

Postgraduate Online Learning Open Days 2025

Introduction to Philosophy, Science & Religion (PSR)

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Divinity and Philosophy at Edinburgh



- **World-leading research**

- The School of Divinity is ranked 5th in the UK and 8th in the world for theology, divinity and religious studies and Philosophy is ranked 6th in the UK and 22nd in the world. (QS World University Rankings by Subject 2025)



- **Specialised study options**

- Offers a broad range of study options, allowing students to tailor studies around their interests.



- **Large & interdisciplinary**

- Both the Philosophy department and School of Divinity at Edinburgh are among the largest of their kind in the UK, each consisting of ca. 40 full-time academic staff across a wide range of specialisms. Philosophy staff work in epistemology, ethics, logic and language, mind and cognition, religion and science, non-western philosophy, and the history of philosophy. In Divinity, staff work on Christianity, Islam, Judaism, Buddhism and Hinduism, Indigenous religions in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, new religious movements or spiritualities, and atheism and non-religion.



MSc Philosophy, Science & Religion (PSR)

- An interdisciplinary postgraduate programme jointly taught by the School of Divinity and the Department of Philosophy.
- We bring together world leaders in the fields of philosophy, science and theology to provide you with a thorough grounding in the relationship between science and religion.



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Science and Religion

“The science and religion program at Edinburgh is, in my personal view, at present the most creative and vigorous British training ground for new researchers in the science–religion debate.”

Professor Christopher Southgate (University of Exeter), in Zygon: Journal of Religion and Science



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Science and Religion

- Offers rigorous engagement with a variety of perspectives:
 - Scientific
 - Philosophical
 - Historical
 - Ethical
 - Theological



Science and Religion

- Core areas of dialogue between science and religion are examined in depth, including:
 - Cosmology
 - Evolution
 - Divine action and Miracles
 - Artificial Intelligence
 - Theological Anthropology



Science and Religion

- Engages methodological debates and metaphysical positions.
- No religious commitments are assumed or expected:
 - Rather an enquiring mind open to grappling with critical challenges from all directions



What Our Programme Offers

- Key science-religion developments.
- Flexible programme structure:
 - Electives.
 - State-of-the-art e-learning software and extensive digital resources.
- An interdisciplinary approach by world-leading researchers:
 - Philosophy
 - Science
 - Religion



Options

- The programme offers three options depending your needs:
 - The **MSc** either full-time (one year) or part time (between two and four years). This is **180 credits**.
 - The **Diploma** either full-time (9 months) or part time (between two and four years). This is **120 credits**.
 - The **Postgraduate Certificate** part time (between one and two years). This is **60 credits**.
- Part-time students take a minimum of 20 and a maximum of 60 credits per semester.



Considerations

- How much time do you have to study per week?
 - What are your other responsibilities?
 - As a rough guide, we expect full-time students to study for approximately 35 hours a week and part-time students are likely.
- What do you want out of the degree?
 - Prepare for further postgraduate work in PSR.
 - Change careers.
 - Learn more about PSR in a rigorous academic context, but with no plans to pursue professionally.



Courses

- There are two **core** courses:
 - **Philosophy, Science and Religion 1: The Physical World**
 - Introduces key themes of philosophy, science and religion, with a focus on the physical sciences and their metaphysical implications. Topics include Cosmology, Quantum mechanics, Laws of nature, Naturalism, Earth Sciences & the Anthropocene.
 - **Philosophy, Science and Religion 2: Mind and Life**
 - Explores the major contemporary issues in the debate between science and religion, and the ways in which philosophy has mediated. Topics include Evolutionary biology, neuroscience, human origins, the problem of evil, miracles, the theologies of creation and providence, free will, and the question of the soul.



Courses

- Optional courses include:
 - Philosophy of Science
 - Philosophy of Religion
 - History of Science and Religion
 - Artificial Intelligence and Theology
 - Islamic Philosophy
 - Islam and Science



Courses

- **Optional** courses from other online programmes in Philosophy:
 - Ethic **and/or** Advanced Ethics
 - Epistemology **and/or** Advanced Epistemology
 - Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science **and/or** Advanced Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science



Programme Dissertation

- Dissertation (8,000 words, 60 credits):
 - Involves conducting independent research on a topic of your choosing (requires approval by programme directors).
 - Three months dissertation only period with online supervision.
 - Flexible dissertation periods for part-time students.



Teaching Delivery

- This is an **online only** programme:
 - Regular feedback from faculty and live interactions.
 - Interact with other students on the programme as part of a dedicated virtual learning environment.
 - Taught through a combination of video lectures, online seminars, discussion boards exercises.



Entry Requirements

- You normally need a 2:1 degree (or international equivalent) in a relevant subject, like science (biology, chemistry, physics, psychology, maths) or humanities (philosophy, theology, religious studies).
- If you don't meet this exactly, you can still apply. We might ask for something extra, like a writing sample.
- If you apply for the MSc but don't fully qualify, we might offer you a place on the PgCert instead. If you do well, you can move up to the MSc.
- If English isn't your first language, you'll need to show proof of your English skills before getting an offer.



Applying to Our Programme

- Deadlines
- Questions?
 - Contact us at Div.PGAdmissions@ed.ac.uk



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Thank you

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