



**Faculty of Religious Studies (Graduate)**  
**Programs, Courses and University Regulations**  
**2015-2016**



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This publication provides guidance to prospects, applicants, students, faculty and staff.

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## 1 Dean's Welcome

To Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows:

I am extremely pleased to welcome you to McGill University. Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) collaborates with the Faculties and other administrative and academic units to provide strategic leadership and vision for graduate teaching, supervision, and research across our over 400 graduate programs. GPS also oversees quality assurance in admissions and registration, the disbursement of graduate fellowships, support for postdoctoral fellows, and facilitates graduate degree completion, including the examination of theses. GPS has partnered with Enrolment Services to manage the admission and registration of graduate students and postdoctoral fellows and to offer streamlined services in a one-stop location at [Service Point](#).

McGill is a student-centred research institution that places singular importance upon the quality of graduate education and postdoctoral training. As Dean of Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies, I work closely with the Faculties, central administration, graduate students, professors, researchers, and postdoctoral fellows to provide a supportive, stimulating, and enriching academic environment for all graduate students and postdoctoral fellows.

McGill is one of Canada's most intensive research universities, ranked 21<sup>st</sup> by *QS World University Rankings 2014*. We recognize that these successes come not only from our outstanding faculty members, but also from the quality of our graduate students and postdoctoral fellows—a community into which we are very happy to welcome you.

I invite you to join us in advancing this heritage of excellence at McGill.

*Josephine Nalbantoglu, Ph.D.*

*Dean, Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies*

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## Graduate and P

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### **2.3 General Statement Concerning Higher Degrees**

Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies (GPS) oversees all programs leading to graduate diplomas, certificates, and higher degrees, with the exception of some programs in the School of Continuing Studies. It is responsible for admission policies, the supervision of graduate students' work, and for recommending to Senate those who may receive the degrees, diplomas, and certificates.

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### **3 Important Dates 2015–2016**

For all dates relating to the academic year, consult [www.mcgill.ca/importantdates](http://www.mcgill.ca/importantdates).

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### **4 Graduate Studies at a Glance**



As a rule, no more than one-third of the coursework (excluding thesis, project, stage, or internship) of a McGill master's degree may be completed elsewhere. For example, courses taken before admission to the McGill degree, or courses taken through a transfer arrangement, are not counted toward the one-third rule. Courses completed at McGill prior to admission to the McGill master's degree were not used to complete the one-third rule as described above. These would be entered as exemptions when the student's record is processed.

Normally, if courses completed elsewhere prior to admission to the McGill master's degree were not used to complete the one-third rule as described above. These would be entered as exemptions when the student's record is processed.

If the courses completed elsewhere prior to admission were used to complete a degree, exemptions may be granted with respect to the one-third rule. Exemptions may be granted with respect to the one-third rule for graduate course(s) at McGill. No double counting is allowed unless, exceptionally, the total number of credits exceeds the overall credit requirement greater than 45 credits. In other words, instances where the total number of credits exceeds the minimum of 45 credits for a McGill master's degree. The one-third rule continues to apply.

### Research and Thesis

All candidates for a research master's degree must submit a thesis based on their own research. The total number of credits allotted to the thesis is 12 credits. The thesis and names of examiners must be forwarded on a *Nomination of Examiners* form, available at [www.mcgill.ca/gps/theses/initial-submission](http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/theses/initial-submission), in accordance with the dates on [www.mcgill.ca/importance](http://www.mcgill.ca/importance) of the department concerning the particular field of study, or a great deal of original scholarship, must show evidence of original work in the field and must be the result of original research and to organize results, all of which must be presented in a thesis. In most disciplines, shorter texts are preferred. Guidelines and deadlines are available at [www.mcgill.ca/gps/theses](http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/theses).

### Language Requirements

Many master's degree programs have language requirements, but candidates who intend to proceed to a doctorate must have language requirements and are required to have examinations in at least one language while working on their master's degree.

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## 5.2 Doctoral Degrees

### Residence Requirements – Doctoral

Refers to the numbers of terms (or years) students must reside in Montreal. Students are not permitted to complete their doctorate elsewhere. For more information, contact the Registrar's Office at 491-4807 or 491-4807 x1888. For more information, contact the Registrar's Office at 491-4807 or 491-4807 x1888.



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## 7 Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships

Please refer to the eCalendar's *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Fellowships, Awards, and Assistantships* for information and contact information regarding fellowships, awards, and assistantships in Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

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## 8 Postdoctoral Research

Students must inform themselves of University rules and regulations and keep abreast of any changes that may occur. The *Postdoctoral Research* section of this publication contains important details required by postdoctoral scholars during their studies at McGill and should be periodically consulted, along with other sections and related publications.

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### 8.1 Postdocs

Postdocs are recent graduates with a Ph.D. or equivalent (i.e., Medical Specialist Diploma) engaged by a member of the University's academic staff, including Adjunct Professors, to assist him/her in research.

Postdocs must be appointed by their department and registered with Enrolment Services in order to have access to University facilities (library, computer, etc.).

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### 8.2 Guidelines and Policy for Academic Units on Postdoctoral Education

The general guidelines listed below are meant to encourage units to examine their policies and procedures to support postdoctoral education. Every unit hosting Postdocs should have explicitly stated policies and procedures for the provision of postdoctoral education as well as established means for informing Postdocs of policies, procedures, and privileges (e.g., orientation sessions, handbooks, etc.), as well as mechanisms for addressing complaints. Academic units should ensure that their policies, procedures and privileges are consistent with these guidelines and the Charter of Students' Rights. For their part, Postdocs are responsible for informing themselves of policies, procedures, and privileges.

#### 1. Definition and Status

- i. Postdoctoral status will be recognized by the University in accordance with Quebec provincial regulations. Persons may only be registered with postdoctoral status for a period of up to five years from the date they were awarded a Ph.D. or equivalent degree. Time allocated to parental or health leave is added to this period of time. Leaves for other reasons, including vacation leave, do not extend the term. Postdocs must do research under the supervision of a McGill professor, including Adjunct Professors, who is a member of McGill's academic staff qualified in the discipline in which training is being pro



vii. Some examples of the responsibilities of the University are:

- to register Postdocs;
- to provide an appeal mechanism in cases of conflict;
- to provide documented policies and procedures to Postdocs;
- to provide Postdocs with the necessary information on McGill University student services.

*Approved by Senate, April 2000; revised May 2014*

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### 8.3 Vacation Policy for Graduate Students and Postdocs

Graduate students and Postdocs should normally be entitled to vacation leave equivalent to university holidays and an additional total of fifteen (15) working days in the year. Funded students and Postdocs with fellowships and research grant stipends taking additional vacation leave may have their funding reduced accordingly.

*Council of FGSR April 23, 1999*

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### 8.4 Leave of Absence for Health and Parental/Familial Reasons

A leave of absence may be granted for maternity or parental reasons or for health reasons (see [University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Leave of Absence Status](#)).

Such a leave must be requested on a term-by-term basis and may be granted for a period of up to 52 weeks. For a maternity or parental leave, the eligibility period of a maximum of 52 consecutive weeks is determined based on when the child is born; if the leave is interrupted for one or two terms, the eligibility period cannot be extended. Students and Postdocs must make a request for such a leave in writing to their department and submit a medical certificate. The department shall forward the request to Enrolment Services. See the procedure in [University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Leave of Absence Status](#).

Students who have been granted such a leave will have to register for the term(s) in question and their registration will show as “leave of absence” on their record. No tuition fees will be charged for the duration of the authorized leave. Research supervisors are not obligated to remunerate students and Postdocs on leave. A summary table of various leave policies (paid or unpaid) for students and Postdocs paid from the Federal and Quebec Councils through fellowships or research grants is available at [www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/students-postdocs/accepting-maintaining-awards](http://www.mcgill.ca/gps/funding/students-postdocs/accepting-maintaining-awards) under "Leave Policies: Funding Council Leave Policies for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Fellows."

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### 8.5 Postdoctoral Research Trainees

#### Eligibility

If your situation does not conform to the Government of Quebec's definition of Postdoctoral Fellow, you may be eligible to attend McGill as a Postdoctoral Research Trainee. While at McGill, you can perform research only (you may not register for courses or engage in clinical practice). Medical specialists who will have clinical exposure and require a training card must register through Postgraduate Medical Education of the Faculty of Medicine—not Graduate and Postdoctoral Studies.

The category of Postdoctoral Research Trainee is for:

**Category 1:** An individual who has completed requirements for the Doctoral degree or medical specialty, but the degree/certification has not yet been awarded. The individual will subsequently be eligible for registration as a Postdoctoral Fellow.

**Category 2:** An individual who is not eligible for Postdoctoral Registration according to the Government of Quebec's definition, but is a recipient of an external postdoctoral award from a recognized Canadian funding agency.

**Category 3:** An individual who holds a professional degree (or equivalent) in a regulated health profession (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession) and is enrolled in a program of postgraduate medical education at another institution. The individual wishes to conduct the research stage or elective component of his/her program of study at McGill University under the supervision of a McGill professor. The individual will be engaged in full-time research with well-defined objectives, responsibilities, and methods of reporting. The application must be accompanied by a letter of permission from the home institution (signed by the Department Chair, Dean or equivalent) confirming registration in their program and stating the expected duration of the research stage. Individuals who are expecting to spend more than one year are encouraged to obtain formal training (master's or Ph.D.) through application to a relevant graduate program.

**Category 4:** An individual with a regulated health professional degree (as defined under CIHR-eligible health profession), but not a Ph.D. or equivalent or medical specialty training, but who fulfils criteria for funding on a tri-council operating grant or by a CIHR fellowship (up to maximum of five years post-degree).



**Note:** Individuals who are not Canadian citizens or permanent residents must inquire about eligibility for a work permit.

### General Conditions

- The maximum duration is three years;
- the individual must be engaged in full-time research;
- the individual must provide copies of official transcripts/diploma;
- the individual must have the approval of a McGill professor to supervise the research and of the Unit;
- the individual must have adequate proficiency in English, but is not required to provide official proof of English competency to Enrolment Services;
- the individual must comply with regulations and procedures governing research ethics and safety and obtain the necessary training;
- the individual will be provided access to McGill libraries, email, and required training in research ethics and safety. Any other University services must be purchased (e.g., access to athletic facilities);
- the individual must arrange for basic health insurance coverage prior to arrival at McGill and may be required to provide proof of coverage.

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## 9 Graduate Studies Guidelines and Policies

Refer to the [eCalendar](#) under *University Regulations and Resources > Graduate > : Guidelines and Policies* for information on the following:

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## **11.1 Religious Studies**

### **11.1.1 Location**

Faculty of Religious Studies  
William and Henry Birks Building  
3520 University Street  
Montreal QC H3A 2A7  
Canada

Telephone: 514-398-4121

Fax: 514-398-6665

Website: [www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies](http://www.mcgill.ca/religiousstudies)

### **11.1.2 About Religious Studies**

The Faculty of Religious Studies offers programs leading to the degrees of:

- Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis and Non-Thesis)
- Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis) with specialization in Bioethics
- Master of Arts (M.A.) (Thesis) with option in Gender and Women's Studies
- Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.)
- Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.)



**Note:** The M.A. with specialization in Bioethics has no language requirement.

- **Ph.D.**

Students are required to give their area committee evidence of reading knowledge of two languages other than English. These languages must be chosen from modern languages in which there is a significant amount of scholarship relevant to the student's area of research or classical languages relevant to the student's area of research.

Research in some disciplines, or on certain thesis topics, may require proficiency in more than two languages besides English. In that case, additional language requirements may be stipulated by the supervisor.

- **S.T.M.**

The S.T.M. program has no language requirement.

#### *section 11.1.5: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) (45 credits)*

The purpose of the M.A. (Thesis) degree is to encourage advanced study and research in one of the disciplines of Religious Studies for those who wish to become scholars or teachers, or will be engaged in some field of religious or public service. The M.A. (Thesis) program in Religious Studies offers a specialization in Bioethics and an option in Gender and Women's Studies.

#### *section 11.1.6: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Bioethics (45 credits)*

The M.A. (Thesis) with specialization in Bioethics is offered in conjunction with the Bioethics Unit. Please contact the Religious Studies Department or Bioethics Unit for more information about this specialization. The curriculum is composed of required courses (6 credits) offered in the Biomedical Ethics Unit, Bioethics courses (6 credit minimum) offered by the base faculty or department, and any graduate course required or accepted by a base faculty for the granting of a master's degree, for a total of 21 credits. A minimum of 45 credits is required including the thesis.

#### *section 11.1.7: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Gender and Women's Studies (45 credits)*

The graduate option in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program for students who meet degree requirements in Religious Studies (and other participating departments and faculties) and who wish to focus on gender-related issues and feminist research and methodologies. Research focus is on a topic relating to gender issues or women's studies.

#### *section 11.1.8: Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)*

The M.A. without thesis is intended to ensure a student's well-rounded exposure to several religions and to several of the disciplinary approaches currently used in their academic study. Particular to this program is its ability to provide the student with the opportunity to develop three different research papers with reference to the student's own interests in Religious Studies under the supervision of professors from various parts of the University.

#### *section 11.1.9: Master of Sacred Theology (S.T.M.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (48 credits)*

The S.T.M. is meant for those who intend to enter the ministry of the Christian Church or another religious institution, or proceed to a teaching career or to some form of social work. This degree enables students to specialize in one area or discipline of theological study before or after the third year of the M.Div. and is unique in Canada. The S.T.M. program is fully accredited by the Association of Theological Schools in the U.S. and Canada.

#### *section 11.1.10: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Religious Studies*

The purpose of the Ph.D. program is to engage students in advanced academic studies normally in preparation for an academic career. The community of graduate scholars in this program is engaged in a broad spectrum of critical research involving any number of interdisciplinary approaches conducted on a number of different religious traditions. The Faculty members are committed to the training of teaching scholars, making the Faculty of Religious Studies one of few schools that prioritizes offering graduate students opportunities under faculty supervision to teach/lecture during their time in the program.

#### *section 11.1.11: Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.); Religious Studies — Gender and Women's Studies*

The graduate option in Gender and Women's Studies is an interdisciplinary program for students meeting the degree requirements in Religious Studies who wish to focus on gender-related issues and feminist research and methodologies. Research focus is on a topic relating to gender issues or women's studies. Please contact the Department for more information about this option.

### **11.1.3 Religious Studies Admission Requirements and Application Procedures**

#### **11.1.3.1 Admission Requirements**

##### **Master of Arts (M.A.) Thesis**





**Canadian****International****Special/Exchange/Visiting**

Summer: N/A

Summer: N/A

Summer: N/A

Admission to graduate studies is competitive; accordingly, late and/or incomplete applications are considered only as time and space permit.

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BIOE 693 (12) M.Sc. Thesis

**Required Courses (12 credits)**

BIOE 680 (3) Bioethical Theory  
 BIOE 681 (3) Bioethics Practicum  
 RELG 571 (3) Ethics, Medicine and Religion  
 RELG 645 (3) Methods in Religious Studies

**Complementary Courses (9 credits)**

9 credits at the 500 or 600 level, deemed necessary or accepted by the base faculty for the granting of a master's degree, in consultation with the supervisor.

**11.1.7 Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Thesis) — Gender and Women's Studies (45 credits)**

**Thesis Courses**

27 credits from:

RELG 688 (3) Thesis Research 1  
 RELG 689 (3) Thesis Research 2  
 RELG 698 (9) Thesis Research 3  
 RELG 699 (12) Thesis Research 4

**Required Courses**

6 credits from:

RELG 645 (3) Methods in Religious Studies  
 WMST 601 (3) Feminist Theories and Methods

**Complementary Courses**

12 credits selected from the 500- or 600-level courses accepted by the Faculty of Religious Studies for the granting of a master's degree. Must include within the 12 credits:

Either

WMST 602 (3) Feminist Research Symposium

or 3 credits of another 500- or 600-level course in Gender and Women's Studies.

**11.1.8 Master of Arts (M.A.); Religious Studies (Non-Thesis) (45 credits)**

**Research Project (9 credits)**

RELG 660 (3) M.A. Research Paper 1  
 RELG 661 (3) M.A. Research Paper 2  
 RELG 662 (3) M.A. Research Paper 3

**Required Courses (6 credits)**

RELG 555 (3) Honours Seminar  
 RELG 645 (3) Methods in Religious Studies

**Complementary Cour**

Candidates admitted to Ph.D. 1 take a minimum of six graduate seminars during their first year and four seminars during their Ph.D. 2 year; those admitted to Ph.D. 2 must take a minimum of four graduate seminars. If possible, two seminars should be in their area of specialization, and at least one should be at the 700 level.

Modern and ancient languages as stipulated by field of study.

