

Lancaster  
University



**Philosophy, Politics and  
Economics (PPE)  
Undergraduate Degrees  
2024**

# Philosophy, Politics and Economics at Lancaster

**Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) explores the events and ideas that make up our world today. Our personal lives, our societies and our political institutions are shaped by economic forces.**

Politics structures economic activity, while trade crosses international borders. Both politics and economics raise a host of deeper philosophical issues – about fairness and freedom, power and knowledge, sustainability and progress.

PPE combines key areas of economics, analysis of political structures, and philosophical argument. The degree offers lots of flexibility to focus on topics that interest you – for example, political ideas, comparative politics, or the relation between states and markets.

## Valuable work experience

Placement year and shorter work experience options

## Flexibility

Flexible structure with a wide choice of modules

## Study abroad opportunities

Study abroad and vacation travel options

## Your career

Suitable for many different career paths

## High quality

High quality teaching by friendly, expert academic staff



**for Philosophy student satisfaction with teaching**  
*Guardian University Guide 2023*



**for Economics graduate prospects**  
*Guardian University Guide 2023*



**for Politics**  
*Times Good University Guide 2023*



# Your degree

## BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

One great advantage of studying PPE at Lancaster is that we offer a flexible, modular degree programme. This means that you can shape your degree to fit with your preferences and spend time discovering what you enjoy and exploring the areas that interest you most.

If you find that you have a strong preference for one or two of the three core subjects, you have the option to change your degree at the end of the first year and switch to a single or joint honours degree in Politics, Philosophy, or Economics.

### Year 1

In Year 1, you will gain a firm grounding in each of the three disciplines while developing your writing skills and analytic abilities.

#### Introduction to Philosophy : Knowledge and Reality

You are introduced to some key areas in philosophy, for example, epistemology, free will, and critical thinking. You will learn about other traditions of philosophy, including central ideas of Indian philosophy and "continental philosophy." You also develop the background in knowledge and critical skills necessary to study philosophical topics in more detail in years 2 and 3. No prior study of philosophy is required.

+

#### Politics in the Modern World

You'll explore key themes in the study of modern politics, and gain critical insight into the nature and use of political power in the contemporary world. You will learn about: the foundations of the modern nation-state; the behaviour of individuals and groups in political contexts; the workings of national constitutions and international organisations; the interaction of global events and domestic agendas.

OR

#### International Relations: Theory and Practice

Alternatively, you can take our first year module in International Relations. This gives you a firm grounding in the concepts and debates necessary to understand modern international politics. You will learn about the dominant features and power relations of the contemporary global system; the nature of sovereignty and security, their expression and limitations; and the central problems confronting the international community today.

+

#### Economic Principles and Applications B

The first part of this module provides a thorough introduction to Microeconomics (including the theory of demand, costs and pricing under various forms of market structure, and welfare economics). We also cover key mathematical tools required for a good understanding of Economics (including linear and nonlinear equations, and differentiation). The second part provides a thorough introduction to Macroeconomics (including national income analysis, monetary theory, business cycles, inflation, unemployment, and the great macroeconomic debates).

Throughout this module, we will explore how key micro- and macroeconomic ideas can help us understand the world around us. You will participate in economic experiments and games, and we will discuss lessons from the Great Depression and the Great Recession, speculative attacks and currency crises, inequality, democracy and growth, government deficits and inflation, and the macroeconomic implications of Brexit and Covid-19.

*Information contained in this booklet with respect to modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer modules as advertised. In some cases changes may be necessary and may result in some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research. Please check our website for the latest information. [www.lancaster.ac.uk](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)*

# Year 2

Over years 2 and 3, you will take two (25%) of your modules in each of the three subjects.

For the remaining 25%, you can choose two modules from any of the three subjects.

You can find further information about modules on our website: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

|  |   |   |   |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|---|--|---|---|
| <b>Philosophy</b><br>25%   | + | <b>Politics</b><br>25%  | + | <b>Economics</b><br>25%  | + | <b>Optional modules</b><br>25%                                |
| <b>We recommend you take as one of your Philosophy modules:</b>  |   | <b>We recommend you take as one of your Politics modules:</b> |   | <b>You will take either a practice route:</b>                  |   | Select two further Philosophy, Politics or Economics modules. |
| + Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics |   | + State & Economy: Between the Market and the Demos           |   | + Microeconomic Analysis                                       |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | <b>AND</b>   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | + Macroeconomic Analysis                                       |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | <b>Or a theory route (open to those with a Maths A-level):</b> |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | + Intermediate Microeconomics 1                                |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | <b>AND</b>   |   |   |
|  |   |   |   | + Intermediate Macroeconomics 1                                |   |   |

## Optional modules

| Philosophy   | Politics   | Economics   |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Ethics and Politics of Knowledge</li><li>+ Idealism, Empiricism &amp; Criticism in 18th Century Philosophy</li><li>+ Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy</li><li>+ Metaphysics</li><li>+ Modern Political Thought: Equality and Community</li><li>+ Moral Philosophy</li><li>+ Nineteenth Century Philosophy</li><li>+ Philosophers on Religion</li><li>+ Philosophy of Science</li><li>+ The Politics and Philosophy of Higher Education</li><li>+ Values and Objectivity</li><li>+ Women and Philosophy in the Ancient World</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Asian Political Culture</li><li>+ Comparative Politics of the Gulf</li><li>+ Environmental Politics</li><li>+ European Union Politics</li><li>+ Exploring Global Religions</li><li>+ Government and Politics of the United States</li><li>+ International Political Economy</li><li>+ International Relations and Politics of the Asia Pacific</li><li>+ International Relations, Security and Sustainability</li><li>+ Peace Studies in the Middle East</li><li>+ Politics and History of the Middle East</li><li>+ Politics of Development</li><li>+ Politics of Ireland</li><li>+ Politics of Race</li><li>+ Power in British Politics</li><li>+ Public Policy</li><li>+ Research Methods in Politics</li><li>+ Russian (Inter)national Politics</li><li>+ The Power of the Past: Religion and Politics in South Asia</li></ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>+ Environmental Economics and Climate Change</li><li>+ Games and Strategic Behaviour</li><li>+ Intermediate Microeconomics 2*</li><li>+ Intermediate Macroeconomics 2*</li><li>+ Introductory Econometric Analysis</li><li>+ Introductory Mathematics for Economics</li></ul> <p>* Only open to those with an A-level in Maths and on the theory route.</p> |

# Year 3

Philosophy  
25%

+

Politics  
25%

+

Economics  
25%

+

Optional modules  
25%

**Select two optional  
Philosophy modules.**

**Select two optional  
Politics modules.**

**Select two optional  
Economics modules.**

**You will take either:**

Dissertation: you will work over two terms on a 10,000 word dissertation with guidance from an academic with relevant expertise.

**OR**

Select two optional  
Philosophy, Politics or  
Economics modules.

## Optional modules

### Philosophy

- + Applied Philosophy
- + Darwinism and Philosophy
- + Ethics and Politics of Communication
- + Feminist Philosophy
- + Future Generations
- + Indian Political Philosophy
- + Logic and Language
- + Moral, Legal and Political Philosophy
- + Philosophy and Psychoanalysis
- + Philosophy of Art
- + Philosophy of the Human Sciences
- + Political Ideas
- + Transformations and Revolutions in Twentieth Century Philosophy

### Politics

- + Art and Society
- + Africa and Global Politics
- + Baffling Ballots: Voters, Parties and Electoral Change
- + Britain in the World
- + Comparative Politics of First Ladies: Gender, Agency and Power
- + Complexity, Ethics, Values and Policy
- + Conspiracy Theories in Politics and Society
- + Decolonisation: Race and Empire
- + Indian Politics, Society and Religion
- + Political Economy of the Global South
- + Politics of Cultural Diversity
- + Politics of Gender in Islam
- + Politics of Global Danger
- + Society and Politics in Latin America
- + State and Religion
- + The Governance of Global Capitalism
- + Understanding External Intervention in Violent Conflicts
- + United States Foreign Policy

### Economics\*

- + Behavioural and Experimental Economics
- + Current Issues in Economics
- + Data Science in Economics
- + Development Economics
- + Economic Inequality
- + Health Economics
- + Industrial Organisation
- + International Trade
- + International Business
- + Labour Economics
- + Monetary Macroeconomics
- + Public Policy Analysis
- + Sports Economics

\* Some Year 3 modules require theory and quantitative modules to have been taken in Year 2.

## Placement Year and Study Abroad Degrees

Placement year and study abroad students spend year 3 away from campus. In your final year, you will return to Lancaster to study and will select from the optional modules listed above.

# Develop your professional experience

**Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. Voluntary activities are another good way to build work experience and make a positive impact on the world around you.**

## Placement Year

You can apply to study PPE with a placement year. With specialist support, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Previous Lancaster University students have worked with major businesses, public sector bodies, politicians, charities and NGOs.

## Faculty Internships

Faculty internships are typically four to six week placements, which are available in the summer vacation or on a part-time basis during term time. They provide work experience in small and medium sized businesses, as well as third sector and not-for-profit organisations. Roles range from marketing and comms to research and policy work.

## The Richardson Institute Internship Programme

The Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion is home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge research in peace and conflict. The Institute provides opportunities for students to undertake internships conducting research projects for external organisations. Research themes include sectarianism, identity and belonging, environmental issues, desectarianisation and urban politics. Find out more on our website: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements)



# Your global experience

Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your college or your Students' Union.

## Study abroad

Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. At Lancaster, we offer 4-year study abroad degrees where you spend your third year studying at one of our international partner universities. Potential destinations currently include Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and the USA. These destinations are given as a guide only as the availability of places may vary year to year. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefits both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

## Vacation travel

Alternatively, there are usually shorter options in the Easter or summer vacation to destinations such as the US, Germany, Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These programmes include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

You may also be able to attend a summer school at one of our many overseas partner universities. For example, our students have previously done dissertation research at the Manipal Academy of Higher Education in India.

Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience)



- Batu Caves, Malaysia

# Your future career

Studying Philosophy, Politics and Economics opens the door to a wide range of graduate careers. Graduate employers seek individuals with keen intellectual and critical skills, independence of mind, and clarity of communication.

Lancaster University has an excellent track record for graduate employment, and for graduates who continue to postgraduate study.

This degree will equip you for a range of careers in organisations such as:

- + Civil and Diplomatic Services
- + Politics and Government
- + International Charities and Non-Government Organisations
- + Teaching and Education
- + International Finance and Banking
- + Journalism and Media
- + Business, Management and Consultancy

## Degrees and entry requirements

| Degree title  | Award   | UCAS code | Degree length |
|---|---------|-----------|---------------|
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics                  | BA Hons | L0V0      | 3 years       |
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Placement Year) | BA Hons | L0V1      | 4 years       |
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Study Abroad)   | BA Hons | L0V2      | 4 years       |

Entry requirements: AAB with GCSE Mathematics Grade B or 6, English Language Grade C or 4, or equivalents.

For information on other entry qualifications, such as BTECs and International Baccalaureate, as well as fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website:

[www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

## Get in touch

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Message a student: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat)

 @PPRLancaster



## Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2024–25 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2023). The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the courses as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. In exceptional circumstances that are beyond the University's reasonable control (Force Majeure Events), we may need to amend the programmes and provision advertised. However, in this event, the University will take reasonable steps to minimise the disruption to your studies. You are advised to consult our website at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. More information on limits to the University's liability can be found in the Student Contract at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms). Further legal information may be found at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice)

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