Philosophy Degrees 2020

The place for the Philosopher

lancaster.ac.uk/philosophy
Lancaster allows you to study philosophy, the oldest academic subject, in a flexible way, in a friendly and supportive campus environment. 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, Descartes and Nietzsche, but also via contemporary philosophical discussion of a wide range of important and relevant topics. Lancaster is distinctive in having a large proportion of applied philosophy experts within the Department; who provide philosophical input into public policy and the law, both nationally and internationally.

Lancaster offers a flexible degree system which allows you to take joint (or combined) honours degrees, and to study other subjects alongside Philosophy. This flexibility means you can tailor your studies to your interests and strengths rather than being constrained by the choices that you make before university; you can even change your degree course provided you have done the appropriate first year modules. Please do contact us if you have any further questions about studying Philosophy at Lancaster.

Dr Neil C. Manson
Senior Lecturer in Philosophy
Everything you want from your Philosophy degree

Teaching
Lancaster University is rated gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2017. We are 1st for student to staff ratio in the Guardian University Guide 2020.

Flexibility
A high degree of flexibility in studying philosophy with other subjects allows you to change the focus of your studies at the end of the first year.

Reputation
Philosophy at Lancaster is 15th in the UK in the Complete University Guide 2020.

After you graduate
Lancaster University is 3rd in the UK for graduate prospects in the Complete University Guide 2020.

Study abroad
You can apply to study abroad in your second year at one of our partner universities in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong or the USA.

Placement year
Our four-year placement year degrees allow you to gain professional experience before you graduate, boosting your employability.

Research
The Department was rated 1st for Research Impact in its unit of assessment in the most recent UK Research Excellence Framework.
# Degrees and entry requirements

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<th>Degree title</th>
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<td>BA Hons</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
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## Placement year degrees

You can take a placement year with most of our degree programmes. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. On our joint degrees with French, German or Spanish Studies, you will spend your third year studying or working abroad on an international placement year. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

## Study abroad degrees

You can apply for a study abroad year when you arrive at Lancaster. On our 3-year study abroad degrees you spend Year 2 studying at one of our international partner universities. Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: lancaster.ac.uk/study
Teaching and assessment

Teaching

Year 1
You will typically have 6 hours of lectures and 3 hours of small group seminars per week. In addition to this you will study independently, prepare for your seminar discussions, and produce assessed pieces of work as directed by your tutors.

Years 2 and 3
During your second and third year, you will typically spend 6 hours in lectures and 4 hours in seminars per week. Studying independently, you will also prepare for your seminars and produce pieces of work ready for assessment.

Specialisation in Year 3
In Year 3 there is a dissertation option, where you will work one-to-one with a tutor over two terms on a 10,000 word dissertation. There are also “special subject” modules, where you will work in small groups, focusing on specific topics, texts or issues in philosophy, with a member of academic staff.

Assessment
There is assessed coursework and exams throughout all three years. For most modules, exams count for 60% of your mark, coursework for 40%. First year marks do not contribute to your final degree classification.

Gold standard teaching
Lancaster University has been awarded the highest possible score in the UK government’s 2017 Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) ratings. Our TEF Gold rating is based on high quality teaching, excellent teaching facilities and the good careers our graduates attain.

Gold TEF

The Department has been a fascinating, welcoming and supportive environment from the beginning of first year to the end of final year. It is staffed by a diverse and friendly team that are always on hand to assist in matters, academic or general, whenever you need help.

Lancaster offers a wide and varied range of modules throughout the degree which are taught with up-to-date research and essential critical insight. During my time at Lancaster, I have had the opportunity to travel to New York and Boston with the department where I was fortunate enough to visit the UN Headquarters along with many other brilliant points of interest.

Ben Crumpton
BA (Hons)
Philosophy and Politics

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. In between my second and final year, 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 have helped me write trusts grants, conduct research and plan marketing materials in my role with Hospices of Hope.

John Garman
BA (Hons)
Philosophy (Placement Year)
Modules in depth
BA (Hons) Philosophy

In your first year, you will study a core Philosophy module alongside complementary modules in Politics, Ethics, Religious Studies or another subject. This provides an interdisciplinary grounding and flexibility in your degree.

Please note that we keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered and course structure may therefore differ from that presented here.

Year 1

Core module + Optional module 1 + Optional module 2

Introduction to Philosophy
This module introduces a selection of key topics in philosophy including epistemology; metaphysics; critical thinking; ethics. This module does not require prior study of philosophy.

You can select optional modules within the department, such as:
- Ethics, Philosophy and Religion
  Focuses on a range of issues in religion, ethics, science and philosophy.
- Politics in the Modern World
  Introduces key themes in the study of modern politics. You will gain critical insight into the nature and use of political power in the contemporary world.
- International Relations: Theory and Practice
  Provides a firm grounding in the major concepts and debates necessary to understand the modern world of international politics.
- Religions of the Modern World
  Examines the world’s major religions, especially their views on the meaning of life and death.

Choose another module from within the Department (see left).

Flexible subject option

You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in Philosophy. Your department will provide a list of module options prior to starting your studies at Lancaster along with information on how to register for your preferred choice.

Placement year modules
If you are on a placement year degree, you will study a non-credit bearing ‘Placement Preparation’ module in Year 1 that supports your skills development in a variety of recruitment processes. In Year 2, you will take the 10-credit ‘Work Based Learning Preparation’, in which you prepare an action plan and complete a personality assessment exercise to help you maximise the opportunities for learning and development that your placement will provide.

Year 2 Philosophy Modules
(15 credits each, 1 term)

- Epistemology
  Examines a range of topics to do with knowledge: what is knowledge, is it a good thing to have, how does it differ from simply having a true belief?
- Idealism, Empiricism, and Criticism in 18th Century Philosophy
  Examines the work of key thinkers in the 18th Century on the new realities of modern scientific method, the birth of chemistry, and the increasing distinction between philosophical and religious thought.
- Indian Philosophical and Religious Thought
  Introduces major themes and issues in Indian philosophy, focusing on the Hindu and Buddhist philosophical traditions. Throughout we will look at the dialogical relationship between the Hindu and Buddhist philosophical traditions, particularly the shared practice of debate.
- Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
  Considers major issues currently being debated by political philosophers. Specific topics may change from year to year, but will include problems of justice, equality, state power, business activity, international order and/or environmental damage.
- Metaphysics
  Focuses on metaphysical issues to do with space, time and persons: is time real? Is time travel possible? What makes you the same person you were when you were a baby?
- Mind-Body Problem
  Addresses the traditional mind-body problem (i.e. how the mind relates to the body), together with some related issues about the metaphysics of the mind.
- Moral Philosophy
  Moral questions are central to our lives: what should we do? How should we live? What things have value, or are good? This module focuses on a range of topics in moral philosophy including the nature of the good life, the source and nature of rights and the nature of justice.
- Nineteenth Century Philosophy
  Examines a range of transformations in the way we think about politics, religion and society in the modern world, by focusing on four key philosophers: Hegel, Feuerbach, Marx, and Kierkegaard.
- Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics
  Politics and economics are disciplines that are central to the organisation of society. This module critically examines the assumptions that underlie both, and exposes problems and issues with their methodologies.
- Philosophy of Science
  What is science and how does science relate to other kinds of knowledge? Is science an ideal model for inquiry in general?
- Values and Objectivity
  This module focuses on normative and evaluative claims (e.g., that you ought not to steal) and examines whether they can be objectively true, or are merely ‘subjective’.
Year 3

In your third year, you will study a minimum of 90 credits in Philosophy. You can choose from a selection of 15-credit modules, 15-credit special subjects, and 30-credit dissertation options. There are no core elements which means you can choose a selection that suits your interests.

The remaining 30 credits can be used to take modules in another discipline, or Philosophy modules from the second year list.

Dissertation
You will choose a philosophical topic that interests you and pursue it in a 10,000-word dissertation. You will develop your research skills and learn to work at length under your own direction. We offer options to complete a dissertation with field studies (potentially incorporating an international study trip), or with external collaboration (for example, via our Richardson Institute Internship programme) to enhance your ability to reflect on the impact of academic work.

We also currently run the ‘PPR in India’ dissertation option where you join the three-week Global Experiences trip to India during the summer vacation before Year 3. The programme includes daily excursions and cultural activities. On your return to Lancaster, you write a dissertation on an aspect of contemporary Indian life.

Special subjects
The 15-credit special subjects are opportunities to study a specialised topic in small class teaching. They are assessed by a 5,000 word mini-dissertation.

Placement year
If you are on a placement year degree you will complete a core 10-credit assessment during your third year which is spent on work placement. This involves developing a learning agreement and engaging in reflective activities to support your professional development. In your final year, you will also complete a 10-credit core module, titled ‘Work Based Learning Reflection’. This will enable you to reflect on your placement experience and highlight your key successes and achievements, supporting you with your ongoing career development.

Year 3 Special Subjects
(15 credits each, 1 term)

+ Environmental Philosophy
Focuses on key issues to do with the environment, including: sustainability, adaptation, resilience, disaster, and how best to grapple with the climate chaos and global mass extinction which humans are causing.

+ Feminist Philosophy
Provides an introduction to key debates in feminist philosophy. We focus on the work of three philosophers, Simone de Beauvoir, Luce Irigaray, and Judith Butler, who represent different directions in feminist thought.

+ Future Generations
Focuses on the question of what moral obligations do we have towards future generations – to people who are yet to be born, and to merely possible people whose very existence (or non-existence) depends on how we act now?

+ The Imagination
Examines philosophical accounts of the imagination, focusing on theories of the nature of the imagination and its connections to other mental states, such as attention, emotion, memory, beliefs, intentions, and desires.

Year 3 Philosophy Modules
(15 credits each, 1 term)

+ Aesthetics
Questions in aesthetics include: What is art? What is the significance of tragedy? How does the “culture industry” shape our response to art?

+ Continental Philosophy
This module considers the work of three figures in nineteenth and twentieth century continental philosophy: Nietzsche, Foucault and Arendt, with a special focus on morality and political theory.

+ Darwinism and Philosophy
Examines philosophical issues that arise out of Darwin’s theory of evolution. These include questions about how best to understand the theory of evolution, and questions about what evolution implies for our view of the world.

+ Logic and Language
An introduction to formal logic together with an examination of various philosophical issues that arise out of it, including, propositional and quantificational logic, and how to prove elementary results using formal techniques.

+ Modern Religious and Atheistic Thought
Examines the origins, nature and limitations of modern atheistic thought (drawing upon Hegel, Feuerbach, Marx, Freud and Nietzsche) and also focuses on postmodern critiques of modern atheism and the nature of the associated ‘return of religion.’

+ The Ethics of Belief and Ignorance
Examines the ethics of believing, denying, and seeking knowledge in an era called “post-truth.” Sample topics may include: Is believing or denying something a choice? When is ignorance a moral problem?
Joint honours with Philosophy

Year 1

Subject 1: Philosophy
Introduction to Philosophy
This module introduces a selection of key topics in philosophy including epistemology; metaphysics; critical thinking; ethics. This module does not require prior study of philosophy.

Subject 2
Year 1 core module in your joint major subject. You can study a joint degree combining Philosophy with: English Literature, Film, History, Languages, Linguistics, Mathematics, Politics, or Religious Studies.

Optional Module
Choose a Philosophy-related module in the department.

OR

Flexible Subject Option
You can select a module in another subject to complement your studies in Philosophy. Your department will provide a list of module options prior to starting your studies at Lancaster along with information on how to register for your preferred choice.

Year 2 and 3
You will select a mix of core and optional modules from your joint major subject to combine with Philosophy modules, typically in a 50/50 weighting.

Triple honours
BA (Hons) History, Philosophy and Politics

Year 1

Subject 1: History
From Ancient to Modern: History and Historians

Subject 2: Philosophy
Introduction to Philosophy

Subject 3: Politics
Politics in the Modern World

Year 2 and 3
In your second and third years, you’ll move on to a range of optional modules covering the periods, movements and schools of thought that have shaped the world we live in and continue to shape the contemporary world.
Professor Stephen Wilkinson, with his team of researchers, is working on a large project on ethical and legal questions to do with gamete donation. Such work is important. Developments in biomedical technology have introduced radical new possibilities for human reproduction. If a child can have three biological "parents", each contributing different kinds of biological material to the process, what rights do such people have? It is no good simply asking "what does the law say?" because such laws were formulated in a context where such reproductive options did not exist, and the law may not be able to give us any clear answer.

Other philosophers in the department work in different areas of applied philosophy:

- Dr Garrath Williams is involved in a large European research project on family health policy, and was a key researcher on another European project on policies to deal with childhood obesity.
- Dr Neil Manson works on informed consent, has been part of NHS working groups on consent policy, gave evidence to the Leveson Inquiry into the ethics of the press and is the chairperson of the internationally recognised Society for Applied Philosophy.
- Professor Rachel Cooper’s research in philosophy of psychiatry critiques the way that psychiatric diagnoses are formulated especially in the Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.
- Dr Sam Clark has an interest in what constitutes a good life, including the large part of life spent in work. He has done research for the Work Foundation.
I spent my second year studying abroad in Canada. Going on exchange was an amazing opportunity that, from a personal perspective, gave my confidence a huge boost; and allowed me to make lasting friendships from all around the world. But there were academic bonuses as well; I got to experience a completely different education system, the most valuable aspect of which I found to be the flexibility of courses. I could take classes on philosophy, history, and even law that expanded my knowledge and introduced me to a whole new style of learning that I can take with me into my final year of my degree.

Claire Pittaway
Graduate from PPR Department
Placements and internships

Placements and internships are great ways to gain work experience, make professional contacts and help you decide your career path. A wide range of opportunities is available, and some (such as placement modules) provide credit towards your degree. There is a competitive process to apply for these opportunities as they are not guaranteed; however, we will help you to prepare for this process, which in itself is excellent experience to gain. Voluntary activities are another great way to build work experience and make a positive impact on the world around you.

Placement Year Degrees

You can apply to study Philosophy with a placement year. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Lancaster University students have worked with companies as diverse as Johnson + Johnson, Warner Bros, Microsoft, Marks & Spencer, and Walt Disney.

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. 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.

Find out more at: lancaster.ac.uk/fass-placements

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. Each year the Institute offers over 60 internships to undergraduate and postgraduate students to undertake research projects for external organisations. Research themes include religion and borders, and religion and conflict situations.

Lancaster Award

Many graduate employers like official confirmation of students’ non-academic activities that are relevant to employability, things like voluntary work, training undertaken, and career workshops attended. The Lancaster Award is a programme of activities and tasks which, when completed, gives the student an additional certificate of their achievements.

Find out more at: lancaster.ac.uk/lancaster-award
Your future career

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. Here are just a few examples of some of the diverse and varied careers of our recent Philosophy graduates, 6 months on from graduation, according to the most recent Destination of Leavers from Higher Education Survey:

- Postgraduate study
- Public Relations
- HR and recruitment
- Teaching and education
- Legal research
- Logistics and project management

Lancaster University Careers Service

The University Careers Service has connections with some of the world’s top graduate recruiters, high growth businesses and employers across every sector, and organises careers fairs, workshops, and networking opportunities throughout the year. You can be matched with an employer or a previous graduate for one-to-one advice and take part in a range of workshops such as writing a brilliant CV, developing a LinkedIn profile or succeeding at psychometric testing. We have a vast range of online resources as well as an exclusive job search portal. With this array of options it can be confusing to know where to start, but our team of friendly, experienced careers professionals are always on hand to help and advise.

Find out more: lancaster.ac.uk/careers

The University makes all reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this booklet is correct at the time of printing (June 2019). Please see lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice for further information.