

Master of Arts, Graduate Department of Religion, Vanderbilt University



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The [Graduate Department of Religion](#) at Vanderbilt University is pleased to invite applications to the Historical Studies track of its Master of Arts program from students interested in the study of Syriac Christianity within the broader contexts of late antiquity and the early middle ages.

Course offerings are focused on the history of Christianity in late antiquity, language study in classical Greek, Latin, Syriac, and Arabic, the material culture and archeology of the Eastern Mediterranean world, the intersections of Judaism, Christianity, and Islam, and the application of the digital humanities to these fields through collaborative research projects such as [Syriaca.org](#).

Students in the Graduate Department of Religion may also take courses from departments across Vanderbilt University including in [Classical and Mediterranean Studies](#), [History](#), [History of Art](#), [Islamic Studies](#), and [Jewish Studies](#). Language instruction is offered on a rotating basis in Biblical Hebrew, Classical Greek, Classical Latin, Classical Syriac, and Classical Arabic. Vanderbilt also offers field work opportunities in the archeology of the Eastern Mediterranean and Levant, including current excavations at [Caesarea Maritima](#).

Faculty members offering courses in the program include [Annalisa Azzoni](#), [Jelena Bogdanović](#), [Issam Eido](#), [Phillip Lieberman](#), [Richard McGregor](#), [David Michelson](#), [Joseph Rife](#), [Betsey Robinson](#), and [Choon-Leong Seow](#), among others.

Admitted students are eligible for two years of funding through the Graduate Department of Religion including full tuition awards and paid research or teaching assistantships.

Graduates of this MA program have successfully gone on to enroll at Ph.D. programs in a variety of fields including Religious Studies, Classics, Central Asian Studies, and Medieval Studies.

Inquiries may be directed to Professor David Michelson, david.a.michelson@vanderbilt.edu. The application deadline is December 15, 2021. Late applications will be considered if funding remains available. Application details are available at <https://www.vanderbilt.edu/gdr/admissions/> under the Historical Studies graduate track. The Graduate Department of Religion does not require the GRE for admission; however, a writing sample is required. The writing sample must be an academic paper no more than 35 pages long.

Vanderbilt University is committed to principles of equal opportunity and affirmative action.