

Lancaster  
University



Philosophy  
Undergraduate Degrees 2027



# Welcome

**Explore fundamental questions relating to existence, truth and knowledge, right and wrong and more, and learn and experience how philosophy interacts with wider global, social and political challenges.**

Philosophy is an activity, not just a body of knowledge. At Lancaster, we do philosophy with our students to help them become the skilled and self-directed investigators, thinkers, communicators, workers and agents of change our current world needs. We foster a collaborative learning environment where ideas are shared, tested and developed. We offer regular contact and practice in lectures, seminars and workshops; scaffolded project work; and one-to-one guidance. We enable our students' active engagement with ideas and arguments, and the development of their own thought, interests and creativity.

As a student with us, you will gain both breadth and depth of philosophical knowledge. You will study a wide range of thinkers, texts, traditions, methods and problems from the past and present of worldwide philosophy: from the good life and justice, to mind and consciousness, to the methods and limits of the arts and sciences. You will work with philosophers who are actively shaping the discipline in ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, feminist philosophy, philosophy of science, history of philosophy, global philosophy and political philosophy.

At Lancaster we don't see philosophical skill, employability and global purpose as separate. Philosophy is a practical subject, and connecting it with the real world and our students' futures is the heart of our programme. Throughout your degree, you will do philosophy which interrogates and challenges our lives in our shared world. You will engage with multiple philosophical traditions, perspectives and audiences. You will develop your skills in understanding, communication and reasoning. You will explore your own interests and build your intellectual independence.

As you progress through the degree, you will develop the skills for increasingly independent and original work. You will engage with curated topic modules, a guided research project in your second year, a final year dissertation or portfolio of public-facing work, and practice critical thinking, debate and communication skills throughout the degree. You will be supported to extend your grasp of the discipline, pursue your own interests and become a skilled philosopher. Whether you plan to apply your skills and creative intelligence in further academic study or outside the university, we will help you to develop yourself and to be able to make a difference.



| Degree title                                        |                                                                                     | Degree (Hons) | UCAS code | Course duration (years) | Typical A level offer |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------|-------------------------|-----------------------|
| Philosophy                                          |                                                                                     | BA            | V500      | 3                       | ABB                   |
| Philosophy (Placement Year)                         |    | BA            | V501      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| Philosophy (Study Abroad)                           |    | BA            | V502      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics                  |                                                                                     | BA            | L0V0      | 3                       | AAB                   |
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Placement Year) |    | BA            | L0V1      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| Philosophy, Politics and Economics (Study Abroad)   |    | BA            | L0V2      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| Philosophy and Politics                             |                                                                                     | BA            | VL52      | 3                       | ABB                   |
| Philosophy and Politics (Placement Year)            |    | BA            | VL53      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| Philosophy and Politics (Study Abroad)              |    | BA            | VL54      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| History and Philosophy                              |                                                                                     | BA            | VVC5      | 3                       | AAB                   |
| History and Philosophy (Placement Year)             |  | BA            | VVC6      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| History and Philosophy (Study Abroad)               |  | BA            | VVC7      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| History, Philosophy and Politics                    |                                                                                     | BA            | V0L0      | 3                       | AAB                   |
| History, Philosophy and Politics (Placement Year)   |  | BA            | V0L1      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| History, Philosophy and Politics (Study Abroad)     |  | BA            | V0L2      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| English Literature and Philosophy                   |                                                                                     | BA            | QV35      | 3                       | ABB                   |
| English Literature and Philosophy (Placement Year)  |  | BA            | QV34      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| English Literature and Philosophy (Study Abroad)    |  | BA            | QV38      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| Film and Philosophy                                 |                                                                                     | BA            | PV35      | 3                       | ABB                   |
| Film and Philosophy (Placement Year)                |  | BA            | PV36      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| Film and Philosophy (Study Abroad)                  |  | BA            | PV37      | 4                       | ABB                   |
| Linguistics and Philosophy                          |                                                                                     | BA            | QV15      | 3                       | AAB                   |
| Linguistics and Philosophy (Placement Year)         |  | BA            | QV16      | 4                       | AAB                   |
| Linguistics and Philosophy (Study Abroad)           |  | BA            | QV17      | 4                       | AAB                   |

Visit our website for more information on degree options, scholarships and entry requirements [lancaster.ac.uk](https://www.lancaster.ac.uk)



# Made for *learning*

**Our degrees are designed to support you in developing the critical analytical skills, tools and philosophical knowledge required to navigate and shape an increasingly complex and challenging world.**

To develop these skills and your confidence in their application we provide a curated and scaffolded degree programme designed to support you as you progress towards increasingly independent and self-directed work in your final year. Your time will be divided between timetabled learning, independent learning time for reading and research tasks, and meetings with academic staff, with different balances between these aspects to best support your learning across the different topics and stages of the programme.

We use a range of teaching methods and learning activities, appropriate for the wide variety of subject-knowledge and skills that you will develop throughout your degree:

- Lectures provide overviews of the core theories, themes and ideas studied in your modules, demonstrate philosophical reasoning in action, and give you the signposts needed for you to continue your own independent study.
- Discussion seminars and workshops provide you with a space to explore topics, practice your philosophical skills and test out your ideas with your peers and the support of subject experts, in a supported environment.
- One-to-one meetings with your academic tutor and smaller group tutorials provide you with the opportunity to develop your philosophical skills and confidence with individualised support.



- Dedicated online programme and module pages provide all core learning materials, and a wide variety of additional written, AV, and interactive resources tailored to the topics and skills you are engaged with.
- Assessments and feedback form a key part of your development, and offer opportunities to learn, not only to be measured. Our degrees include both traditional essay and exam-based assessments, alongside less traditional assessment methods, reflecting the diverse ways in which individuals learn and apply knowledge in their everyday lives and in the workplace. These methods of assessment vary each year and by module but typically include:
  - Public engagement pieces, exploring particular philosophical topics and controversies for a broader audience.
  - Applied philosophical policy-oriented documents aimed at specialists and decision-makers.
  - Presentations and oral examinations, individually and in work with your peers.
  - Philosophical problem-solving activities.
  - Reflective learning diaries and portfolios.

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*The course challenged my thinking in unexpected ways and sparked real curiosity.*

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**Kayleigh, recent graduate**

**BA Hons Philosophy**

My experience as a philosophy student was incredibly rewarding. It was a welcoming environment where I could explore a wide range of topics and connect with like-minded students. I was able to take modules I never imagined studying, which broadened my academic interests. The work-life balance was one of the best aspects. Lectures and seminars were engaging without being overwhelming, which gave me plenty of time for self-study and personal growth.

Two areas of study that particularly stood out for me were the philosophy of dreams and future generations. They challenged my thinking in unexpected ways and sparked real curiosity.

As a student from the Isle of Man, I was initially anxious about starting university in a new country. However, the atmosphere within was warm and welcoming. Everyone was open and inclusive, which made it easy to settle in and feel part of the community.

# Gain *real world* experience

We know you want to graduate confident and ready to progress into your career. That's why we make it easy to incorporate work experience into your time at Lancaster.

Your ambitions are important to us, and we will help you build the skills you need to succeed by offering a range of placement and internship opportunities.



## Placement year

You can opt to study your degree with a placement year (also known as a year in industry). On this degree you spend your third year working in a graduate-level, professional job in a sector of your choice before returning to complete your final year at Lancaster University. Securing a placement is a competitive process and we support you with personalised coaching and professional guidance provided via a series of preparatory workshops and 1:1 appointments with our Placements Team.

## Faculty of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme

You'll gain sector-relevant work experience with these internships. Apply in all years of study for opportunities in areas such as public affairs, marketing, business development and events. The scheme offers you an opportunity to gain access to direct work experience while you study.

## Richardson Institute internships

Your faculty is home to the Richardson Institute, a peace and conflict research centre. Research themes include transnational repression, human rights, conflict resolution, and identity and belonging. The Institute runs an internship programme where you can gain research experience working alongside leading policy and research organisations such as NGOs, think tanks, charities and faith-based organisations. You'll develop analytical skills and put your academic learning into practice in real-world contexts.





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*I would absolutely recommend a placement year to anyone considering it.*

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**Beatrice, fourth year**

**BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

I spent my placement year working as a Research Intern for the Leader of the Opposition and the Opposition Whips' Office in the House of Lords, where I had an excellent experience researching government policy and scrutinising legislation.

I was fortunate enough to be in the heart of British politics and apply the skills I'd learned from my degree to real world scenarios, such as essay writing skills translating to assisting with speech writing and the ability to juggle university with sport and social life allowing me to multitask at work and continue to maintain my friendships outside of work.

I would absolutely recommend a placement year to anyone considering it, as it really allows you to understand the kind of career might appeal to you. It has given me confidence for my future when I graduate, and the experience has benefited my final year, especially with the more research focused modules.



# 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**

You can choose to study your degree with a study abroad year. On these four-year degrees, you spend your third year studying at one of our partner universities abroad. Our current partners are in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, and the USA, although availability of destinations varies each year.

Living in another country and studying your subject from a different perspective enhances your subject knowledge and develops resourcefulness for life after university.

## **Vacation travel**

You can also discover the world during your vacations. Our Global Experiences team run vacation travel trips to Malaysia which include a mix of academic study and cultural discovery. These trips range from cultural exchanges to studying sustainable practices with world leading experts.

## **Overseas summer schools**

During summer vacation, you can apply to attend a summer school at one of our international partner universities around the world. Destinations are varied – from Singapore to Italy, Hong Kong to Canada. Explore where you could go: [lancaster.ac.uk/overseas-summer-schools](https://lancaster.ac.uk/overseas-summer-schools)

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

Follow us on Instagram @GlobalLancaster



“  
*The  
opportunity  
to study in  
the U.S.  
has been  
invaluable.*  
”



**Harriet, recent graduate**

**BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and  
Economics**

Studying abroad in St. Louis gave me a huge confidence boost. While I've always been a people person and enjoyed solo travel, living in a new country challenged me in ways I hadn't expected. Figuring out a place to live and all the problems that arise with renting, transportation, healthcare, and balancing education with exploration have made me much more self-assured.

Academically, the opportunity to study in the U.S. has been invaluable. Being based in St. Louis allowed me to explore how structural racism, rooted in historical segregation, continues to shape contemporary society. Through both coursework and an internship aimed at reducing racial literacy disparities, I gained insight that deeply influenced my academic focus and inspired the topic for my dissertation. It has also helped shape the direction of my future career in social policy and advocacy. I was mostly expecting a long holiday with a little bit of work but ended up thriving academically because I loved my subjects.

Perhaps most unexpectedly, I developed a deeper appreciation for place. Missouri is often overlooked as a 'flyover state' but is actually so rich in culture, from blues music and cosy cafés to beautiful parks and the quirky City Museum. I learned that adventure isn't limited to tourist hotspots and that community can be found anywhere, instilling openness to people, places, and purpose.

# Philosophy

## BA Hons

**On this degree you'll study content from a broad spectrum of sub-discipline areas – metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, history of philosophy and more – and also apply philosophy in real-world scenarios, examining philosophy's role in addressing global, social and political challenges.**

In the first year of your degree, you will study ethics, metaphysics, epistemology, critical thinking, history of philosophy in multiple traditions, and political thought. You will develop strong foundational knowledge and confidence in key areas of the discipline.

In your second year, alongside core study in applied and theoretical philosophy, you will choose subjects to study in greater depth, developing a richer picture of key questions and debates in philosophy. Subjects offered may include, for example, Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and Economics, and Continental Philosophy. You will also will take part in a guided philosophy project, developing an assessed portfolio of work in a scaffolded and supported way, working independently and in small groups guided by a member of staff on a text, group of texts, or problem.

This depth of knowledge and study will prepare you for your final year of the degree. Here, you will have the opportunity to study specialised, cutting-edge research-led questions at the frontiers of philosophy, and undertake close textual exploration of historical and contemporary work with philosophical experts at Lancaster, and to apply philosophy to thinking about global crises, popular culture and comparative politics. You will choose to undertake either an independent dissertation topic, or the development of a portfolio of work aimed at the public and wider dissemination of philosophy beyond the university – in politics, the community and more.

### Enhancing your curriculum

We continually review and enhance our course curricula to ensure we are delivering the best possible learning experience, and to make sure that the subject knowledge and transferable skills you develop will prepare you for your future. Information within this publication with respect to courses and modules is correct at the time of publication, and the University will make every reasonable effort to offer courses and modules as advertised. In some cases, changes may be necessary and may result in new modules or some modules and combinations being unavailable, for example as a result of student feedback, timetabling, staff changes and new research.

## Year 1

### Core Modules

#### Knowledge and Reality in a Complex World

Develop philosophical tools for reasoning and arguing (critical thinking and logic) and discover fundamental philosophical questions about knowledge (epistemology) and the nature of reality (metaphysics).

#### History of Philosophy: Ideas that Shaped the West

Critically explore the thought of some of the key philosophers whose thinking has defined the contours of the western philosophical tradition. How did these thinkers conceive of philosophy and its task? How did they conceive of being and reality? How did they understand truth and how did they think it could be discovered?

#### Ethics: How Should I Live?

Consider foundational questions such as: How should you live? Who should you be? What should you value? What is value? And how can we answer such questions?

#### History of Philosophy: Resistance and Inclusion

Explore philosophical traditions not usually studied in standard histories of philosophy, and understand what we gain by including them in our interpretation of the history of philosophy.

#### Political Philosophy: How Should We Live Together?

Explore fundamental questions regarding politics, power, and the arrangement of our collective lives, engaging with critical debates faced by both historical and contemporary communities: what are the boundaries, rights and duties of the state? What do the concepts of justice, freedom, equality, sovereignty, rights and power mean?

### Optional modules include:

- Medieval and Early Modern Worlds
- Explaining Criminology
- Thinking Sociologically
- English across Space and Time
- Logic and Discrete Mathematics
- Global Religions and Society
- Understanding Culture

## Year 2

### Core Modules

#### Philosophy Guided Project

Create a portfolio of investigative and critical writing which explores a particular philosophical topic in depth. In this module you will be guided with expert support from a contemporary philosopher to develop your philosophical and independent study skills. Develop your ability to assess philosophical arguments and make independent judgements, informed by reasoning and evidence.

#### Applied Philosophy: Decisions that Change the World

Consider the relevance of philosophy to contemporary problems, and questions of how to apply philosophical knowledge and reasoning in these contexts. In this module you will explore the application of philosophy within a range of real-world settings such as professional ethics, law, policy-making, economics, education and the social sciences.

#### Mind, World and Science

Engage with themes from philosophy of mind, philosophy of science and related topics in metaphysics, by exploring the nature of consciousness, the structure of the world and the methods by which we understand them. Develop your skills in critical reading of complex texts, scrupulous formulation of arguments and clear explanation of complex concepts, as well as your knowledge of central issues and theories in central areas of philosophy.

#### Optional modules include:

- Philosophical Perspectives on Politics and Economics
- Language, Communication and Knowledge
- Continental Philosophy
- Inventing Rights
- Death
- Film Theory and Aesthetics
- Global Religions, Women and Gender
- Global Challenges and Collaborative Solutions

## Final Year

### Core Modules

#### Choose one from:

#### Philosophy Dissertation

Develop a philosophical dissertation: a substantial piece of independent research that demonstrates critical thinking, deep analysis, and original insight. Supported by an expert in your chosen topic you will demonstrate your advanced philosophical skills developed throughout your degree and prepare for both further academic study in philosophy and for professional roles that require skills in research, critical thinking and independent thought.

#### Philosophy Communication and Engagement Portfolio

Explore the impact that philosophy can have outside of academia. Academic philosophers regularly engage with, inform and persuade diverse audiences outside the academic field. To do so, they need to provide compelling, clearly-stated arguments; understand their target audience; and tailor their material to the audience they seek to impact. Learn how to communicate complex arguments and ideas effectively in non-academic contexts and apply these to discourse and debates on contemporary problems.

#### Optional modules include:

- Comparative Political Philosophy
- Questions at the Frontiers of Philosophy
- Philosophy and Popular Culture
- Philosophy For Times of Global Crisis
- Textual Explorations in Philosophy
- Policymaking in the Real World
- Crimes and Harms of the Powerful
- Sciences and Cultures Lab

Complete module lists are available on our Philosophy course page: [lancaster.ac.uk/philosophy](http://lancaster.ac.uk/philosophy)

### Study abroad degrees

You will study abroad at a partner university in your third year. The grades you achieve at your host university will be translated back and be credited to your Lancaster degree.

### Placement year degrees

Your third year is spent in a graduate-level work placement and assessed via assignments reflecting on your experiences.





# Combined *honours degrees*

**You can combine philosophy with a variety of other subjects in a combined honours degree. You'll take some of the core content from each subject, carefully selected to allow you to develop key knowledge in each, while still having the freedom to choose some optional modules.**

## **Philosophy, Politics and Economics**

Develop an understanding of how people, ideas and finances shape our lives and societies. Learn how to interpret data, evaluate evidence, present well-structured arguments and critiques, communicate clearly and with confidence, and understand and influence the decisions individuals make. Graduate as a versatile thinker and effective communicator ready to launch your career.

## **Philosophy and Politics**

Study a joint degree that combines the debate of key philosophical questions and exploration of the contemporary political scene. Equip yourself with the tools of clear thinking and political understanding, skills that are needed to answer challenging questions of human rights, justice, and the nature of our institutions of governance.

## **History and Philosophy**

Build the skills to explore and understand the important challenges that confront our world with an interdisciplinary course that combines in-depth historical analysis with the development of high-level philosophical knowledge and skill. Develop invaluable skills in critical thinking and the communication of arguments and ideas.

## **History, Philosophy and Politics**

Address the challenges of our world's past, present and future, from environmental change to war and conflict, human rights and scientific revolutions. Tailor your degree by selecting optional modules that reflect your own interests as you progress through your programme and develop a distinctive skill set that will appeal to employers.

There are range of other philosophy combined honours degrees, including:

- English Literature and Philosophy
- Linguistics and Philosophy
- Film and Philosophy
- Global Religions and Philosophy

A full list of courses is available at: [lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses](https://lancaster.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/courses)

“  
*I've enjoyed  
the options  
and flexibility.*  
”



**James, third year**

**BA Hons Philosophy, Politics and  
Economics**

I'm a third year Lancaster University student studying philosophy, politics, and economics. I've enjoyed my degree course and time at university here largely because of the options and flexibility that have been provided to me. On my course I was provided with loads of elective modules which had a huge variety for me to branch out into.

In terms of social life there are lots of events, challenges, and societies to get stuck into. Because of the modules I picked my second year I've found I'm passionate about the international political economy and the economics of underdevelopment. I would say for me, my favourite part about Lancaster is the campus and the surrounding nature (especially in summer!)





# Careers and *employability*

**You will graduate with the mental agility and critical thinking skills to tackle and solve complex and novel challenges. You'll also gain the ability to communicate clearly at all levels, making you confident of success in a very wide range of graduate roles.**

## **Support for your career**

Our career advisers are available to support you with specialist 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.

## **Graduate destinations**

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 master's 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 (NGOs)





**John Garman, graduated 2020**

**Philanthropy Manager,  
Great Ormond Street Hospital**

My time at Lancaster University helped shape my career in the charity sector, where I now work as Philanthropy Manager for Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity. My role involves working with individuals and organisations who support the hospital, building meaningful donor relationships.

My degree taught me key communication skills and to think critically, helping me to understand ethical motivations that drive donors – skills that allow me to engage with our supporters meaningfully whilst also making a difference!

“

*My degree taught me key communication skills and to think critically.*

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[lancaster.ac.uk/philosophy](https://lancaster.ac.uk/philosophy)

The information provided in this publication relates primarily to 2027 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in June 2026. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at: [lancaster.ac.uk/study](https://lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at: [lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](https://lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).