

MA

Philosophy

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **17 September 2027**Starts on: **27 September 2027**

About this course

This degree gives you access to the very wide range of philosophical topics and expertise available in the Department. It's an excellent preparation for research in philosophy, as well as being an attractive postgraduate course in itself. This programme also offers a specialist pathway focusing on public policy – see MA Philosophy (Public Policy).

Introduction

The course is designed to give you the competence and understanding to pursue doctoral research in philosophy, while also acquiring professional skills needed for a broad range of careers. Alongside your philosophy modules you will receive personalised subject-specific research and professional skills training through a practice-based skills module.

The emphasis in the core philosophy modules is on frontier research. Religion, Ethics and Practical Philosophy and Metaphysics, Language and Mind are two team-taught modules in which the department's top researchers will introduce you to their current area of work. Recent subjects include religious expression, empathy in medicine, social epistemology and linguistic idealism. You will also write a dissertation – an extended piece of independent research conducted under the guidance of an academic expert.

You can use your elective modules to tailor the programme towards your philosophical interests – be that political and social philosophy, ethics and religion, or metaphysics and mind. Or you can add something new to your studies, like Indian philosophy or philosophy of film. Besides the MA-level electives, students can also choose a course from our third year undergraduate provision to take at MA level (for an indicative list [please see here](#)). Students following the [Public Policy](#) pathway have the option to take an elective from another department.

You will actively participate in the research activities of the Department as part of your Research and Professional Skills module. You will have a chance to lead one of the fortnightly Insights workshops with a world-renowned visiting speaker and will contribute to the staff work-in-progress seminar, by giving feedback on the work of our academics. You will gain confidence and knowledge through being part of our research community.

What you'll learn

- Current research in ethics, philosophy of religion and practical philosophy
- Current research in metaphysics, philosophy of language and philosophy of mind
- Depending on your electives, you can focus on political and social philosophy, ethics and religion, or metaphysics and mind; or add something new, like Indian philosophy or film
- How to conduct research into your area of interest
- Practical experience of being part of a university research community
- Key research and professional skills

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Course content

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

Semester one

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
RELIGION, ETHICS AND PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL704)	30
RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (PHIL703)	15
Optional modules	Credits
CONSCIOUSNESS (PHIL709)	15
AESTHETICS (PHIL716)	15
PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL CHANGE (PHIL771)	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 ran for students beginning in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by Friday 30th April 2027 at the latest.

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
METAPHYSICS, LANGUAGE AND MIND (PHIL705)	30
Optional modules	Credits
METAPHYSICAL AND EPISTEMIC ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (PHIL715)	15
SUBSTANCE AND PROCESS IN INDIAN METAPHYSICS (PHIL726)	15
PHILOSOPHY OF FILM (PHIL757)	15
CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS B (PHIL770)	15

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Final project

Over the summer you will continue to work on and complete your dissertation.

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Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Teaching is delivered through a combination of seminars and workshops held on campus. Depending on which module options are taken, there may be lectures and separate seminar sessions scheduled.

Class sizes for master's programmes in the Department of Philosophy tend to be small, and a typical class in Philosophy will include between 8-10 students.

How you're assessed

You will mainly be assessed by a combination of formative and summative coursework. This will take a number of different forms, including essays, essay plans, research proposals, a reflective journal and a dissertation.

In addition, you will be assessed by presentations in certain modules. Other assessment formats may apply also depending on the options modules taken.

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.

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Careers and employability

Our programmes aim to equip you with the general and widely applicable analytical, argumentative, and problem-solving skills valued by employers. By placing emphasis on the intersection between philosophical research and curatorial practice, this programme especially equips graduates for further academic research and an international career in the arts.

Some of our postgraduate students have gone on to a career in academic Philosophy, other career destinations of our graduates include business, curating, cultural management, the media, the civil service and education.

Career support from day one to graduation and beyond

Career planning

From education to employment

Networking events

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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 – £12,500

Part-time place, per year – £6,250

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £28,000

Part-time place, per year – £14,000

Tuition fees are for the academic year 2026/27.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support.

- You can pay your tuition fees in instalments.
- All or part of your tuition fees can be funded by external sponsorship.
- International applicants who accept an offer of a place will need to pay a deposit.

If you're a UK national, or have settled status in the UK, you may be eligible to apply for a Postgraduate Loan worth up to £13,206 to help with course fees and living costs. **Learn more about paying for your studies**.

Additional costs

We don't anticipate additional costs to students outside of general study costs. Course texts will generally be available from the library, but you may wish to purchase your own copies.

You can find information on the general and subject-specific costs you could expect to incur [on our study costs webpage](#).

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Entry requirements

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

Postgraduate entry requirements

We accept a 2:2 honours degree from a UK university, or an equivalent academic qualification from a similar non-UK institution. This degree should be in Philosophy or a relevant subject.

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 entry requirements. Completing your Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the [University of Liverpool International College](#), means you're guaranteed a place on your chosen course.

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 6.0

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. 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 writing not less than 125, speaking and reading not less than 115, and listening not below 110. For academic year 2025/26 only, we will also accept the production, literacy, comprehension and conversation score set: 120 overall, with no component below 105.

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 65

PSI Skills for English

B2 Pass with Merit in all bands

INDIA Standard XII

National Curriculum (CBSE/ISC) – 75% and above in English. Accepted State Boards – 80% and above in English.

WAEC

C6 or above

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 writing at 6.0 and no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with writing at 5.5 and no component below 5.0	10 weeks	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0	12 weeks	Online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component at 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 6.0, for further details.

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