



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Philosophy and Politics

UCAS code LV25

Entry requirements

A level: ABB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **14 January 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

About this course

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

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.

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 each 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 to communicate those to specialist and non-specialist audiences
- Creative, critical, and independent thinking
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Efficient management of time and information

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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
<u>ETHICS: MORAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE GOOD HUMAN LIFE (PHIL101)</u>	15
<u>MIND, KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY (PHIL103)</u>	15
<u>STUDYING POLITICS SUCCESSFULLY: SKILLS AND METHODS (POLI103)</u>	15
<u>FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS (POLI109)</u>	15
<u>POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL102)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHTS (PHIL106)</u>	15
<u>FOUNDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI104)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS (POLI107)</u>	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 the Year in Industry.
- No student may take both **PHIL271** and **PHIL272**.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE (PHIL212)</u>	15
<u>ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY: THE EXAMINED LIFE (PHIL237)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING (PHIL241)</u>	15
<u>BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL271)</u>	15
<u>THE MEANING OF LIFE AND DEATH: EXPLORING THE ULTIMATE QUESTION (PHIL273)</u>	15
<u>PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)</u>	15
<u>AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY (POLI205)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (POLI215)</u>	15
<u>DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL CHANGE (POLI235)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING (POLI252)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>GENDER AND FEMINIST POLITICS: CORE CONCEPTS AND THEORIES (POLI257)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (PHIL215)</u>	15
<u>LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND THE GOOD SOCIETY (PHIL219)</u>	15
<u>METAPHYSICS (PHIL228)</u>	15
<u>MORAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORY AND PRACTICE (PHIL239)</u>	15
<u>BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL272)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS IN ACTION (POLI200)</u>	15
<u>THINKING ABOUT POLITICS (POLI218)</u>	15
<u>POPULISM (POLI223)</u>	15
<u>BRITISH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (POLI237)</u>	15
<u>PUBLIC ETHICS (POLI260)</u>	15
<u>THE POLITICS OF 'RACE' AND MARGINALISATION (POLI265)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY SEXUAL POLITICS (POLI270)</u>	15
<u>USES, MISUSES AND ABUSES OF LANGUAGE (PHIL276)</u>	15

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.
- Students that have taken the Year in Industry are not allowed to take **SOTA300**.
- Students must take at least one of **PHIL306**, **POLI401**, **SOTA300** or **PHIL311**.
- No student may take both **PHIL306** and **POLI401**.
- A minimum average of 60% in Year 2 is normally required for **PHIL306** or **POLI401**.
- Students must consult with their academic advisor before taking both **PHIL306** and **SOTA300**, or **POLI401** and **SOTA300** (large proportion of independent work).

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>FRONTIERS OF ETHICS (PHIL302)</u>	15
<u>MIND, BRAIN AND CONSCIOUSNESS (PHIL309)</u>	15
<u>AESTHETICS (PHIL316)</u>	15
<u>EXISTENTIALISM (PHIL332)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF PLAY AND THE VIRTUAL (PHIL343)</u>	15
<u>LIFE, LANGUAGE AND ACTION (PHIL340)</u>	15
<u>CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY (PHIL367)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES (POLI304)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>AFRICA-CHINA RELATIONS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER (POLI305)</u>	15
<u>SOLIDARITY, ACTIVISM AND BORDERS IN THE EU (POLI308)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR (POLI322)</u>	15
<u>FROM THE IRA TO THE FAR RIGHT: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324)</u>	15
<u>LABOUR THINKERS (POLI326)</u>	15
<u>CONSERVATIVE THINKERS (POLI327)</u>	15
<u>EU AS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTOR (POLI328)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS AND THE BRAIN (POLI346)</u>	15
<u>THE PUZZLE OF CIVIL WAR (POLI353)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC SPACE (POLI354)</u>	15
<u>DIGITAL INQUIRY PROJECT (PHIL311)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUTURE (PHIL312)</u>	15
<u>INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (PHIL326)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE (PHIL327)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT (PHIL365)</u>	15
<u>HEALTH CARE, ECONOMICS AND JUSTICE (PHIL366)</u>	15
<u>HELLENISTIC AND NEOPLATONIC PHILOSOPHY (PHIL368)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC POLICY (PHIL375)</u>	15
<u>HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES (POLI306)</u>	15
<u>PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (POLI314)</u>	15
<u>THEORIES OF POVERTY AND WEALTH (POLI316)</u>	15
<u>INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321)</u>	15
<u>THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RHETORIC IN BRITISH POLITICS (POLI323)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY POLITICS OF NATIONALISM (POLI332)</u>	15
<u>GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)</u>	15
<u>PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL THEORY (POLI352)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY DISSERTATION (PHIL306)</u>	30
<u>SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)</u>	30
<u>DISSERTATION (POLI401)</u>	30

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 students to practise 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 – £9,790

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £27,000

Year in industry fee – £1,905

Year abroad fee – £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The UK and international full-time fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 (UK fees are subject to Parliamentary approval). UK year abroad and year in industry fees and international year in industry fees shown are for entry 2025, as 2026/27 fees have yet to be confirmed. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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.

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Entry requirements

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

A levels

ABB

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.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

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

International Baccalaureate

32 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,5,5 in 3 HL subjects

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

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

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus AB at A level

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma with 45 Level 3 credits with 33 at Distinction and 12 at Merit

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.

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.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

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

Duolingo English Test

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

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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.

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.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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.

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

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
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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