world class

1 Religion matters

Around 85 per cent of the world's population have some kind of religious affiliation, and religion has a major impact – both positive and negative – on individuals and societies.

2 Tailor your study based on your interests

Choose a programme of study with all the elements of a traditional Christian Theology programme, including optional biblical languages. Or choose from a variety of modules which include Islam, Buddhism, Religion and Ethics, Religion and Reason (Philosophy of Religion), and Religion and Violence.

3 Access a wealth of resources

Every reading for every module (except one optional module) is available either in the Online Library or as a scanned extract in the Virtual Learning Environment.

4 Support throughout your studies

Specialist tutors are available for every module to provide help in module forums and on an individual basis. We also offer optional online drop-in sessions with the programme team which provide an opportunity to ask questions and meet other students.

5 Research a subject area of your choice

If you study for the full Bachelor of Divinity programme, you'll work on a dissertation topic of your choice with a specialist supervisor. This is an opportunity to explore in more detail something which has sparked your interest, or to branch out and research something new.



“In a fast-changing environment of worldwide access to higher education, a University of London degree continues to offer a guarantee of quality, value and intellectual rigour.”

Professor Wendy Thomson
Vice-Chancellor,
University of London

Your prestigious University of London qualification

About your qualification

When you graduate with a degree, diploma or certificate from the University of London you will receive two important documents – your Final Diploma (the parchment you receive on graduation) and a Diploma Supplement.

The Final Diploma

- Indicates that you were registered with the University of London and awarded a University of London degree, diploma or certificate.
- Features the University of London crest and the Vice-Chancellor's signature.

The Diploma Supplement

- Describes the nature, level and content of the programme you successfully completed.
- Includes the transcript of modules taken, marks achieved and overall classification.
- States the method of study.

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Key dates

Application deadline:
2 September 2025

Application for Recognition
of Prior Learning deadline:
2 September 2025

Registration deadline:
30 September 2025

Programme starts:
October 2025

Divinity at the University of London



The Bachelor of Divinity programme is one of the University's oldest degrees. For many years it was the main undergraduate Theology degree for students studying both in London and across the world.

Notable graduates include the Late Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who was a student at King's College. Heythrop College provided academic direction for the programme until 2017, when the BD became an online programme of the University of London, hosted by the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at King's College.

During the years 2017–2021 the programme was completely redeveloped. With the help of

staff from King's College London and others, new study materials have been created and the reading materials for all modules, except one optional Hebrew texts module, are now available online.

By studying this programme you will:

- study questions that are of fundamental human concern
- gain a deeper understanding of, and engage critically with, the impact of religion on individuals and societies
- have a chance to consider your own answers to some of life's important questions
- develop your ability to analyse texts and arguments.

A trusted name in global education

Founded in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence. The University of London educates more than 40,000 distance learners annually in 190 countries.

A message from the Programme Director



Dr Elizabeth Burns

Programme Director

Around 85 per cent of the world's population have some kind of religious affiliation. Religion can be a force for good – it offers ultimate meaning and purpose, functions as a source of values, and provides rituals

and ceremonies that mark key rites of passage in our lives. But it can also be a source of conflict. According to the World Watch List 2025, more than 380 million Christians alone faced persecution or discrimination on account of their faith.

Now, more than ever, the world needs people who are able to engage in thoughtful, positive debate about religion. The study of Divinity at the University of London – whether you choose to study a single module, the Certificate of Higher Education in Divinity, the Diploma of Higher Education in Divinity, or the full Bachelor of Divinity programme – offers an opportunity to consider your own answers to questions

which are of fundamental human concern, whether you are an active member of a faith community or have no faith at all. It will also enable you to contribute more effectively to the wider debate, perhaps in the context of a career as a teacher, and will be useful in roles such as community development officer, social worker, equality diversity and inclusion officer, charity fundraiser, journalist, police officer or solicitor, or in the healthcare professions. Some of our students also go on to further study in Divinity.



How you study



Flexible study

Our programmes offer you an alternative way of obtaining a prestigious degree or other qualification at a reasonable cost. The University of London allows you to fit your studies around your own schedule and responsibilities.

Time allocation

As a guide, each module represents around 300 hours' study time and four modules per year is equivalent to a full-time student's workload. You can, however, spread the study of the BD over six years, or take three modules per year to complete

in four years. You have up to four years to complete the eight modules of the DipHE, and three years for the four modules of the CertHE. You have up to two years to complete an individual module.

Online support

The Student Portal

As soon as you have registered, we will send you a University of London username and password that will allow you to log in to the Student Portal.

Once logged in, you can also access your University of London email account. All of the online resources available to students can be found in the Portal.

The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE)

By supporting your studies and helping you to feel part of a community, the VLE forms an important part of your study experience with us. Here, you can access your study materials and the Online Library and receive notices and other programme-related information. Your study materials will include written notes, videos, podcasts, scanned book chapters or sections, past examination papers, and a range of learning activities. You can also interact with your tutors and fellow students in the module discussion forums, and with other students in the general student discussion forum.

Divinity drop-in sessions

The Programme Team runs regular online drop-in sessions offering an opportunity to meet staff and other students and ask questions. The sessions run at different times in order to cater for those in different time zones and with work or caring responsibilities. The Programme Team also offers individual one-to-one online appointments on request.

Library support

The Online Library provides access to over 97 million e-journal articles, ebooks in many subjects, and a range of databases. For more information visit: onlinelibrary.london.ac.uk

Registered students are entitled to free reference access to Senate House Library. There are membership fees payable for those who wish to borrow books, however. For more information, visit: london.ac.uk/senate-house-library

Teaching support

Specialist academic tutors will support you online as you study and guide the forum discussions.

Assessment

Most modules are assessed by means of coursework and examination. In addition, marks are awarded for participation in at least five of the 10 topic discussion forums in each module.

If you study for the full BD programme, you will also have the opportunity to write a dissertation for which you choose a topic of particular interest to you and study it in depth with one-to-one supervision from a tutor.

The format and mode of assessment may change due to events or circumstances beyond our control. Students will be informed of their assessment arrangements via the VLE, once confirmed.



Bertram Johnson

Bachelor of Divinity, Australia

‘It is hard work, demanding and challenging but is well worth the investment of time and effort. You will acquire sound intellectual discipline which will be invaluable in the workplace.’



Programme structure



Bachelor of Divinity (BD)

Twelve modules, including four introductory Level 4 modules, followed by seven optional modules (at least two from Level 5 and three from Level 6), plus the Dissertation.*

The Bachelor of Divinity enables you to focus on Christian theology or on religion more broadly through a range of subjects, including Biblical texts and languages, Islam, Buddhism, and religion and reason, ethics, science, violence or global politics.

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Divinity

Eight modules – four introductory Level 4 modules and four elective modules chosen from a list of modules at Level 5 and Level 6.*

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Divinity

Four introductory Level 4 modules.*

The CertHE meets the needs of those who would prefer a shorter programme, perhaps in preparation for progressing to the DipHE or BD. It may also meet the needs of those who do not satisfy the University's entrance requirements for admission to the BD.

Individual modules

A number of modules may be taken on a standalone basis.*

These modules are designed to meet the needs of those who would like to try a shorter programme before embarking on a longer one. These modules are indicated with an asterisk on pages 11 and 12.

*To view the programme regulations of the full structure, please visit: bit.ly/UoL-ProRegs

Robert Powell

Bachelor of Divinity,
United Kingdom

'Whatever you believe, it's impossible to deny the significant role of religion in the world today, especially in politics, human rights and, indeed, economics. I took the module in Christian-Muslim relations [now included in the module Religions in relationship], for example, which was an important reminder of how very closely related these two religious traditions truly are.'

Robert currently works as a Special Representative of the International Monetary Fund to the United Nations. To read more of Robert's story, visit: bit.ly/Alumnus-Robert-Powell

Modules available to study

Level 4

Religion, meaning and value*

This module introduces you to five religions and five key methods for studying them, with a focus on the variety of ways in which religion can promote meaning, purpose and value.

Reading the Hebrew Bible/Old Testament*

In this module, you will explore in depth some of the key legal texts, narratives, prophecy, and poetry which make up the Hebrew Bible and continue to have a profound impact upon the world we live in.

Introduction to Judaism*

Judaism plays a key role in the development of modern religious, political and cultural life – for example, giving rise to, and shaping, Christianity and Islam. This module examines the essential features and history of Judaism, its continuing vigour and diversity, and the central questions that mark its distinctive character.

Reading the New Testament*

This module offers an introduction to key books of the New Testament, a knowledge of which is essential for gaining an understanding of Christianity and its cultural, social and political influence.

Introduction to Islam*

This module provides a comprehensive introduction to the second largest religion in the world, addressing its historical evolution from its beginnings to the confrontation with the challenges of modernity, paying attention to its scriptural sources, body of traditional religious learning and core practices.

Level 5 History of Christianity may be also be chosen in place of a Level 4 module.

Level 5

Biblical Hebrew: Language and texts*

Learn to read and understand the Biblical Hebrew language in order to appreciate the beauty and depth of the Hebrew Bible.

Sacrifice, praise and wisdom

This module covers a wide-ranging collection of texts including Leviticus, Psalms, Proverbs, Job and Ecclesiastes. We will explore how the themes of sacrifice, praise and wisdom permeate the diverse genres of legal material, poetry and wisdom books.

New Testament Greek: Language and texts*

This module provides a key to unlock important insights into the language and culture of the New Testament and enables you to develop the skills required to interpret the biblical text.

History of Christianity*

Learn about the historical development of Christianity from debates on the nature of Christ and Christianity in the early years of the Church, to the dynamic nature of the Reformations, and ecumenism and global-facing Christianity of the late-20th century.

Christian doctrine

The central teachings of the Christian religion are studied in this module: God as a triune mystery of self-giving love, the person of Jesus Christ as divine and human, and how salvation and human fulfilment are understood within Christian faith.

Buddhism*

With over half of the global population living in areas where Buddhism is, or has been, the dominant religion, Buddhism exerts an important influence on a substantial portion of the world's societies and cultures. This module provides an introduction to its philosophy, literature and practice, while also exploring its role in society throughout history.

Religion and ethics*

This module considers what the world's major religions say about ethics, how philosophy can support religious believers in making ethical decisions, key debates on the application of theory to ethical practice (such as abortion, euthanasia, personal relationships and the environment), and forgiveness and reconciliation.

Religion and reason*

Is it rational to believe in God? This module examines the nature of Divinity and whether it is possible to construct effective arguments for the existence of the Divine, and the implications of this for human life – and death.



Level 6

Texts in Hebrew

This module is designed to help you develop your Hebrew skills while exploring in depth texts from Exodus and Proverbs. The module is a mixture of detailed language work and broader exegesis, including a study of scholarly discussion of the texts' history, cultural and historical context, and meaning.

Texts in Greek: John and Romans

This module enables you to develop your skills in reading and interpreting New Testament Greek through a detailed study of more extensive sections of the Gospel of John and the Epistle to the Romans in Greek.

New Testament theology: Christology, salvation and the last things (texts in English)

This module explores three key areas of New Testament theology – Christology, Soteriology and Eschatology – to enable you to gain an appreciation of the universality and diversity that characterises the New Testament, and to develop your skills in interpreting it.

Religions in relationship*

This module challenges the stereotypes of religions as simply 'bad' or 'good' by delving into the different ways that human

societies have been deeply shaped by religious diversity.

Religion and violence*

This module examines different aspects of the link between religion and violence that is often rooted in, and supported by, an appeal to what God wants believers to do in God's name.

Religion and global politics*

This module interrogates the key theoretical assumptions that underpin the intersection between religion and politics across different cultures, countries and continents by exposing students to critical and creative reflection on contemporary religious, social and political issues in the public sphere.

Religion and science*

This module investigates the relevance of religion in the most profound scientific questions, from historical debates on astronomy and evolution to developments in robotics and artificial intelligence.

Dissertation

An opportunity to explore a topic of your choice in detail with the support of a specialist supervisor.

*Modules that are available to be taken on a standalone basis

Entrance requirements

BA and DipHE Divinity

You will usually:

- be aged 17 or above by 30 November in the year of registration

and

- meet our general entrance requirements

and

- meet our English language requirement. We may require a test of proficiency in English.

CertHE Divinity

You will usually:

- be aged 18 or above by 1 September in the year of registration

and

- have passed at least three separate subjects at GCSE/GCE O level, with grades A* to C or the equivalent

and

- meet our English language requirement.

Applications will be considered from applicants who do not meet the normal minimum age requirement for admission. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and the

decision taken at the discretion of the University of London.

Performance-based admission route

If you do not meet the academic requirements for direct entry, you can apply for the CertHE via the performance-based admission route. For information, visit the entry requirements section on the programme page: london.ac.uk/divinity

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

If you satisfy the entrance requirements for the BD and are suitably qualified at level 4, you may be able to apply for RPL, up to a maximum of 120 credits. Please refer to the programme regulations for specific rules governing RPL, by visiting: bit.ly/UoL-ProRegs

The decision to award credit is known as accreditation of prior learning (APL). An academic will have confirmed that the learning outcomes of the prior learning and the module associated with your programme are sufficiently similar to grant you credit.

The application deadline for seeking RPL is 9 September 2025,

although we advise you to apply as early as possible.

Please note, the following programmes do not recognise prior learning:

- CertHE Divinity
- DipHE Divinity

For further information on this programme, entrance requirements and details on how to apply, please visit: london.ac.uk/divinity

Students with disabilities and/or access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. If you are disabled and/or have access requirements, we will make every reasonable effort to meet your needs.

If you would like to tell us about your disability and/or request access arrangements, please complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the Inclusive Practice Manager at: special.arrangements@london.ac.uk

Further information



Fees payable to the University

The total fee payable to the University of London for 2025–2026 will be published on our website once confirmed. For the latest information on programme fees, please visit: london.ac.uk/fees

Please note: student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local statutory rate, this will be added to the fees

shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.

Financial assistance

UK undergraduate students may be able to apply for a part-time tuition fee loan. For full details on eligibility criteria, please visit: gov.uk/student-finance

Alternatively, some employers in both the public and private sector may be willing to consider offering financial assistance to their employees. A list of sources of funding for the study of Divinity is also available from divinity@london.ac.uk

Armed Forces

Students who are members or ex-members of the UK Armed Forces should note that the University of London has been approved by the Ministry of Defence in support of the Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) Scheme (ELC Provider Reference Number 1284). The Scheme provides financial support to eligible Service personnel who wish to enhance their educational or vocational achievements.

The ELC Administration Service website can be found at: www.enhancedlearningcredits.com



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