

Foundation Scholarship - Examination Requirements

Course of Study:	Religion
School/Discipline:	School of Religion
Academic Year:	2025/26

Foundation Scholarship involves a searching examination, set and assessed so as to select students of outstanding ability. The objective of the Foundation Scholarship examination is to identify students who can consistently demonstrate exceptional knowledge and understanding of their subjects. The examination requires candidates to demonstrate: skill in synthesising and integrating knowledge across the full range of the set examination materials; rigorous and informed critical thought; and, in appropriate disciplines, a highly-developed ability to solve problems and apply knowledge.

Please include a brief statement below which explains how your examinations succeed in identifying the qualities associated with Scholarship.

For *Single Honors* students, the Scholarship examination will consist of four papers of two hours duration: one in biblical studies; one in religious studies; one in theology and ethics; and a general paper.

Students are required to demonstrate skill in synthesising and integrating knowledge and show factual, conceptual and methodological knowledge in the three strands: biblical studies; religious studies; and theology and ethics.

Biblical Studies employs historical, philological and hermeneutical methods to investigate the origins and transformations of Jewish and Christian monotheisms in their historical and cultural contexts. **Religious Studies** draws on methods from the social and cultural sciences, exploring religion as an enduring feature of human life (Theory of Religion) and investigating the diversity of religious traditions (Cultural Study of Religion). **Theology** engages concepts and approaches from philosophy and history to treat the development of Christian doctrines and Christian self-understandings in interaction with different cultures and eras. **Ethics** engages questions of moral deliberation, norms, and values within and between different philosophical, historical, and theological schools of thought.

The exam questions in each strand, and the general paper, allow students to demonstrate their knowledge of eras and turning-points both in the history and self-understanding of Judaism, Christianity, Islam, and Dharmic religions and in approaches to the study of religion, and ethics. Students will be expected to be able to locate their own perspectives within the different approaches and key positions of each strand.

Completed by: Religion

Date: September 2025