

Lancaster  
University



# Philosophy

Undergraduate Degrees 2022

# The Place for the *Philosopher*

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. Here at Lancaster we approach these questions not only through the history of philosophy, examining figures such as Plato, Kant, Descartes and Nietzsche, but also via contemporary philosophical discussion of a wide range of important and relevant topics.

Lancaster is distinctive in two respects. First, in having a large proportion of applied philosophy experts within the Department. Our academics provide philosophical input into public policy and the law, both nationally and internationally. Second, our department contains a number of experts in non-Western philosophy, including Indian and Islamic philosophical traditions.

Our flexible degree system allows you to take joint honours degrees, and to study other subjects alongside Philosophy.

## Top Ten

We're one of the best ten departments in the UK for studying Philosophy according to the the Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021.

## Great for employment

Philosophy is 9th in the UK for graduate prospects *Times and Sunday Times Good University Guide 2021.*

## Valuable work experience

Choose a placement year degree or gain experience via short internship opportunities

## Study abroad opportunities

You can opt to study abroad for a year or take a short vacation trip

## Flexibility

Tailor your course to your interests and strengths

# Find 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. Typically, the Institute offers a number of internships per year to our students to undertake research projects for external organisations.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects with heritage or humanitarian organisations.

### Placements

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees that you can apply to via UCAS. 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. Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year](http://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
- + HR and recruitment
- + Teaching and education
- + 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](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers)



# 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 the opportunity to gain an understanding of some of the key areas of Philosophy. We also strongly recommend that you take the complementary module 'Moral and Political Philosophy'.

#### Core Module

##### *Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Reality*

Consciously drawing on a broad range of philosophical traditions - Continental, Analytic, and non-Western – this module aims to present a comprehensive overview of various theoretical sub-disciplines within philosophy. It will also develop your ability to reason and think clearly about the most fundamental questions of human existence. We'll study European and non-European sources, and 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.
- + **Metaphysics:** the study of the nature of matter, causation, freedom, and being.
- + **Philosophy of Religion:** the study of the nature and existence of God and of religious faith.
- + **Philosophy of Mind:** the study of the nature of mind, consciousness, and mental states.
- + **Critical Thinking:** the study of informal reasoning.

#### Recommended Module

##### *Moral and Political Philosophy*

In this introduction to key themes in practical philosophy, we aim to develop your ability to reason and think clearly about the question of how we ought to act and organise our interaction. We will aim to treat this issue both systematically and in an applied manner: to familiarise you with various accounts of 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. Indicative areas covered by the module typically include:

- + **Moral Philosophy:** the study of how we should act, and what we should value.

- + **Political Philosophy:** the study of the values which underpin our political institutions and how we ought to organise our collective lives.
- + **Gender and Philosophy:** the study of the nature of gender and gendered thinking, and its relation to ethics and politics.
- + **Ethical Controversies:** the study of practical questions of ethics, such as the nature of animal rights, choices of life and death, the value of privacy, and problems of discrimination.
- + **Applied Political Philosophy:** the study of practical political issues, such as immigration rights, international inequality, the permissibility of war, free speech and propaganda from a philosophical standpoint.
- + **Environmental Philosophy:** the study of our relationship to nature, and how to respond to the environmental crisis.

#### 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:

- + Idealism, Empiricism, and Criticism in 18th Century Philosophy
- + Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
- + Metaphysics
- + Moral Philosophy
- + Mind-Body Problem
- + Nineteenth Century Philosophy
- + Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics
- + Philosophy of Science
- + 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:

- + Modern Political Thought: Equality and Community
- + The Politics of Religion and Gender
- + Exploring Politics, Religion and Values

You can read module descriptions online at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

#### John Garman

##### *BA (Hons) Philosophy (Placement Year)*

Studying philosophy at Lancaster has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience and has allowed me to study a wide range of subjects including ethics, epistemology, the nature of the mind and many more interesting topics.

Being taught by experts within their field who have a real passion for their subjects and who encourage and guide you through your work is incredibly helpful and is a key strength of the department.

I have also been fortunate enough to do a placement year whilst completing my studies. I worked for an international charity called Hospices of Hope which promotes hospice care in south-east Europe. Philosophy has given me key analytic and evaluative skills which helped me write trusts grants, conduct research and plan marketing materials in my role with Hospices of Hope.



## 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 :

- + Constructing Ethics in Islam
- + Darwinism and Philosophy
- + Ethics and Politics of Communication
- + Feminist Philosophy
- + Future Generations
- + Logic and Language
- + Politics and Ethics in Indian Philosophy
- + Research project and dissertation

You can also choose second year optional modules if you wish. You can find descriptions of these modules online at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

### Placement Year Degrees

Placement year students spend Year 3 on a professional work placement. In your final year, you 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. Find out more online: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

### Politics, Religion and Values

This fascinating degree was introduced in 2021 and is designed for students who want to explore and deepen their understanding of the close links between politics, religion, society, ethics, and philosophy. You can find details on our website: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

*We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly update and introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered should therefore be seen as indicative and may differ from that presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, following consultation with students and institutional approval, and in response to curricular developments and the emerging needs of the student body. Please check our website for the latest information.*

# 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, you can apply to study abroad for the whole of your second year, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Our current partner universities are located in Europe, Australia, Malaysia, Hong Kong, Canada and the USA. Living in another country and studying your subject from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

### Vacation travel

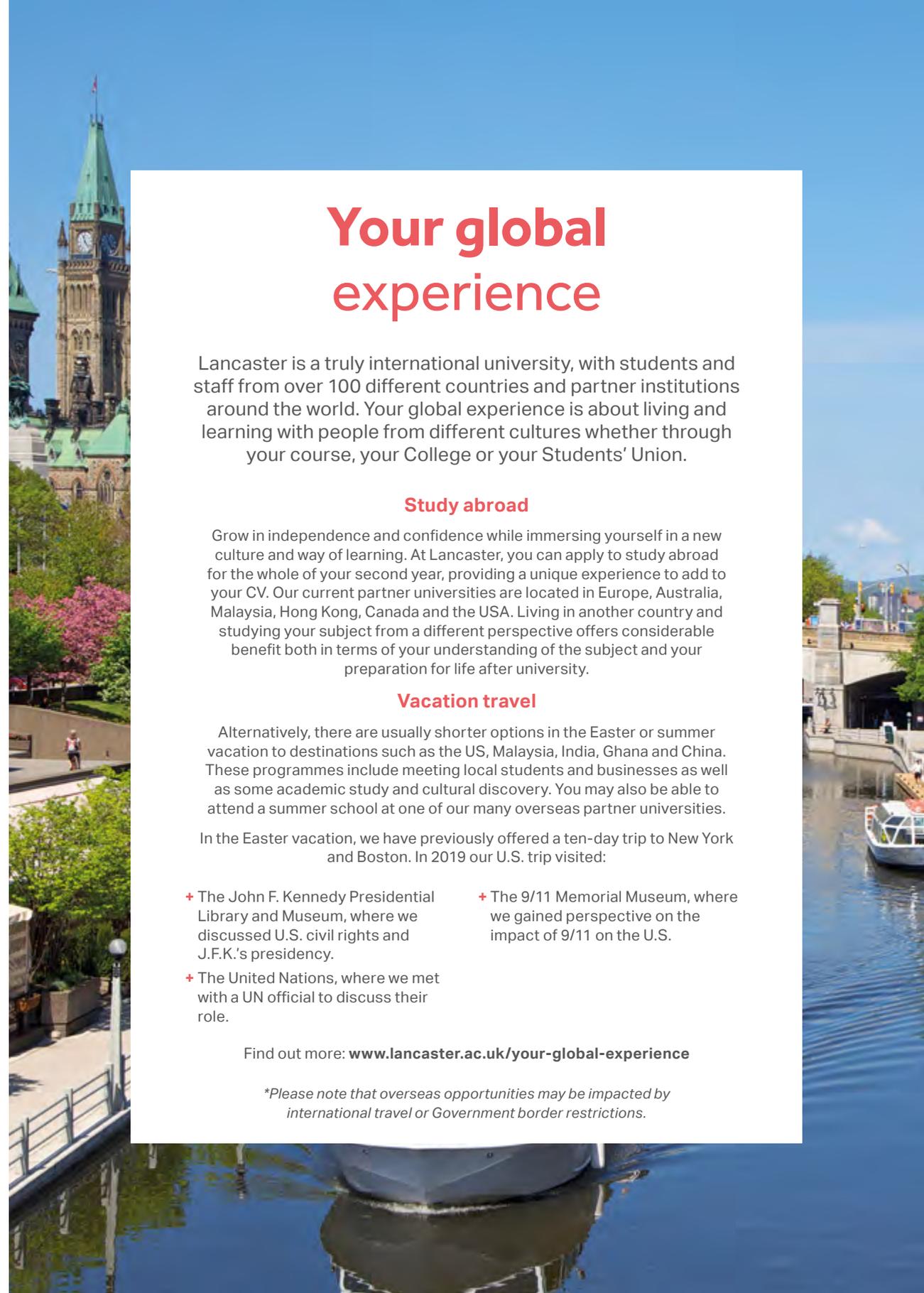
Alternatively, there are usually shorter options in the Easter or summer vacation to destinations such as the US, Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These programmes include meeting local students and businesses as well as some academic study and cultural discovery. You may also be able to attend a summer school at one of our many overseas partner universities.

In the Easter vacation, we have previously offered a ten-day trip to New York and Boston. In 2019 our U.S. trip visited:

- + The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, where we discussed U.S. civil rights and J.F.K.'s presidency.
- + The 9/11 Memorial Museum, where we gained perspective on the impact of 9/11 on the U.S.
- + The United Nations, where we met with a UN official to discuss their role.

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

*\*Please note that overseas opportunities may be impacted by international travel or Government border restrictions.*



# 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	LOV0	3 years	AAB
Politics, Religion and Values	BA Hons	LV28	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	VOL0	3 years	AAB
Linguistics and Philosophy	BA Hons	QV15	3 years	AAB
Mathematics and Philosophy	BA Hons	GV15	3 years	AAA

## Placement year and study abroad degrees

You can take a placement year with many of our degree programmes and should select the placement year variant when you apply. Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year). By contrast, you can apply for a study abroad year after you begin your degree. Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad)

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

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

E: [ppr@lancaster.ac.uk](mailto:ppr@lancaster.ac.uk)

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

For the latest Covid-19 information, please visit:  
[www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/coronavirus/applicants)

## Important information

The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2022/23 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of publication in May 2021. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after publication. 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. Further legal information may be found at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).

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