

Lancaster
University



**Philosophy, Politics and
Economics (PPE)**

**Undergraduate Degrees
2025**

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 2024



Home of the oldest peace and conflict research centre in UK



for Economics
Complete University Guide 2025



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.

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 your second and final years. 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.

Year 2

Over your second and final years, 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

Philosophy 25%	+	Politics 25%	+	Economics 25%	+	Optional modules 25%
We recommend you take as one of your Philosophy modules: + Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics		We recommend you take as one of your Politics modules: + State & Economy: Between the Market and the Demos		You will take a practice route in Economics: + Microeconomic Analysis AND + Macroeconomic Analysis		Select two further Philosophy, Politics or Economics modules.

Optional modules

Philosophy	Politics	Economics
<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Ethics and Politics of Knowledge+ Indian Philosophical and Religious Thought+ Introduction to Chinese Philosophy+ Introduction to Feminist Philosophy+ Metaphysics+ Moral Philosophy+ Modern Political Thought+ Nineteenth Century Philosophy+ Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics+ Philosophy of Mind+ Values and Objectivity+ Women and Philosophy in the Ancient World	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Research Methods in Politics+ Modern Political Thought+ Socialist Thought in Britain+ The Politics of Development+ International Relations, Security, and Sustainability+ International Political Economy+ Politics of Ireland+ Comparative Politics of the Gulf+ Politics and History of the Middle East+ Russian International Politics+ International Relations & Politics of Asia Pacific+ Public Policy+ China's International Relations+ Counterculture & Protest Politics+ Politics of Race+ Comparative Politics+ Environmental Politics+ War and Geopolitics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">+ Current Issues in Economics+ Economic Inequality+ Environmental Economics and Climate Change+ Games and Strategic Behaviour+ Introductory Econometric Analysis+ Introductory Mathematics for Economics

Final Year

Philosophy
25%

+

Politics
25%

+

Economics
25%

+

Optional modules
25%

**Select optional
Philosophy modules.**

**Select optional
Politics modules.**

**Select optional
Economics modules.**

You will take either:

Dissertation: you will work on a dissertation with guidance from an academic with relevant expertise.

OR

Select optional Philosophy, Politics or Economics modules.

Optional modules

Philosophy

- + Buddhist Philosophy
- + Continental Philosophy
- + Darwinism & Philosophy
- + Ethics & Politics of Communication
- + Future Generations
- + Health and Disease
- + The Imagination
- + Modern Religious and Atheistic Thought
- + Philosophies of War and Conflict
- + Philosophy of Art
- + Politics of Gender in Islam

Politics

- + Governance of Global Capitalism
- + Politics of Global Danger
- + Understanding External Intervention in Violent Conflict
- + Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
- + Africa and Global Politics
- + China in the Modern World
- + Society and Politics in Latin America
- + Political Economy of the Global South
- + Understanding Voters, Parties and Electoral Change
- + Comparative Politics of First Ladies: Gender, Agency and Power
- + War and Communication
- + Conspiracy Theories in Politics and Society
- + United States Foreign Policy
- + Politics of Cultural Diversity
- + Decolonisation, Race and Empire
- + Complexity, Ethics, Values and Policy

Economics*

- + Behavioural and Experimental Economics
- + Data Science in Economics
- + Development Economics
- + 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 optional modules such as those listed above.

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, we run short trips in the vacation to destinations such as China, Germany, Ghana, Malaysia and Switzerland. 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.

Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience



- Batu Caves, Malaysia

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 paid 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. Find out more on our website: www.lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

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.



Degrees and entry requirements

Philosophy, Politics and Economics	BA Hons	LOV0	3 years
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Placement Year)	BA Hons	LOV1	4 years
Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Study Abroad)	BA Hons	LOV2	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

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

Get in touch

Department of Politics, Philosophy and Religion
Lancaster University
Lancaster LA1 4YL, United Kingdom
study-ppr@lancaster.ac.uk

www.lancaster.ac.uk/ppr

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

 @PPRLancaster



15029900255
Printed on Carbon Captured paper



Important information

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2025–26 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2024). 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

© Lancaster University – PPE Leaflet 2025.