

# Careers with RE

People who have qualifications in RE generally go on to work in some of the following careers:

- the National Health Service (especially doctors and nurses);
- national and local government;
- schools, colleges and universities;
- financial and legal firms;
- charities;
- social services and other caring professions;
- PR, advertising, sales and marketing
- companies;
- libraries;
- museums;
- television companies
- journalism;
- investment and banking.





WHERE CAN

# PHILOSOPHY

TAKE YOU?



## EDUCATION

Primary school teachers have one of the highest rates of job satisfaction in the UK. In Secondary School, all of the subjects you study originated in the first ever academic subject – Philosophy! In addition, Philosophy is the only subject that teaches a student *how* to think, not *what* to think. Marvellous!

**Career paths:** Scholar, Researcher, Teacher, University Lecturer

## PUBLIC SECTOR

Philosophy is one of the best-known contributors to developing the key skills needed for work in the public sector. Compassion and empathy are vital alongside critical and analytical thinking skills in order to make good decisions, quickly and confidently – these careers are high stakes and come with great responsibility.

**Career paths:** Social Worker, NHS, Police Officer, Armed Forces

## BUSINESS

The most popular degree held by those in business is Philosophy! As the world moves forward into a new technological age, the need for business ethics and strategy become more necessary. Is it right to pay low wages to increase profit? Are businesses responsible for their workers or their carbon footprint?

**Career paths:** Sales, Marketing, Entrepreneur, Human Resources

## CONSULTANCY

In the future, consultants with skills and knowledge in critical thinking, IT, data analysis and digital marketing will be in demand. More common is the demand for advice regarding public opinion and ethics – two of the core issues explored in Philosophy. This can extend to businesses and politics.

**Career paths:** Recruiter, Manager, Analyst (Finance & Business)

## LAW

The ability to justify, anticipate responses and develop a convincing line of argument is a crucial skill in law. The development of critical and analytical thinking in Philosophy is what sets candidates for law apart. Conversion courses also offer another way in to Law after studying Philosophy.

**Career paths:** Solicitor, Clerk, Barrister, Attorney, Judge

## HUMANITARIAN WORK

Philosophy explores our duty to promote human welfare. Therefore, it lends itself well to the development of charity work through organisations such as Amnesty International. The empathy and compassion developed in Philosophy is crucial for this career path.

**Career paths:** Charity, UNICEF, Social Services, Disaster Relief

## WRITING & JOURNALISM

Philosophy is the formulation of argument and debate, helping you to write persuasively and in a way that is engaging and compelling. Whatever you're writing for, whether it is for entertainment or information, there is no doubt that Philosophy promotes excellent literacy and communication skills.

**Career paths:** Journalist, Author, Screen & Script Writer, Poetry

## POLITICS

Politics and Philosophy are closely linked. Ancient Philosophers debated the credibility of democracy versus authoritarian governments – a practice we still continue today! The core skills of analytical thinking, empathy and conviction are important for anyone who wants to act in the best interests of others.

**Career paths:** MoP, Think Tanks, Civil Servant, Prime Minister

## FAMOUS PHILOSOPHERS

Moby, *Musician and Artist*  
Ricky Gervais, *Comedian and Writer*  
General Sir Richard Barrons, *Commander, Joint Forces Command*  
Martin Luther King Jr, *Civil Rights Activist*  
David Cameron, *Politician and Prime Minister*  
Matt Groening, *Writer, Creator of The Simpsons*  
Yann Martel, *Writer, Author of The Life of Pi*



## EMPLOYERS SAY:

"If I need an employee who knows how to think, I'll look to the selection of Philosophy graduates."  
"Philosophy can help us to address the existential challenges that the world currently confronts."  
"Good ethics is good business."  
"Philosophy lies at the heart of our approach to recruiting and developing our leadership, and our leaders. We need people who have the ability to look for different approaches and take an open mind to issues. These skills are promoted by philosophical approaches."

## Careers in RE

Studying theology and religious studies allows you to explore how religious beliefs and practices shape and influence the world we live in

If you are interested in questions like, 'why are we here?', 'can we say anything meaningful about God – and if so, what, and how?', 'to what extent are religions similar or different?', 'what is the importance of scriptures in different religions (or just in my religion) and how are they best interpreted?', 'what has the impact of the great religions been on the development of culture across the world?', 'what do religious teachers or traditions have to teach us about love, justice or hope?', then you might well enjoy religious studies.

An understanding of religious and spiritual perspectives in the contemporary world is so important, whatever your belief system. This is because faith is such a powerful cultural force that influences decision-making in all manner of groups and individuals. So, an increased awareness of cultural sensitivities is an essential tool for understanding the motivations of others, and of ourselves.

Humans are social beings, and we are drawn to positive influences. So, how we act in public, at work, on social media and with our friends and family can impact on wider society in small but remarkable ways. Whilst studying religious studies at university, you may notice that qualities such as empathy, respecting differences and recognising the motivations of others come more naturally to you, allowing you to connect with people on a much deeper level.

### **Jobs directly related to RE include:**

- Chaplain
- Higher education lecturer
- Primary school teacher
- Secondary school teacher

### **Jobs where RE would be really useful include:**

- Advice worker
- Archivist
- Charity fundraiser
- Counsellor
- Civil Service administrator
- Community development worker
- International aid/development worker
- Mediator
- Newspaper journalist
- Police officer
- Youth worker

## Typical employers

As a theology and religious studies graduate, you could work in a variety of different roles in a range of employment sectors.

- national and local government, including the Civil Service and government agencies, as well as non-governmental organisations (NGOs)
- schools, colleges and universities (for teaching and research positions)
- charities, voluntary and not-for-profit organisations
- social services and other caring professions
- the church and other religious organisations
- financial and legal firms
- the National Health Service (NHS)
- PR, advertising, sales and marketing companies
- media companies.

## Skills for your CV

Studying theology and religious studies gives you a thorough understanding of the major world religions, their historical development and their relationship with the world we live in. You'll gain insight into the theological, ethical, cultural, political and philosophical issues of religion.

You also develop skills that are valued by employers in a range of sectors. These include:

- research, analysis and presentation skills
- critical thinking skills and the ability to interpret information, formulate questions and solve problems
- organisational and time management skills
- teamworking and communication skills
- writing skills, including accurate referencing and the ability to construct a reasoned argument
- IT skills
- empathy and the ability to understand people and take on board others' views
- the ability to work methodically and accurately
- independence of mind and the ability to think for yourself.

## Further study of RE

You may choose to increase your knowledge of religion/theology through a postgraduate qualification such as a Masters or PhD. Areas of research include theology, religion and culture, ethics and religious conflict.

Or depending on the career you want, you may need to take a vocational postgraduate course in an area such as teaching, journalism, librarianship or law.

Postgraduate courses are also available in subjects such as marketing, finance, human resource management or business/management, so think about which direction you'd like your career to take.