



MRes

Philosophy

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **28 August 2026**

Starts on: **21 September 2026**

About this course

The Philosophy MRes allows you to undertake a one year full-time or two year part-time research project in Philosophy. You will receive training in research skills and supervision from one or more academic specialists in their subject area.

Introduction

This MRes provides a personalised and focused introduction to postgraduate research. It will enable you to develop into an independent researcher and produce an original research project, supported by an expert in Philosophy.

This course is excellent preparation for you if you're intending to undertake a PhD in the Arts and Humanities, but is also a good choice if you wish to pursue a research project for purposes of professional development or personal interest. You will become part of a community of active researchers and will be encouraged to pursue your own research interests in collaboration with an academic supervisor.

Who is this course for?

You should have a very well-developed research proposal that you have discussed and had approved by your prospective supervisor in the Department of Philosophy prior to submitting your application.

What you'll learn

- How to design a robust research proposal
- How to identify relevant evidence and sources
- How to plan and conduct a major piece of original, independent research
- How to collect, interpret and analyse data and present your findings
- Project management and problem-solving skills
- How to prepare a bibliography

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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

Please note, work towards the dissertation runs across the length of the programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (PHIL703)</u>	15
<u>RESEARCH RESOURCES (PHIL711)</u>	15

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

Semester two

Please note, work towards the dissertation runs across the length of the programme.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>FEASIBILITY STUDY (PHIL713)</u>	30
<u>DISSERTATION (PHIL714)</u>	120

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

Final project

Please note, work towards the dissertation runs across the length of the programme, including the summer.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>DISSERTATION (PHIL714)</u>	120

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

Teaching and assessment

How you'll learn

Your teaching will be delivered through regular supervisory meetings with academic staff with subject-area expertise matched to your specific areas of research interest.

With the exception of one class-taught module on research methods (PHIL703 Research & Professional Skills), there is no group teaching.

You will be invited and encouraged to participate in, and contribute to the wider research culture in the Department. Your main point of contact will be with supervisors who provide one-on-one tutorials.

How you're assessed

You will be assessed by coursework. Preparatory work (e.g. annotated bibliography, research project proposal) is designed to provide step-by-step development of ideas and knowledge that will feed into completion of the final dissertation (30–35,000 words), which is the primary mode of assessment.

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

The MRes Philosophy may enhance the career prospects of those working or wishing to work in fields associated with the study of Arts subjects, including teachers, professional writers and librarians. While managerial positions often require the ability to conduct research or project-work and to demonstrate sustained and complex organisational skills in ways encompassed by this programme, its emphasis on oral and written communication skills as well as on IT-based presentation skills will be useful for many types of employment.

The MRes is designed to prepare students too for further research at PhD level, and to enable them to enter postgraduate research, thus offering a first step towards a career in academic teaching and research.

Philosophy graduates can pursue a wide range of careers due to the transferrable skills developed during the course, for example:

- Teaching
- Lecturing
- Social work
- Journalism
- Civil service.

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 – £5,006

Part-time place, per year – £2,503

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,600

Part-time place, per year – £12,300

Fees stated are for the 2025/26 academic year. Tuition fees for the academic year 2026/27 will be announced soon.

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 tuition fee 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 £12,167 to help with course fees and living costs. [Learn more about paying for your studies](#).

Additional costs

Please note, this programme may have additional costs associated with it depending on your choice of a lab or computational/fieldwork-based project.

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.

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 closely related Arts and Humanities subject.

You are required to submit a sample of written work, totalling 2,000–3,000 words, as part of your application. This could be an undergraduate essay or a similar piece of writing.

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, a Pre-Master's can help you gain a place. This specialist preparation course for postgraduate study is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. Although there's no direct Pre-Master's route to this MRes, completing a Pre-Master's pathway can guarantee you a place on many other postgraduate courses at The University of Liverpool.

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 writing at 6.5 and no other component below 6.0

TOEFL iBT

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 21, reading 19 and speaking 20. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

120 overall, with literacy and production not less than 120, and comprehension and conversation not below 105

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with writing at 61, and no other component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with writing at 70, and no other 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 no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with writing at 6.0, and no other component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	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 writing at 6.5 and no other component below 6.0, for further details.

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