The Honours Research Project

An Honours full-time programme takes 1 year.
Students complete four semester courses and write a short dissertation (15,000 words).

An Honours part-time programme takes 2 years.
Students complete the compulsory core courses in year 1 and the remaining electives are completed in year 2.
Students are also required to write a short dissertation (15,000 words).

Lectures

✓ *All PG lectures take place on Wednesdays at the allotted times in the REL Seminar Room*

Attendance is compulsory. Your lectures are intended to give you all of the necessary information needed to get you started with, and guide you in, conducting your research.

********For lecture times, venue & mode of teaching please see page 35 below***

Link to timetable: REL Postgrad Timetable 2027

Seminars

- ✓ The Department offers lunch-time seminars that take place on Wednesdays from 1-2pm.
- ✓ These PG seminars are presented by various experts in the field of Religions and takes place every alternate Wednesday. All seminars require the compulsory attendance of our PG students
- ✓ Seminar will be offered either in-person in the Study of Religions Seminar Room (LS5.67) or online via MS Teams. We will confirm the platform when communicating the seminar details

Advisors

Finding an Advisor:

- The Research Project is self-led research. Advisors do not function as full supervisors (as in Masters/PhD).
- Students should consult with a prospective advisor with expertise in their proposed research topic/area.
- Your programme convenor (Prof Sa'diyya Shaikh – Sadiyya.Shaikh@uct.ac.za / room 5.37) will be able to advise you on who best to approach.
- Honours students should secure an advisor as early as possible (we recommend that your topic and advisor be finalised by April).
- Once your advisor is confirmed, you need to send an email to the PG Administrator (Mrs Tasneem Wise Tasneem.Wise@uct.ac.za) to confirm your advisors details and provisional research title.

What to expect from your Advisor:

- Students are entitled to at least three consultations with their advisor

1. At the start of the year for topic-specific guidance and advice (around April).
2. Mid-way through the year for specific guidance and advice on a 1st draft of your thesis (around August)
3. At the end of the year to review and advise on your thesis prior to final submission (around early October)

- Advisors are <u>not</u> required to fill in any gaps of knowledge in the event you did not attend the lecture.

<u>What your Advisor expects from you:</u>

- It is very important to note that it is YOUR ROLE as the student to initiate contact with your advisor and to request the necessary meetings you require in order to meet the obligations for your Honours thesis
- Maintain regular contact with your advisor
- You should have a clear programme of action. Together with your advisor you should set and agree on necessary deadlines that need to be met throughout the year
- You should provide regular delivery of work based on the programme of action agreed upon
- You need to work hard and remain committed to the research project
- Be responsive and remain open to taking advice from your academic advisor

<u>Navigating the thesis</u>

1. Decide on a research topic
2. Secure an advisor
3. You should have a clear programme of action. Together with your advisor you should set and agree on necessary deadlines that need to be met throughout the year
4. Proposed research topic should be finalised by end May and communicated to Mrs Tasneem Wise together with the name of your advisor
5. If your research involves interactions with human subjects, it is important that you get ethics clearance prior to starting your research *(contact Tasneem Wise for requirements)*
6. You should maintain regular contact with your advisor
7. You should be ready to submit a first draft to your advisor by August
8. You should be ready to submit a final draft to your advisor by early October
9. Final thesis should be submitted to the Department for examination by **<u>12 October 2027</u>**

<u>Research Ethics</u>
If your research involves interaction with other human beings as part of the research process (including interviews, filling out of questionnaires or focus groups with "human subjects") it is important that you get ethics clearance.

For Ethics Clearance please contact Tasneem Wise (Tasneem.Wise@uct.ac.za) with subject "Ethics Clearance" to obtain details on the required application process.

<u>Submission</u>

- The hand-in date is **<u>12 October 2027</u>**
- The limit is 15,000 words
- Submission Requirements:
  - ✓ One soft copy on Amathuba (uploaded to the assignment tab of the REL4011H course site)
  - ✓ One soft copy (emailed to advisor if requested)

*** ***(see below Honours Submission Checklist page 24 and Postgraduate Programmes page 30)***

<u>Marking</u>

Marking is done by one internal marker and one external examiner.

<u>Grades:</u>

Your final grade will be posted on the Amathuba course site by noon on 19 November 2027 and will be available on PeopleSoft on 17 December @ 14:00pm.

CHECKLIST FOR DISSERTATION/THESIS SUBMISSIONS	
Honours Dissertation	
Candidates are required to submit a draft thesis to their Supervisor on an ongoing basis during the year. A final draft should be submitted to the Supervisor by no later than **end of September 2027** for review, after which necessary amendments can be made. The Final thesis should be submitted to the Supervisor and Department's Admin Assistant by **12 October 2027** for a March graduation. ***Extensions will only be granted for medical reasons, and a medical note would need to accompany the request.** The Department sends a copy of your thesis to internal and external examiners. Examiners are expected to return their reports within 1 week. External examiners may occasionally take longer. If the examiner has not submitted by two weeks, the Admin Assistant will follow up. **All results need to be submitted to Faculty by December to ensure graduation during this academic year.**	
Dissertation should include the following:	
2 soft copies ***one copy to be emailed to advisor (if requested)** ***one copy to be uploaded to the Amathuba site: REL4011H**	
Dissertation/Thesis cover page and Plagiarism Declaration **REL COVERSHEET_PLAGIARISM DECLARATION_PG (FINAL)** ***this can also be accessed on any of your REL Amathuba Course sites https://amathuba.uct.ac.za/d2l/login or the Department website http://www.religion.uct.ac.za**	