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.

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 philosophical debates. 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 and study abroad options.

**A research powerhouse**

2nd in the UK for Research Power

*Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2021*

**Happy students**

6th in the UK for student satisfaction (Philosophy)

*Guardian University Guide 2022*

**Study abroad opportunities**

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

**Valuable work experience**

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

**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.

**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

**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)

**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)
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**

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 Upaniṣhads 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.

**Ancient Indian & Chinese Philosophy**: moral thought in the Upaniṣhads, the Buddha, Confucius, and Zhuang-zi (Chuang-tzu)

**Theories & Methods**: is ethics “subjective”? how should we think about altruism, exploitation and personhood?

**Capitalism & Ethics**: examining central topics of freedom, property, wealth, flourishing, work, and democracy

**Children, Family & State**: how do political concepts such as justice, rights, and equality apply to children and families?

**Islamic Philosophy**: how have Islamic thinkers approached key concepts such as obligation, virtue and law?

**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. Indicative areas covered by the module typically include:

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

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

**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.
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:

+ Decolonising Philosophy
+ Health and Disease: Concepts and Policy
+ Idealism, Empiricism, and Criticism in 18th Century Philosophy
+ Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy
+ Metaphysics
+ Mind-Body Problem
+ Moral Philosophy
+ Nineteenth Century Philosophy
+ Philosophical Questions in the Study of Politics and Economics
+ Philosophy of Science
+ Understanding Liberty: Theory and Practice
+ 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
+ Socialist Thought in Britain

You can read module descriptions online at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Meet John

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.

John Garman

BA (Hons) Philosophy (Placement Year)
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:

+ Darwinism and Philosophy
+ Ethics and Politics of Communication
+ Feminist Philosophy
+ Future Generations
+ Logic and Language
+ Modern Religious and Atheistic Thought
+ Philosophies of War and Conflict
+ Philosophy of Art
+ Political Ideas
+ Politics and Ethics in Indian Philosophy
+ Research project dissertation
+ Transformations and Revolutions in 20th Century Philosophy

You can also choose second year optional modules if you wish. You can find descriptions of these modules on our website.

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 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 on our website.

Politics, Religion and Values (BA Hons)

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.

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
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 third year, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Potential destinations currently include Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands, 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 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 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. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, 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 United Nations, where we met with a UN official to discuss their role.
- The 9/11 Memorial Museum, where we gained perspective on the impact of 9/11 on the U.S.

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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Degree length</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>V500</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Politics</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>VL52</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy, Politics and Economics</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>L0V0</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics, Religion and Values</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>LV28</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>QV35</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Film and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>PV35</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chinese Studies and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>T1V5</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French Studies and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>RV15</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German Studies and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>RV25</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Studies and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>RV45</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>VVC5</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History, Philosophy and Politics</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>V0L0</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>QV15</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Philosophy</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>GV15</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>AAA</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- **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](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk)

---

**Get in touch**

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

**Important information**

The information in this publication relates primarily to 2023–24 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing (June 2022). 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](http://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](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/terms). Further legal information may be found at: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).

© Lancaster University – Philosophy Booklet 2023.