

# MA in Religion, Culture and Global Justice

## **A Program at Laurier**

- **Designed for Visionaries and Creative Thinkers**
- **Created for Passionate Global Citizens who Want to Make the World More Just**
- **Designed and Created for YOU!**

# Exciting New Program Design\* Teaching Passionate Students

- Drawing on faculty experts from Laurier's Religion and Culture (R&C) Department and Global Studies (GS) Department, the Religion, Culture and Global Justice MA program has been re-designed as of 2022 in order to provide students with a renewed, innovative delivery format combining hands-on experience with course based guidance
- Major themes refer to the role and influence of religion and religious communities in the world
- All RCGJ MA students begin with two terms of coursework and continue by following one of four program options:
  1. 3-term (12 month) option with Major Research Project (MRP)
  2. 3-term (12 month) option with short INTERNSHIP-plus-MRP
  3. 4-term (16 month) option with major INTERNSHIP-plus-MRP
  4. 4-term (16 month) THESIS option

\*Subject to WLU VP Approval



# Limited Class Sizes / Competitive Enrollment:

- From 8 to 14 students per cohort
- Students with a diverse range of interests
  - A dynamic variety of academic and professional backgrounds
  - A dedication to achieving goals and creating change
  - A wide range of life experience
  - Both students and mid- or advanced career sabbaticants



# Program Structure





# The Groundwork

- ▶ RE693: Religions and Cultures in Global Context – 0.5 credit theory course (required)
  - ▶ Fall term
- ▶ RE694: Global Justice in an Unjust World – 0.5 credit theme course (required)
  - ▶ Winter term
- ▶ RE690: Colloquium – 0.5 credit (required)
  - ▶ Academic presentations, public lectures/events, conferences, etc.
  - ▶ Facilitates professional integration of learning
  - ▶ Split as 0.25 credit for Fall term and 0.25 credit for Winter term



# Colloquium Options continued...

- ❖ WLU offered teaching certificate, completion of a teaching practicum
- ❖ Attendance at professionalization workshops
- ❖ Organizing a graduate student conference
- ❖ Completion of a mini-internship (e.g. volunteering with an approved NGO)



# Electives

- ▶ Groundwork Courses + Complete three 0.5 credit elective courses
  
- ▶ Choose from:
  1. RCGJ grad courses offered by R&C and GS departments
    - ▶ <https://www.wlu.ca/programs/arts/graduate/religion-and-culture-ma/index.html>
    - ▶ Reading courses with R&C and GS faculty
  2. Relevant grad courses offered by other Laurier departments/programs and approved by the RCGJ Coordinator as well as the course instructor





# The Major Research Project (MRP)

- ▶ 1.0 credit Major Research Project
  - ▶ Spring term (May to August) for those in a 12 month program option (either the conventional MRP option or the short Internship-plus-MRP option)
  - ▶ Second Fall term for those in the 16 month Internship program option (where the internship would be completed over the Spring term – April/May to August)
  - ▶ Work on researching and writing a paper of publishable quality
  - ▶ Ideally work toward publication
- ▶ What is involved in an MRP?
  - ▶ Finding/selecting a supervisor (from R&C and GS faculty)
  - ▶ Writing and presenting a topic proposal to your cohort
  - ▶ Researching your chosen topic question and writing your MRP
  - ▶ Presenting/defending your completed MRP to your supervisor and a second reader





# Internship Option



- ▶ Students interested in an internship with an NGO or other organization during the Spring term can use that internship experience as a foundation for their MRP topic question
  - ▶ Guidance for finding an internship is available from the RCGJ Graduate Coordinator and the Manager of Laurier's Community and Workplace Partnerships
- ▶ For the 12 month (3 term) program option with short internship:
  - ▶ Internship is done as part of colloquium course and/or during first four weeks of Spring term (April/May)
  - ▶ MRP will be written in the Summer term (June to August)
- ▶ For the 16 month (4 term) program option with major internship:
  - ▶ Internship takes place in the Spring term (April/May to August)
  - ▶ MRP is written in the 4<sup>th</sup> term (second Fall term)
- ▶ Internships will be supervised, as arranged with the RCGJ Grad Coordinator



# Funding and Fees



# Funding

(see FGPS Internal Funding for details)

Guaranteed funding (for domestic students) = \$15,000 (approx.)

1. Teaching Assistantships (Fall and Winter terms of first year)
2. Additionally, each student receives \$4,500

- ▶ Top-up funding available for more competitive students
  - ▶ Some competitive students in our program have received \$5,000 in top-up funds
  - ▶ In some years, the Lenia Chamberlain Award (est. \$7000) may be available to one exceptional female MA candidate



# External Funding

([See FGPS External Funding for Details](#))

External Grants, Scholarships

1. OGS (\$15,000 total for 3 terms)
  - ▶ Need A- cumulative average
  - ▶ Laurier's OGS applications are due Jan. 31, 2023 (for 2023-2024 cohort)
2. CGS (MA SSHRC) \$17,500 (3 terms)
  - ▶ Applications due Dec. 2022 (for 2023-2024 cohort)
  - ▶ Application portal



# Fees

## Domestic Student Fees:

1. As of September 2022, tuition fees are \$7,869 per year (3 terms)
2. Incidental fees are approximately \$1,841 per year (3 terms)  
Total fees ~ \$9,710

➤ For details visit FGPS [Tuition and Fees](#) page



# **RCGJ MA Graduates and their Futures**



# Alumni

Alumni from past cohorts have gone on to pursue further studies or launch new careers. Here are a few examples:

- ▶ Further Graduate Study
  - ▶ PhD programs (UofWaterloo, Alberta, WLU, Balsillie School)
  - ▶ Masters in International Public Policy (Balsillie School)
- ▶ Careers
  - ▶ LUSO Community Services, Program Assistant (London, ON)
  - ▶ International Migration Research Centre, Employee (Waterloo, ON)





# Career Pathways of our Grads

- International relations and public policy
  - Interreligious dialogue and peace-building
  - Refugee and migrant resettlement
  - Institutional human rights and diversity policy
  - Journalism and communications
  - Programming on multiculturalism and community development
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# Further Questions?

Email: [rcgjadvisor@wlu.ca](mailto:rcgjadvisor@wlu.ca)

