



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

# Philosophy and Politics

**UCAS code** LV25

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration
A level: ABB	Full-time	3 years

Apply by: **29 January 2025**

Starts on: **22 September 2025**

## About this course

This programme offers a comprehensive, diverse, inclusive and intellectually stimulating education in philosophy and politics, two subjects which are enhanced when studied in tandem.

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## Introduction

A detailed understanding of Philosophy enhances the study and practice of Politics. Philosophy is open-ended, questioning and creative, and also involves the critical reading, analysis and understanding of great philosophical texts. Politics shares these features, but also adds more elements of factual knowledge, for instance about the workings of institutions.

Year one concentrates on the development of core philosophical and political knowledge and skills through required modules, while year two consolidates this background and allows some level of choice. The final year allows you to opt to take modules from a wide range of areas and to become acquainted with recently developed or emerging areas of research in the disciplines.

You will become confident in working with abstract concepts and analysing real political practices, and develop skills in analytical, critical and creative thinking. Your presentational and writing abilities will be developed to a level consistent with progression to postgraduate study and/or graduate-level employment. You will

develop a number of core transferable skills such as the ability to reconstruct and critically assess arguments, the ability to build a case for a conclusion, and time-management skills.

## **Year in Industry**

This programme is available with a [Year in Industry](#). Year three is spent on a paid placement within an organisation in industry, broadly defined. You will be supported by the School of the Arts and the Department throughout, and your reflective written account of the experience will contribute towards your final degree result. If you wish to study this programme with a Year in Industry, please put the option code 'YI' in the 'Further Choices' section of your UCAS application form.

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## **What you'll learn**

- A systematic understanding of conceptual and theoretical dimensions of key aspects and issues of both disciplines
- Confidence in using and thinking reflectively about specialised research techniques and terminology used in either discipline
- Analytical, argumentative, communication and problem-solving skills
- Confidence in applying academic study to questions of public concern
- Conceptual understanding of the main aspects and issues of national and international politics
- In-depth knowledge of the institutions and policies within the UK and other countries
- Principles of academic writing and speaking
- The ability to relate the academic study of politics and communication to questions of public concern and communicate those to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Creative, critical and independent thinking
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Efficient time and information management

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# Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

## Year one

You will take entirely compulsory modules in your first year, which will provide the building blocks for the rest of your degree.

You will study 120 credits in each year of study. Half of your modules will be taken in Philosophy, and the other half in Politics.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS (POLI107)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CRITICAL, ANALYTICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING (PHIL112)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>ETHICS: MORAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE GOOD HUMAN LIFE (PHIL101)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>FOUNDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI104)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS (POLI109)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHTS (PHIL106)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL102)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>STUDYING POLITICS SUCCESSFULLY: SKILLS AND METHODS (POLI103)</u></a>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Year two

In each Semester, students must take 30 credits of Politics and 30 credits of Philosophy.

- SOTA260 counts as Philosophy credits and is required for SOTA600 Year in Industry. SOCI 205 and 207 count as Politics.
- No student may take both PHIL271 and PHIL272.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>KNOWLEDGE AND EPISTEMIC JUSTICE (PHIL212)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY (POLI205)</u>	15
<u>ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY: THE EXAMINED LIFE (PHIL237)</u>	15
<u>BRITISH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (POLI237)</u>	15
<u>BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL271)</u>	15
<u>BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL272)</u>	15
<u>COMPARING WELFARE STATES (SOCI207)</u>	15
<u>GENDER AND FEMINIST POLITICS: CORE CONCEPTS AND THEORIES (POLI257)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (POLI225)</u>	15
<u>MORAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORY AND PRACTICE (PHIL239)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI251)</u>	15
<u>PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)</u>	15
<u>SECURITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD (POLI231)</u>	15
<u>SOCIAL EXCLUSION (SOCI205)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI209)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING (PHIL241)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF RACE (PHIL274)</u>	15
<u>PUBLIC ETHICS (POLI260)</u>	15
<u>THE POLITICS OF 'RACE' AND MARGINALISATION (POLI265)</u>	15
<u>USES, MISUSES AND ABUSES OF LANGUAGE (PHIL276)</u>	15
<u>MODERNITY AND CRITICAL THOUGHT 1: ENLIGHTENMENT AND POLITICAL CHANGE (PHIL235)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF CAPITALISM (PHIL243)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE: SCIENCE IN SOCIETY (PHIL240)</u>	15
<u>LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND THE GOOD SOCIETY (PHIL219)</u>	15
<u>MODERNITY AND CRITICAL THOUGHT 2: MODERNITY AND ITS DISCONTENTS (PHIL236)</u>	15
<u>CRIMINOLOGICAL PERSPECTIVES AND THEIR APPLICATIONS (SOCI244)</u>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Final year

Your final year is made up entirely of optional modules, giving you some flexibility in the subjects you pursue.

- In each Semester, students must take 30 credits of Politics and 30 credits of Philosophy.
  - SOTA300 counts as Philosophy credits. SOCI315, COMM317 and ENVS325 count as Politics.
  - Students who have taken SOTA600 (Year in Industry) are not allowed to take SOTA 300.
  - Students must take at least one of PHIL306, SOTA300 or PHIL311.
  - A minimum average of 60% in Year 2 is normally required for PHIL306.
  - Students must consult with their academic advisor before taking both PHIL306 & SOTA300 (large proportion of independent work).

## Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>AESTHETICS (PHIL316)</u>	15
<u>CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY (PHIL367)</u>	15
<u>DIGITAL INQUIRY PROJECT (PHIL311)</u>	15
<u>EXISTENTIALISM (PHIL332)</u>	15
<u>FROM THE IRA TO ISIS: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324)</u>	15
<u>GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)</u>	15
<u>IDENTITY IN CONTEMPORARY INTERNATIONAL POLITICS (POLI332)</u>	15
<u>INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (PHIL326)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS (COMM317)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT (PHIL365)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY DISSERTATION (PHIL306)</u>	30
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUTURE (PHIL312)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF PLAY AND THE VIRTUAL (PHIL343)</u>	15
<u>POLITICAL BROADCASTING (RADIO) (POLI339)</u>	30
<u>POLITICS AND THE BRAIN (POLI346)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (POLI314)</u>	15
<u>PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)</u>	15
<u>RACE, RACISM AND CIVILISATION IN WORLD POLITICS (POLI348)</u>	15
<u>RELIGION, FREEDOM AND EQUALITY (POLI350)</u>	15
<u>SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)</u>	30
<u>STRATEGIC STUDIES IN CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM (POLI347)</u>	15
<u>THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RHETORIC IN BRITISH POLITICS (POLI323)</u>	15
<u>MYTHOLOGIES OF TRANSHUMANISM (PHIL313)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC POLICY (PHIL375)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR (POLI322)</u>	15
<u>EU AS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTOR (POLI328)</u>	15
<u>SOLIDARITY, ACTIVISM AND BORDERS IN THE EU (POLI308)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Teaching and assessment

### How you'll learn

**Philosophy:** In studying Philosophy, you will learn how to defend your views with reasoned arguments, and to assess the arguments of others. Argumentative skills are learned through attending lectures and reading philosophical texts, developed by group seminar discussions, and formally assessed through essays and exams. You will complete modules to the value of 120 credits per year, from a wide range of options available. Most modules employ a blend of lectures, seminars and online support materials. You will learn by reading and studying outside class time, by attending and participating in classes, by doing coursework and, for dissertations, via one-to-one meetings with a supervisor. There is also scope, both formally in the placement module and informally, for you to develop practical skills by volunteering.

**Politics:** Research-connected teaching is initiated in the first year with introductions to quantitative, qualitative, theoretical, and critical methodologies, which are then embedded in second- and final-year modules so that students can evaluate and apply the methodologies to construct their own analyses. Though our lectures are interactive, our seminars, workshops, computer lab sessions, dissertations, and placements form the core of our active learning approach.

### How you're assessed

**Philosophy:** Philosophy employs a mixture of modes of assessment: exams and coursework in many different varieties including essays, oral presentations, dissertations, exercises, and supported independent work (eg in the placement module).



**Politics:** We use a rich variety of assessment methods to develop students' various skills. Essays, exams, and presentations enable to students to practice core academic writing and speaking skills, while innovative assessments such as blog posts, reflective logs, group projects, podcasts, radio broadcasts and speeches expand our authentic assessment, enabling students to deploy transferable skills in various formats. Digital fluency is also developed in different ways, including sourcing relevant material, using online learning platforms and tools, producing audio and visual materials, word processing and statistical analysis.

## Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching
- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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# Careers and employability

Graduating with a degree in philosophy will empower you to delve into the profound questions that shape human existence but also position you as a valuable asset in today's competitive job market.

The School has its own placements and employability officer, and you will have the opportunity to undertake a work placement or a year in industry as part of your programme.

Graduates in Philosophy obtain work in fields such as:

- advertising and marketing;
- the arts, broadcasting and journalism;
- commerce and management;
- the civil service, law and politics;
- teaching.

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# Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

## Tuition fees

### UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £1,430 (applies to year in China)

### International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £12,050 (applies to year in China)

The tuition fees shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. Please note that the year abroad fee also applies to the year in China.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

## Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.



# Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

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## A levels

ABB

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## T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

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## GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

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## BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

Applications encouraged. BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits.

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## International Baccalaureate

35 overall with no score less than four

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## Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H3

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## Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

AAB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

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## Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

Accepted at grade A including AB at A Level

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## Access

45 Level 3 credits at Distinction

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### International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

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## English language requirements

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

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### IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

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### TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

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## **TOEFL Paper**

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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## **Duolingo English Test**

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

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## **Pearson PTE Academic**

61 overall, with no component below 59

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## **LanguageCert Academic**

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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## **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500**

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

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## **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990**

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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## **Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511**

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

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## **Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991**

0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

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## **Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced**

176 overall, with no paper below 162

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## **LanguageCert**

## Pre-sessional English

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

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### Pre-sessional English in detail

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus



Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
4.5		
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

## Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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