

Frequently Asked Questions

What is this course for

It is designed to help supplement your subject knowledge of Religious Studies prior to a Postgraduate Certificate in Education or other teacher training course.

It is available on the internet at www.keswickhalltrust.org.uk where you will find the area dedicated to the About Religions Distance Learning Course

Most of the information about the course can be found there, including cost, ways to register, pay for modules and send your assessment exercises to your tutor. However, the following information may assist you in deciding if you wish to pursue this.

How long does it take to do the course?

There is no particular time frame in which the Programme should be completed and it is entirely up to you how quickly you complete it. It is possible to complete all six modules within a matter of weeks but obviously this depends very much on existing subject knowledge, the frequency with which you are able to study and how quickly you want or need to complete the Programme. You may also find it quicker & easier to complete some modules than others.

Can I do this while I am working or still studying?

Yes, see above. We are happy to work with you so you can fit this in around any other commitments.

How much will it cost

The total cost for all six units is £150: £25 registration fee plus £25 x 5 units, the 6th unit is free.

If I only want to do one unit do I still have to pay the full registration fee?

Yes, because this pays for the administration cost of setting up the site and is the same however many units you want to follow.

What does the payment entitle me to?

The registration fee gives you access to the subject knowledge audit and the initial advice of the tutor. The remainder entitles you to the studyguide, assessment and comments from the tutor and a certificate which confirms what you have done and is sent to you by post when you have completed your course.

Do I have to pay for anything else?

You will need access to particular text books, but these can be purchased or borrowed – that is up to you.

Do I have to do all the units

If you do not need some of the units you do not have to do them, but sometimes a refresher course can be useful. You make the final decision here.

If I do all the units do I have to purchase them all at the same time?

No. It is probably advisable not to do this, but purchase them as you go. This does mean you do not have to spend all at once and if you do change your mind you will not have wasted your money either

Can I get a refund if I change my mind?

No. We cannot repay money once you have registered or purchased a unit.

Do I need to tell you if I decide not to continue?

This can be helpful so we do not expect further communications from you. However, if you think you may want to continue in the future then that too is useful to know. Some people do take a break due to a variety of circumstances and pick it up again later. Any payments received to that stage are then credited so that you do not have to pay again.

If I am entitled to a final unit without charge how do I access this?

Once your 5th payment is received you will be credited with the final unit as well so this is available to download. If you do not need or wish to do this one, you simply do not submit the assessment exercise for this unit.

Why is the 6th unit free?

This is to encourage those who may have some knowledge of a religion to also look further into that one rather than rely on what they think they know. It has worked well in the past so that people are often surprised by aspects of a religion they may belong to which they had not previously thought about.

Do I have to buy all at once to get access to the free unit?

No. You do not have to purchase all the units together to access to the final one without charge

How do I access the materials?

Once you have submitted your Registration form and the registration fee via the system, you will receive a password for your account which you will need to use to log on to your own area. You will find the access buttons on the right hand side of the web page – labelled

Register/purchase studyguide
download studyguide

knowledge audit
assessment

Who chooses which studyguides I need to follow?

You do, with the advice of the tutor. This is based on your responses to the Subject Knowledge Audit which you complete after you have registered. The tutor will look at this and advise you which you need to complete and the order in which to study them.

Does it matter if I can't tick any boxes on the audit?

No. Many people don't feel confident enough to do this to start with, and it is not unusual. The aim is to be able to tick at least one box for each section by the time you have finished the course. No ticks at that stage would be a problem!

If my course tutor tells me I have to do certain modules will this matter?

No. You do what you need to secure your place on your teacher training course. Again, we are happy to work with you and if you do have preferences about what to study and when, you make the final decision.

How do I keep in touch with the tutor?

At each stage you should notify the tutor that you need advice by using the box on the left hand side of the web page. This is then sent via e-mail to the tutor who will respond accordingly using the same system. If you don't tell the tutor, she cannot reply!

Can I send the tutor a separate e-mail?

Yes, but this will not necessarily be recorded on your web page. It may depend on the nature of the query – and you will get a reply to all e-mails.

How do I pass the course?

This is not a pass/fail course. The purpose is for you to upgrade your knowledge, which you will do if you read the books and the studyguides. It is a good example of getting out of it as much as you put into it!

How does the assessment work?

On completion of each module you are required to submit an evaluation and self assessment form for that module, and to update that section of your subject knowledge audit. The forms can be found on the website, and when you tell the tutor you have completed the assessment she will look at this and offer you some feedback.

Do I have to write essays?

No. The assessments have been kept simple so that you do not need to write long answers. Being selective about your learning is a very effective way to gauge what you have learnt for both you and your tutor. The breadth of your knowledge is for you to judge and enter in the knowledge audit.

Is there a test?

No. If you want to pretend you know more than you do, then we will leave that to your conscience! You are the one who needs to know the material for your own benefit, so why not be honest and take advantage of all the help you can get?

There are exercises in the studyguides – do I need to send them in as well?

No. These are for you to check your knowledge and understanding. If you get stuck you can contact the tutor for help, but usually these units are self contained, and the tutor only needs to see the audit and the assessment forms at the end.

Does it matter if I still don't know everything?

You won't. This is the beginning of a lifelong process, and each religion can take a lifetime to study. This can only set you on the path, and you will need to keep learning for a very long time.

Do I have to submit all the assessment together?

No – please don't! You will find it better for both yourself and for the tutor if you complete the assessments as you finish each unit and let the tutor know. You will be able to make more informed comments about your learning on the assessment and the feedback is likely to be more detailed if this is done one at a time.

What level is the course?

We have not officially set a level in current terms. It is aimed at those who have already gained a first degree and are capable of independent study.

Is the course accredited by a University?

No, as this would involve a great deal of expense, and we are trying to keep costs down.

Is the course recognised by teacher training courses?

Yes. The Programme is recognised by most PGCE providers as a subject knowledge booster programme in RE, and is often recommended by a number of providers across the country.

How do I prove that I have done the course?

Once you have completed all the necessary units and the assessments have been seen by your tutor, you will be issued with a Certificate of Completion authorised by the Keswick Hall Trust. This lists the units you have studied and the length of time you have been registered on the course.

Who are the tutors?

The tutor team is made up of two experienced teachers and teacher trainers. Marian Agombar tutored a PGCE course at UEA for many years and devised this distance learning course initially

to help her own students and developed it from there, with the assistance of Jan Munt who has extensive experience of training teachers and acting as mentor to student teachers.