

MRes

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

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
RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (PHIL703)	15
RESEARCH RESOURCES (PHIL711)	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

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

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
FEASIBILITY STUDY (PHIL713)	30
DISSERTATION (PHIL714)	120

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Final project

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

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
DISSERTATION (PHIL714)	120

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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 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

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

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 – £5,238

Part-time place, per year – £2,619

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £25,350

Part-time place, per year – £12,650

The fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27. The University may administer inflationary rises to international fees in subsequent academic years as you progress through the course.

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 closely related Arts and Humanities subject.

You will be asked to submit a Research Proposal. You may wish to refer to the guidance for [writing a Research Proposal for PhD](#).

By applying to this course, you confirm the information and documents provided are true, complete, accurate and your own work. If you use Generative AI software to complete your application, you must also acknowledge it.

This applies to your initial application and any subsequent communications from you to the University.

If you omit, misrepresent or give false information (e.g. qualifications commenced but not completed, qualifications resulting in a fail grade, exclusions, etc), the University reserves the right reject your application, withdraw any offer made to you, and prevent you from applying in the future.

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, writing 6.5, with no other 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 21, 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 4.5 in writing and 4.0 or above in all other components. 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.

Our Pre-sessional English courses vary from 6, 10, 12, 20, 30 or 40 weeks.

You can email us at elc@liverpool.ac.uk for advice on the length of Pre-sessional English course you require. Please let us know your most recent score in one of the following English languages tests so we can assess your current English language ability:

- IELTS
- LanguageCert Academic
- Pearson PTE
- Skills for English
- Oxford Test for English
- Duolingo English Test

We'll be in touch to let you know the length of Pre-sessional English course you require. We'll also confirm whether you can study Pre-Sessional English on campus or online.

Generated: 30 Sep 2026, 18:29

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