UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

Philosophy

UCAS code V500

Entry requirements	Study mode	Duration	
A level: AAB	Full-time	3 years	Apply by: **13 January 2027** Starts on: **27 September 2027**

About this course

God. Morality. Mind. Reality. Art. If you want to spend three years engaging with some of the most challenging and profound questions with which humanity has ever grappled, then Philosophy is the subject for you.

Introduction

As philosophers we ask many different questions. What am I? How should I live? What will humans be like in the future? How does language work? How can we take care of our planet?

Our expert staff will help you develop your own answers to these fascinating questions through a combination of lectures on the answers given by great philosophers of the past and present, and seminars aimed at facilitating interaction between student and student, and student and teacher.

By the end of this programme, you will be able to understand complex and demanding texts, reason intelligently and imaginatively about ethical, metaphysical, and epistemological issues, and have a grasp of the advantages and problems of a wide range of philosophical views.

Year one will be spent developing your foundational knowledge through a series of required modules, through which you will also acquire the skills to read and write about philosophy, and to undertake critical analysis. Your second and final years will allow you to tailor your studies to your own interests through a free choice of modules.

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

- Analytical, argumentative, communication, and problem-solving skills
- Creative, critical, and independent thinking
- Flexibility and adaptability
- Efficient time and information management
- The ability to organise and present a persuasive case
- The ability to recognise relevant information
- Understanding of some aspects of the history of philosophy, and various sub-disciplines of contemporary philosophy
- Basic competence in elementary symbolic logic

Back to top

Course content

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

Year one

Your first year is made of eight required modules that will set the foundations for the rest of your studies.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
CRITICAL, ANALYTICAL AND CREATIVE THINKING (PHIL112)	15
ETHICS: MORAL CONSTRAINTS AND THE GOOD HUMAN LIFE (PHIL101)	15
MIND, KNOWLEDGE AND REALITY (PHIL103)	15
PHILOSOPHY TOOLKIT (PHIL105)	15
INTRODUCTION TO LOGIC (PHIL127)	15
PHILOSOPHICAL INSIGHTS (PHIL106)	15
POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL102)	15
THE EYE OF THE BEHOLDER: ART AND PHILOSOPHY (PHIL110)	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change. As part of our commitment to continuous improvement, we are currently reviewing all of our programmes. This may include refining study pathways, strengthening links with employers, integrating generative AI, developing students' research skills, and

enhancing alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

Year two

You will take entirely optional modules, unless you are taking the Year in Industry, in which case you will be required to take **SOTA260**.

- No student may take both **PHIL271** and **PHIL272**.
- A minimum **PHIL127** grade of 60% is normally required for **PHIL207**.
- **SOTA260** is required for students pursuing a Year in Industry but may also be taken on an optional basis.

Modules

Optional modules	Credits
LOGIC (PHIL207)	15
THE POLITICS OF KNOWLEDGE (PHIL212)	15
ANCIENT GREEK PHILOSOPHY: THE EXAMINED LIFE (PHIL237)	15
PHILOSOPHICAL PROBLEM-SOLVING (PHIL241)	15
BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL271)	15
THE MEANING OF LIFE AND DEATH: EXPLORING THE ULTIMATE QUESTION (PHIL273)	15
PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)	15
PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (PHIL215)	15

Optional modules	Credits
LIBERTY, JUSTICE AND THE GOOD SOCIETY (PHIL219)	15
METAPHYSICS (PHIL228)	15
MORAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORY AND PRACTICE (PHIL239)	15
BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL272)	15
USES, MISUSES AND ABUSES OF LANGUAGE (PHIL276)	15

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Final year

Every module is optional.

- Students who have taken **SOTA600** (Year in Industry) are not allowed to take **SOTA300**.
- Students (100%, 75%, or 50 % Philosophy) must take at least one of **PHIL311**, **PHIL365**, **PHIL306**, **SOTA300**, but may not take both **PHIL311** & **PHIL306**.
- 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
FRONTIERS OF ETHICS (PHIL302)	15
MIND, BRAIN AND CONSCIOUSNESS (PHIL309)	15
AESTHETICS (PHIL316)	15
EXISTENTIALISM (PHIL332)	15
LIFE, LANGUAGE AND ACTION (PHIL340)	15
PHILOSOPHY OF PLAY AND THE VIRTUAL (PHIL343)	15
CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY (PHIL367)	15
DIGITAL INQUIRY PROJECT (PHIL311)	15
PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUTURE (PHIL312)	15
INDIAN PHILOSOPHY (PHIL326)	15
PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE (PHIL327)	15
PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT (PHIL365)	15
HEALTH CARE, ECONOMICS AND JUSTICE (PHIL366)	15
HELLENISTIC AND NEOPLATONIC PHILOSOPHY (PHIL368)	15
PHILOSOPHY AND PUBLIC POLICY (PHIL375)	15
PHILOSOPHY DISSERTATION (PHIL306)	30

Optional modules	Credits
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS WORK PLACEMENTS MODULE (SOTA300)	30

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Combined degree

Choosing this subject as a combined degree

You will take half of your modules in Philosophy, and the other half in your other subject. Popular subjects to take with Philosophy include Politics, English Literature, English, and Maths. You can also take Law at 75% and Philosophy at 25%.

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

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.

How you're assessed

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).

Liverpool Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching - learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning - taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment - assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

Back to top

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.

Back to top

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 - £10,050
Year in industry fee - £2,010
Year abroad fee - £1,508 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year - £27,000
Year in industry fee - £1,955
Year abroad fee - £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The UK fees shown are for the academic year 2027/28. The international fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 and will be subject for change for the academic year 2027/28. 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. You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur on our study costs webpage.

Back to top

Entry requirements

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

A levels

AAB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **ABB** from A levels, with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about how we make reduced grade offers.

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

34 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,6,5 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 AA at A level.

Access

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma with 45 Level 3 credits with 36 at Distinction and 9 at Merit.

International qualifications

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.

Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, contact us for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year Go Higher diploma qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes
- Applications from mature students are welcome.

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

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. 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 or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	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 at 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.

Back to top

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