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Welcome from Professor Peter Scott, Head of Religions and Theology Department

Welcome to the Department of Religions and Theology at the University of Manchester. You are joining an energetic student community in one of the finest departments in a great city. I hope that you have an excellent time here in Manchester over the next three years.

The academic staff in Religions and Theology are dedicated to supporting you in your studies. You can find out more about us here:

<http://www.manchester.ac.uk/religionstheology/people>

I look forward to meeting you in September.



Welcome from Dr John Zavos, Undergraduate Programme Director

Greetings and welcome to Religions and Theology at the University of Manchester. I'm John, and I'm one of the first people you will come across when you arrive at Manchester, as I am the programme director for all of our three undergraduate degree programmes: Religions and Theology, Theological Studies in Philosophy and Ethics, and Comparative Religion and Social Anthropology. My job is to oversee the conduct of the degree programmes, ensuring that you have interesting and varied things to study, that your experiences of teaching and learning in the department are good ones, and that you emerge after three years' study with a degree that you can be proud of. Religions and Theology is a relatively small department in a very large university. This, we hope, means that you will get the best of both worlds: all the advantages of the resources and facilities that the university has to offer, plus the familiarity and relaxed atmosphere that comes with being part of the R&T community. I look forward to meeting you soon.



Religions and Theology website: www.alc.manchester.ac.uk/subjects/religionstheology

Professor Peter Scott's email address: peter.scott@manchester.ac.uk

Dr John Zavos' email address: john.zavos@manchester.ac.uk

Religions and Theology Department Twitter: [@UoMReligion](https://twitter.com/UoMReligion)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Religion.Manchester>

MANCHESTER

Aside from the fantastic university, Manchester has become known as the capital of the North; a cosmopolitan and vibrant city home to a thriving music scene, unique cultural arts and world-famous sports. We hope the following information helps you with your transition into student life in Manchester.



NIGHTLIFE

Manchester provides a brilliant mix of clubs, bars and entertainment all within a close distance to the student district and Fallowfield. There are plenty of student nights at different clubs every day of the week so you will never run out of new places to go. Sankeys and Factory are always popular nights out with students due to the mixture of music and cheap drinks offered.

The city is also host to a number of great bars, for a more relaxed feel to a night out. The Northern Quarter offers a vast array of bars, all with amazing cocktails and a great spot for something slightly different. From Twenty Twenty Two in NQ (a place to drink and play pin-pong) to Koh Tao in Fallowfield (a Thai beach and BBQ bar) - it doesn't always need to be a night out in a club; the bars in Manchester are a good way of letting off steam too.



FOOD AND EATING OUT

Eating out doesn't always need to be expensive. There are loads of places to go for food at a reasonable price. Revolution has a 50% off food and drinks deal every Monday. Around campus there are plenty of options for food too, including Kro Bar opposite the SU. With cafes in the libraries and the Samuel Alexander Building, there is always somewhere close by to get food. There are daily

deals in the SU bar such as 50% off vegetarian dishes on Mondays. There is also a Sainsbury's, Morrisons, Spar, Costa and Starbucks on Oxford Road so you're never far from somewhere to eat or grab a quick coffee.

ENTERTAINMENT

There are a number of great museums and galleries in Manchester. Our own cultural asset, The Manchester Museum on Oxford Road, is an ideal place to visit between your lectures without spending a penny. Earlier this year, the Whitworth Art Gallery re-opened to the public after a £15 million redevelopment, presenting a vast collection of unique art from contemporary artists.

Manchester is the shopaholic's paradise, with the Arndale Centre in the heart of town catering for a variety of budgets. The Trafford Centre is also a short bus ride away from Oxford Road for a bigger indoor shopping experience. You also can't go wrong with the department stores in Manchester, especially the huge Selfridges on Exchange Square.

Looking for something more active? Why not try Chill Factore, an indoor ski centre, Manchester Aquatics Centre or even Jump Nation, an indoor trampoline park. There's never a reason to be bored in Manchester.

There are some great parks in the city itself. Whitworth Park is just a 5 minute walk from the university, right next to the gallery. It often features interesting art installations like the one in the picture below. In the student hub of Fallowfield Platt Fields Park is a popular location for picnics in the summer and host to a huge annual Fireworks display that has a great turn out every year.



TRIPS OUTSIDE OF MANCHESTER

Although Manchester is a hub for studying and socialising, the trains make it so easy to discover other places nearby. Liverpool is also only around an hour away, providing a new outlook on culture, shopping and places for food and entertainment. If you are looking further afield, the Lake District is only around 1 ½ hours, offering stunning scenery, and great walking and water sports.

USEFUL TIPS FOR STUDENTS

As students we're always looking for ways to save on spending, here's a few ideas and suggestions that students in our department have found useful in previous years:

- It's always worth asking "do you do student discount" when you get to the counter, there's often 10% or even 20% discount if you show your UoM student card before you pay, similarly it can get you a free McFlurry at McDonald's (terms and conditions apply) – can't knock that.
- On a similar note signing up to UNiDAYS is completely free and they'll send you some great discounts on big brands like ASOS and Apple.
- The NUS card, costing £12 pound, is a student discount card offering some fantastic deals. See <http://www.nus.org.uk/en/nus-extra/> for more details.
- For those of you who are self-catered, you can save money by planning your meals in advance and looking out for deals in the supermarkets. Cook larger portions in the evening to either freeze for another day or have for lunch the next day.
- If you plan on living in Fallowfield, the main student area, a bus pass is a must for saving money. The most popular choice is the 'unirider', which, priced around £200 for the year, covers your unlimited travel on Stagecoach and Magic Buses anywhere within Greater Manchester.
- A railcard is incredibly useful for getting between places as you can save up to a third on travel on trains in the UK.
- Apply for a 'yellow card', it's free and with it you can get great deals and discounts at some of the trendy bars and restaurants in Spinningfield.
- Another useful tip is to really make the most of Welcome Week and the events that are on offer. They are all perfect opportunities to meet the people that will be on your course as well as other people that could become lifelong friends. Societies are also a brilliant way of meeting people. The University of Manchester offers a huge list of societies from Cheese and Wine to Skydiving - there is something for everyone! There will be a Societies' Fair in Welcome Week where you can gain more information, and eat some free pizza!
- Finally, the 'iManchester' and 'Blackboard' apps for Apple and Android are really useful to be able to access maps, timetables and calendars of events on the go. Blackboard is an online space for all things course-related.



THE COURSE

The Religions and Theology Department at Manchester has a huge range of modules to choose from, covering a range of religions, philosophies and ideologies; this gives you the freedom to design your degree around your own academic interests. There will be more information about course requirements and how to choose modules within your first week, so don't worry about that yet. Below are a few examples of the course units you can take throughout your three years at Manchester. Do not hesitate to contact our Head of Department and Undergraduate Programme Director if you have any further questions.

Introduction to the Study of Religion and Theology

For those on R&T and CRSA courses, this will be your compulsory module in your first year. It will introduce you to key thinkers and issues when studying religion as an academic subject.

Religion, Culture and Gender

Covering a range of gender-related issues, this second year module takes a practical theological approach to both historical and contemporary Judaism and Christianity.

Problems in the Philosophy of Religion: Evil

Through studying this module you will be able to gain a philosophical knowledge of the concepts of evil, free will and theodicy. The focus will be on key philosophers and their responses to these issues

The World of Buddhism

Gaining an overall knowledge of the diversity of Buddhism historically and today is the key focus on this unit. You will also look at Buddhist culture in the form of ritual, art and scriptures.

PASS

Hello and welcome to R&T!

We're Becky and Naomi, and we are the student co-ordinators for R&T's PASS Scheme 15/16. PASS stands for Peer Assisted Study Sessions and is a one hour weekly session designed to help you with your work. It's a fun, interactive way of introducing you to the course as well as enabling you to meet new people and socialise.



PASS is run by students for students; each PASS group is led by two students from second and third year who are there to share their experiences and help you adapt to student life.

This makes PASS relaxed but informative – meaning you can gain advice on both the academic and social side of university.

In first semester, we will begin by introducing you to the course and helping you adjust to university-style learning, covering aspects such as essay writing, referencing and reading skills which may be relatively new to you.

We look forward to meeting you in September!

Becky and Naomi



If you have any questions at all, or you would like any re-assurance before you start, please don't hesitate to contact us at:

naomi.roussak@student.manchester.ac.uk

rebecca.lancaster@student.manchester.ac.uk

The Religions and Theology Society

On behalf of the society, we'd like to welcome you to Manchester, to the Department of Religions and Theology and to university life! We are the Department of Religions and Theology's very own society. Our role is to create a community for you through running various events throughout the year. We host a number of events throughout the year, social and otherwise, for students within the Department and those from others who may have an interest in the area. You can sign up to be a member during Welcome Week, or on the SU's society page and then can automatically get involved with us throughout your three years here!



We will hold social events during your first few weeks, which will be a great opportunity for you to meet other students and make new friends. Other events we organise include an annual curry night, end of semester meal and a May Ball! All information about these events is easy to find on our Facebook page (see below). There is even the opportunity for you to get involved in the running of the society by applying for a position on the committee.

We can't wait to meet you in September and hope to see you at some or all our great events!

Want to know more?

Like us on Facebook: Religions and Theology Society: University of Manchester



Follow us on Twitter: @RnTSoc



Email us: ratpackmanchester@gmail.com



Religions and Theology Blog

This year we have a brand new opportunity: to be involved in our student-led Religions and Theology blog “A Smidgen of Religion: Believing in the Rainy City.”

The blog will go live this summer at: www.smidgenofreligion.com with articles on everything from media and politics to society events, and lots of opportunities to get involved!

We’re looking for content writers (one-offs and regular columnists), editors, designers and 1st year committee representatives; to make sure the blog works in content and style.



To find out more email Rosie, Rosie and Sam at: uomreltblog@gmail.com or come to our meeting in week 2 (date tba) and keep your eyes peeled for more opportunities.