



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

2023

Undergraduate programmes in

Philosophy

With academic
direction from:



Birkbeck
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

london.ac.uk/philosophy

World class. Worldwide.

Join the World Class

1 **Quality of learning**

Our Philosophy programmes are developed by Birkbeck, University of London. Founded in 1823, Birkbeck is one of the world's leading research universities.

2 **Career opportunities**

Studying Philosophy will prepare you for many careers, including public service, teaching, research, media and journalism. Philosophy is renowned for being excellent preparation for success in fields such as law, administration and business.

3 **Study without relocating**

Fit your studies around your work and your personal commitments. Study wherever you live and at a time that suits you.

4 **Access a wealth of resources**

You will have a vast array of resources at your fingertips, with access to a fully supported Virtual Learning Environment and an Online Library of over 100 million academic electronic items.

5 **Join a diverse global community**

After graduation you become part of our global network of influential alumni, including distinguished academics, writers and Nobel prize winners.





“In a fast changing environment of worldwide access to higher education, a University of London degree continues to offer a guarantee of quality, value and intellectual rigour.”

Professor Wendy Thomson
Vice-Chancellor,
University of London

Your prestigious University of London qualification

About your qualification

When you graduate with a degree, diploma or certificate from the University of London you will receive two important documents – your Final Diploma (the parchment you receive on graduation) and a Diploma Supplement.

The Final Diploma

- Indicates that you were registered with the University of London and awarded a University of London degree, diploma or certificate.
- Gives the name of the University of London member institution that developed the syllabus and provided assessment.
- Features the University of London crest and the Vice-Chancellor's signature.

The Diploma Supplement

- Describes the nature, level and content of the programme you successfully completed.
- Includes the transcript of modules taken, marks achieved and overall classification.
- States the method of study.



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Key dates

Application deadline:

1 October 2023

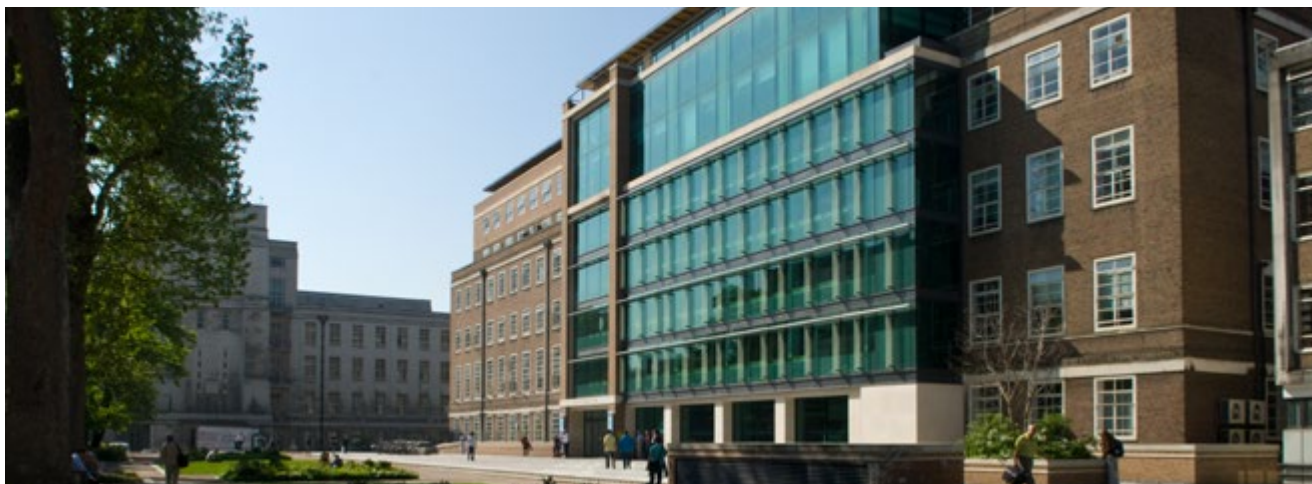
Registration deadline :

30 November 2023

Programme starts:

November 2023

Philosophy at Birkbeck



Since 1823, Birkbeck has reached out to people traditionally excluded by other universities.

It is unique in its mission to enable mature students to gain higher education qualifications via part-time study. Today, it is ranked among the leading UK university institutions for its excellence in research in the humanities, social sciences and natural sciences.

By studying this programme, you will:

- challenge yourself and improve your powers of reasoning and argument

- improve your ability to analyse complex ideas, your understanding of people, and your capacity for original thought

- discover historical and contemporary issues in the subject and make connections between the ideas and arguments that inform philosophical debates

- study a range of philosophical works from the classical past to present day. Our subjects include existence and reality; knowledge and belief; mind, thought, reason and logic; truth and meaning; and the ethical and aesthetic values of goodness and beauty.

A trusted name in global education

Founded in 1836, the University of London is one of the oldest and most prestigious universities in the UK and is internationally regarded as a centre of academic excellence. The University of London educates more than 45,000 distance learners annually in 190 countries and has over 500,000 alumni across the globe.

A message from the Programme Director



Dr Florian Steinberger
Programme Director

Many philosophical questions were first asked in one form or another thousands of years ago. Others are prompted by the latest developments in the arts and sciences. But whether

ancient or recent, these questions are fundamental to human existence. By participating in great philosophical debates, you will develop your skills of rigorous reasoning; by study, analysis and criticism of great works of philosophy, ancient and modern, we hope you will develop your capacity to make reasoned judgements for yourself. Since reasoned argument is at its heart, it provides excellent training for professional careers. The skills of reasoning, analysis and precision of thought and expression that it develops transfer to areas such as management and law. The study materials for the programme have been developed with the needs of students in mind. The subject guides for each course

are designed to support independent study, and are written by philosophers who are experts in their fields. The CertHE Philosophy makes it possible for you to see what is involved in philosophical investigation, without being committed immediately to the longer period of study required for the BA. You can also gain credit towards further study. The 'Introduction to philosophy' course, which all students study, is intended to provide initiation into the subject. I welcome you into a study that is rewarding and fascinating at the same time. Whether as a BA, DipHE or CertHE student, I hope you will enjoy your studies with us.



How you study



Independent study

Distance learning offers you the flexibility to balance your studies with your existing commitments. You will have access to a significant range of online resources with materials designed for independent study, delivered by way of a fully supported Virtual Learning Environment and Online Library.

Study materials

The core study materials you need to complete the programme are provided online. These include a programme handbook of practical information (such as study advice and how to enter exams), a subject guide for each course that you choose as well as past exam papers and commentaries, giving you valuable tips for performing well in exams. You will also receive a hard copy textbook, *Reading Philosophy: Selected Texts with a Method for Beginners*.

Online support

When you register, we will give you access to your Student Portal. You can then access your University of London email account and other key resources:

- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) contains electronic copies of the study materials, resources including audio-visual and revision guides, and a discussion forum for collaborative study. You can participate in e-seminars (at Level 4) and submit practice essays for feedback.
- The Online Library provides access to over 100 million academic electronic items comprising E-books, E-journals, conference proceedings, etc. In addition, students can request items which are not held in the library via its Inter-Library loans service with the British Library.
- Senate House Library provides free reference access for all registered distance and flexible learning students.

Student support

We are committed to delivering an exceptional student experience for all of our students, regardless of which of our programmes you are studying and whether you are studying independently or with a Recognised Teaching Centre.

You will have access to support through:

- the Student Advice Centre – provides support for application and Student Portal queries
- TalkCampus – a peer support service that offers a safe and confidential way to talk about whatever is on your mind at any time of day or night.

Assessment

- All Level 4 and Level 5 courses are assessed by a two-hour written exam.
- Level 6 courses are assessed by a three-hour written exam.
- The dissertation is assessed by a thesis of 7,500 words.

Exams are held in May each year. You can sit these when you are ready at one of our 400 examination centres. A fee is payable to your local centre for hosting the exams.

Programme structure

The programme is developed by Birkbeck, one of the highest-ranking Philosophy departments in the UK.

It covers a range of subjects, including: the nature of existence and reality and our knowledge of them; logic and reasoning; the nature of mind, ethics and moral value; the thought of major thinkers including Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Locke, Berkeley, Hume, Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant; and the philosophy of art and beauty

Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Philosophy

The BA Philosophy consists of 12 modules, including four introductory Level 4 modules, followed by seven optional modules (at least four from Level 5 and three from Level 6), plus the Dissertation.

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Philosophy

The DipHE consists of eight modules – four introductory Level 4 modules and four elective modules chosen from a list of modules at Level 5.

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Philosophy

The CertHE consists of four introductory Level 4 modules and meets the needs of those who would prefer a shorter programme, perhaps in preparation for progressing to the DipHE or BA. It may also meet the needs of those who do not satisfy the University's entrance requirements for admission to the BA.

Short Course

Introduction to philosophy (PY1020) is offered as a credit-bearing stand-alone Individual course. If you successfully complete the assessment for the Introduction to philosophy course with a mark of 50 per cent or above, you will be considered for transfer to the CertHE.



Kingsley Okerri

Canada

'The content of the courses was broad enough to cover almost every area of my intended career. My advice to students starting at the University of London is to brace yourself to do the work – the reward is immeasurable. My sincere gratitude goes to all my instructors, I can't thank you enough for all that time and effort invested in study materials.'

Modules available to study

Level 4

Introduction to philosophy

Study fundamental philosophical problems and texts and consider at an elementary level and in a carefully guided way some of the central problems that arise within the subject, such as free-will and determinism, the nature of the self, and more.

Ethics: historical perspectives

Explore the history of moral philosophy and the views of Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant and Mill. Learn about their legacy and how they continue to shape contemporary discussion and form part of the fabric of our culture.

Epistemology

Epistemology is known as the theory of knowledge. The questions it explores are: What is knowledge? How do we get it? Are the means we employ to get it defensible? Delve into these questions and the debates they spark.

Logic

Logic is the study of the central notions that figure in our most general attempts to understand reasoning. The content of this course, sometimes called 'philosophical logic' or 'philosophy of logic', is essential to deepen your understanding of all other branches of philosophy.

Level 5

Greek philosophy: Plato and the Pre-Socratics

This course focuses on the work of the predecessors of Plato and the main dialogues of Plato. It has been said that philosophy is a series of footnotes to Plato – an exaggeration that highlights the fundamental importance of Plato's contribution

Modern philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume

Study the main metaphysical, logical and epistemological views of the philosophers Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume. The label 'modern' is generally thought to cover the late 17th and early 18th centuries when there was a decisive break with ancient philosophy.

Ethics: contemporary perspectives

Prerequisite: Ethics: historical perspectives must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

Ethics or moral philosophy is the inquiry into the nature of moral value. It is concerned with questions about goodness, right and wrong, the virtues and the nature of the worthwhile life.

Metaphysics

Prerequisite: Logic must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

This course covers various central questions of existence and reality and more specific ones, namely: What is time? Are particulars more basic than events? Do human beings have free will? What is causality? Are there universals?

Methodology: induction, reason and science

Prerequisite: Epistemology must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

Investigate the nature of the reasoning and methods used in investigation of the natural and social world. Consider questions about inductive reasoning, probability, explanation, evidence, 'laws of nature' and the reality of 'theoretical entities' such as elementary particles and fields.

Level 6

Modern philosophy: Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant

Prerequisite: Modern philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

This course considers the main metaphysical, logical and epistemological views of Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant. As with the other courses in modern philosophy, this one is concerned primarily with the epistemological and metaphysical views of these thinkers.

Greek philosophy: Aristotle

Prerequisite: Greek philosophy: the Pre-Socratics and Plato must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

The study of the broadly metaphysical, logical and epistemological doctrines of Aristotle. The emphasis in this course will be on Aristotle's logical, epistemological and metaphysical views; his ethical writings form part of the subject on historical perspectives on ethics.

Continental philosophy: Hegel, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche

Prerequisite: Modern philosophy: Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

This course covers the main doctrines of Hegel and two post-Hegelian nineteenth-century German philosophers: Schopenhauer and Nietzsche. It is advisable to also have knowledge of Kant's philosophy when studying this course.

Aesthetics

An investigation of problems such as: the nature and value of art, aesthetic judgement, representation, expression and interpretation. Included will be a historical approach to these issues involving writers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Nietzsche and Collingwood.

Philosophy of language

An exploration of the notion of meaning as well as an investigation into the more detailed problems arising from study of natural language. Included are topics such as metaphor, reference and the nature of rules and language.

Philosophy of mind

This course is concerned with metaphysical and epistemological issues that arise from reflecting on the mind. It explores the problems raised by intentionality, consciousness and action. Study of logic, metaphysics, epistemology and methodology also contribute to this course.

Political philosophy

The study of the history of political philosophy as well as an investigation of contemporary issues. Included in the historical part of the course are works by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx and Mill.

Philosophy of religion

The focus of study is mainly on Judaism, Christianity and Islam. Among the questions raised are: the existence of God; the coherence of theism; the compatibility of divine omniscience and human freedom; the problem of evil; and immortality.

Dissertation

Prerequisite: You may only enter for the Dissertation once you have passed all four courses at Level 4 and a minimum of four courses at Level 5 and/or Level 6.

A 7,500-word dissertation on a topic agreed with a member of the staff at Birkbeck, University of London. A dissertation can be on any topic in philosophy that falls within the area of competence of a member of the Department.



Entrance requirements

DipHE programme

You must:

- normally* be aged 17 or above by 30 November in the year of registration

and

- meet our general entrance requirements

and

- meet our English language requirement.

CertHE programme

You must:

- normally* be aged 18 or above by 1 September in the year of registration

and

- have passed at least three separate subjects at GCSE/GCE O level, with grades A to C or the equivalent

and

- meet our English language requirement.

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

*Applications will be considered from applicants who do not meet the



normal minimum age requirement for admission. Each application will be considered on an individual basis and the decision taken at the discretion of the University of London.

For further information on entrance requirements please visit: london.ac.uk/philosophy

Alternative entry routes

Even if you do not meet the standard requirements, we will consider each application on its own merits. Our Admissions Panel will consider whether any alternative/incomplete qualifications or work experience you have are suitable for entry to the programme. If we are unable to issue you an offer for either the BA, DipHE or CertHE routes then if available we will advise on further alternatives such as our International Foundation

Programme or on additional qualifications you need to take in order to meet our minimum entrance criteria.

Recognition of prior learning (RPL)

If you have studied material as part of a previous qualification that is comparable in content and standard, you might be exempted from the equivalent course of our degree. This is known as Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL). This is available for the BA degree only.

Please note: if you wish to be considered for discretionary recognition of prior learning for the 2023 intake, then you must formally apply and submit your request by 1 October 2023.

How to apply

Applying online

For further information on this programme, entrance requirements and details on how to apply, please visit: london.ac.uk/philosophy

Students with disabilities and/or access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have access requirements. If you are disabled and/or have access requirements, we will make every reasonable effort to meet your needs. This may include making access arrangements for examinations, such as a separate room or special aids.

If you would like to tell us about your disability and/or request access arrangements, please complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the Inclusive Practice Manager at: special.arrangements@london.ac.uk



Further information

Fees payable to the University

The total fee payable to the University of London for 2022–2023 will be published on our website once confirmed. For the latest information on programme fees, please visit: london.ac.uk/fees

Please note: student fees shown on our website are net of any local VAT, Goods and Services Tax (GST) or any other sales tax payable by the student in their country of residence. Where the University is required to add VAT, GST or any other sales tax at the local

statutory rate, this will be added to the fees shown during the payment process. For students resident in the UK, our fees are exempt from VAT.

Financial assistance

UK undergraduate students may be able to apply for a part-time tuition fee loan. For full details on eligibility criteria, please visit: gov.uk/student-finance

Alternatively, some employers in both the public and private sector may be willing to consider offering financial assistance to their employees.

Armed Forces

Students who are members or ex-members of the UK Armed Forces should note that the University of London has been approved by the Ministry of Defence in support of the Enhanced Learning Credits (ELC) Scheme (ELC Provider Reference Number 1284). The Scheme provides financial support to eligible Service personnel who wish to enhance their educational or vocational achievements.

The ELC Administration Service website can be found at: www.enhancedlearningcredits.com





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For further information on the range of programmes we offer, please visit our website (london.ac.uk) or contact us at:

The Student Advice Centre

University of London
Senate House, Malet Street
London WC1E 7HU
United Kingdom

Telephone enquires: +44 (0)20 7862 8360

Online enquiries: sid.london.ac.uk



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