

Lancaster
University



Philosophy
Undergraduate Degrees
2024

Philosophy at Lancaster

Philosophy is the careful, critical, and reasoned engagement with a wide range of fundamental questions about human existence; about art, politics, justice, right and wrong, truth and knowledge, faith and reason.

Many of these questions will never have final answers. But in the words of one ancient philosopher, Socrates, "the unexamined life is not worth living." Whether we realise it or not, we all make assumptions about what is important and worthwhile; we all rely on concepts and ways of thinking. Philosophers try to make these explicit, investigate connections, and examine justifications and criticisms.

At Lancaster, we offer a diverse and flexible curriculum. We cover non-Western traditions of thought, including Islamic and Indian philosophy. We study famous historical thinkers such as Kant or Descartes, as well as contemporary authors like Elizabeth Anderson and Iris Marion Young. We place special emphasis on how philosophy relates to practical issues – for example, in ethics, science, and politics.

Because it explores abstract questions raised by many different human activities, philosophy combines well with other academic disciplines. We offer a wide range of joint degrees, as well as placement year and study abroad options.

Our degrees are designed to be highly flexible. After your first year, there are no compulsory philosophy modules. Instead, there's a wide range of module choices, so you can focus on the areas and approaches that you find most engaging.



**2nd in the UK for
Research Power**
*Research Excellence
Framework
(REF) 2021*



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



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

Your degree

BA (Hons) Philosophy



Year 1

In your first year you will take three modules. The core module 'Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality', provides an understanding of some of the key areas of Philosophy. We also strongly recommend the complementary module 'Moral and Political Philosophy'.

Core Module

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality

Drawing on a broad range of philosophical traditions – continental, analytic, and non-Western – this module gives a comprehensive overview of approaches to knowledge and reality. It will also develop your ability to reason and think clearly about the most fundamental questions of human existence. Areas of study will typically include:

- + **Epistemology:** the study of the nature of knowledge, belief, truth, and the mind's ability to apprehend the world.
- + **Continental Philosophy:** looking at thinkers such as Nietzsche, Derrida & Lyotard, and what is distinctive about their ways of doing philosophy.
- + **Indian Philosophy:** considers questions of self and reality in the Upanishads and the Buddha, as well as later developments in systematic epistemology.
- + **Free Will:** since our actions have causes, can we have free will or be responsible for our actions?
- + **Critical Thinking:** the study of informal reasoning.

Recommended Module

Moral and Political Philosophy

In this introduction to practical philosophy, we aim to develop your ability to reason and think clearly about how we ought to act and organise our interaction. We consider these issues both systematically and in an applied manner: to familiarise you with various moral and political theories, but also to use these theories to think critically about real-world problems. As in the core module, we'll study European and non-European sources.

Areas covered by the module typically include:

- + **Ethics in Indian Philosophy:** moral thought in Hinduism and Buddhism.
- + **Theories & Methods:** is ethics "subjective"? how should we think about altruism, exploitation and personhood?
- + **Philosophy and the Environment:** how should we think about human beings' relationship to the environment and the current environmental crisis?
- + **Capitalism and Ethics:** examining central topics of freedom, property, wealth, flourishing, work, and democracy.
- + **Islamic Philosophy:** how have Islamic thinkers approached key concepts such as obligation, virtue and law?

Minor Module

You will select a third module to complement your studies in Philosophy, potentially from among the following subjects:

- + Criminology
- + English Literature
- + History
- + International Relations
- + Politics
- + A language

The choice available will be subject to any timetabling restrictions or entry prerequisites.

Year 2

In your second year, you will choose from a broad range of optional modules, enabling you to build up your knowledge and specialise in the areas that are of most interest to you.

You can select between six and eight Philosophy modules amongst which are typically included:

- + The Ethics of Politics and Knowledge
- + Idealism, Empiricism, and Criticism in 18th Century Philosophy
- + Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
- + Metaphysics
- + Moral Philosophy
- + Nineteenth Century Philosophy
- + Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics
- + Philosophers on Religion
- + Philosophy of Science
- + The Politics and Philosophy of Higher Education
- + Women and Philosophy in the Ancient World
- + Values and Objectivity

If you wish, you can choose one or two complementary modules from other subject disciplines, including politics and international relations, for example:

- + Environmental Politics
- + Exploring Global Religions
- + Modern Political Thought: Equality and Community
- + War and Geopolitics

Meet Emma



As a philosophy student at Lancaster, I have greatly developed my imaginative and critical thinking skills. The opportunity to delve into Buddhist philosophy has been particularly inspiring. It has opened up new perspectives on the nature of reality that I might not have been able to explore elsewhere.

Outside of my studies, I am Co-Editor-in-Chief of the student-run, international philosophy journal, *Ethica*. This experience has developed my skills in publicity, writing, editing, and publishing while contributing to the undergraduate philosophical community. Take a look at our website here: www.ethicajournal.com

What stands out to me most, is the community within the department. I could not imagine a more friendly or passionate department to study in and I consider myself very lucky to have been a part of it for three years.

Emma Harte

BA (Hons) Philosophy

Year 3

In your third year, you can choose from a selection of optional modules including a year-long dissertation. There are no core elements which means you can choose a selection that suits your interests including complementary modules in another discipline if you wish. Typically you would take six to eight modules, depending on the length of the modules you choose.

Optional modules typically include, amongst others :

- + 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 of Art
- + Philosophy of the Human Sciences
- + Philosophy and Psychoanalysis
- + Philosophies of War and Conflict
- + Political Ideas
- + Transformations and Revolutions in 20th Century Philosophy

You can also take a dissertation (equivalent to two modules). Supervised by an academic with relevant expertise, you can research any philosophical topic or question of your choice, culminating in a 10,000 word dissertation.

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 and will select from the optional modules listed above.

Joint Degrees

For joint and triple major students, you will study core and optional modules in your second and third subjects in approximately equal weightings through all years of study.

Global Religions and Philosophy (BA Hons)

This joint degree allows you to study world religions alongside philosophy. As well choosing from the philosophy modules listed here, you will explore ideas and practices from the world's major religious traditions.

Find out more information on our website:
www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

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



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, the Netherlands, and the USA. Living in another country and studying your subject 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

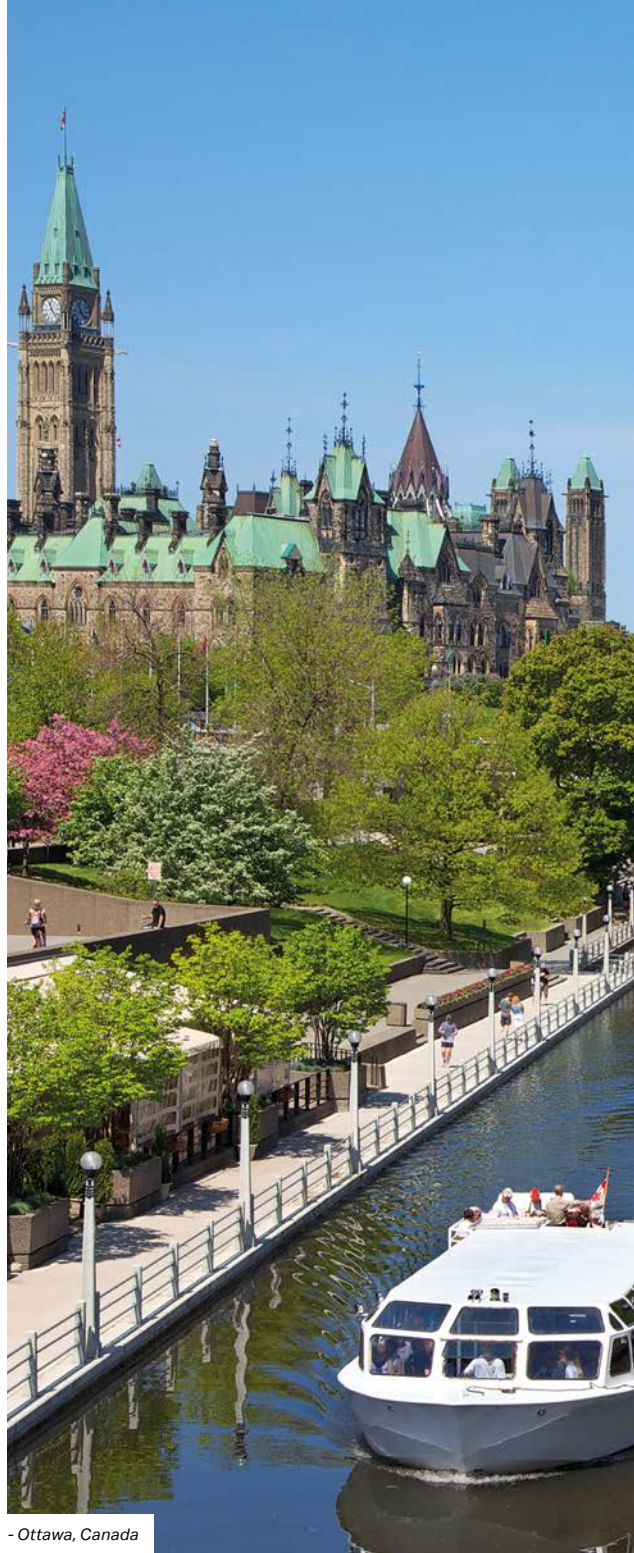
Alternatively, there are usually shorter options in the Easter or summer vacation to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, India and Malaysia. These programmes include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery.

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

Find out more:

www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

Destinations are given as a guide only as the availability of places at overseas partners may vary year to year.



- Ottawa, Canada

Your future career

You will be able to gain work experience on our degrees through opportunities in all years of study.

Internships

We are home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. The Institute provides opportunities for students to undertake internships conducting research projects for external organisations.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Roles range from marketing and comms to research and policy work at national and local SMEs and third sector organisations.

Placements

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees. With specialist support, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement to carry out in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Your career potential

Studying philosophy 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. Studying philosophy provides all of these skills. Some of our graduates choose to continue to further study with us, taking a Masters degree or a PhD.

Here are some examples of the diverse and varied careers that are open to Philosophy graduates:

- + Media, Journalism and Public Relations
- + Teaching and education
- + Consultancy
- + Legal research
- + Logistics and project management
- + Civil and Diplomatic Services
- + Politics and Government
- + International Charities and Non-Government Organisations



Support for your career

We offer life-long careers support for our students. Our career advisers are available to support you with subject-specific careers guidance, as well as application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extra-curricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers



Degrees and entry requirements

Degree title	Award	UCAS code	Degree length	Typical offer
Philosophy	BA Hons	V500	3 years	ABB
Philosophy and Politics	BA Hons	VL52	3 years	ABB
Philosophy, Politics and Economics	BA Hons	L0V0	3 years	AAB
Global Religions and Philosophy	BA Hons	V651	3 years	ABB
English Literature and Philosophy	BA Hons	QV35	3 years	AAB
Film and Philosophy	BA Hons	PV35	3 years	ABB
Chinese Studies and Philosophy	BA Hons	T1V5	4 years	ABB
French Studies and Philosophy	BA Hons	RV15	4 years	ABB
German Studies and Philosophy	BA Hons	RV25	4 years	ABB
Spanish Studies and Philosophy	BA Hons	RV45	4 years	ABB
History and Philosophy	BA Hons	VVC5	3 years	AAB
History, Philosophy and Politics	BA Hons	V0L0	3 years	AAB
Linguistics and Philosophy	BA Hons	QV15	3 years	AAB
Mathematics and Philosophy	BA Hons	GV15	3 years	AAA

-  Study abroad options
-  Placement year options

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements (such as BTECs).

www.lancaster.ac.uk

Get in touch

Department of Politics,
Philosophy and Religion (PPR)
Lancaster University,
Lancaster, LA1 4YL

www.lancaster.ac.uk/ppr

Message a student: www.lancaster.ac.uk/chat

ppr@lancaster.ac.uk

[@PPRLancaster](https://twitter.com/PPRLancaster)



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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 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. Further legal information may be found at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice

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