



UNIVERSITY OF
LIVERPOOL

MA

Philosophy (Public Policy)

Study mode

Full-time

Part-time

Duration

12 months

24 months

Apply by: **28 August 2026**

Starts on: **21 September 2026**

About this course

MA Philosophy (Public Policy) builds on our long-established MA in Philosophy by offering a specialist route in public policy.

Introduction

You will learn how philosophical theory and analysis can be used to understand and shape public policy, scientific practice and as a force for social and political change.

Through your compulsory modules, you will be introduced to philosophical critiques of society, and of particularly important social institutions, such as science, thereby learning to better understand the world in which we live. You will develop the tools to apply knowledge for use in public life while gaining a solid foundation for postgraduate research in philosophy or the social sciences.

Through a series of optional modules, you will have access to a wide range of philosophical topics which will further enhance your studies and your personal perspective on social issues.

What you'll learn

- Understanding of current issues in metaphysics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, religion, ethics, and practical philosophy
- Understanding of public policy and how policies are devised
- Philosophical critiques of society and social institutions

- Critical reading and critical thinking
- Communication skills, both verbally and in writing, through open debates and written assessments
- Practical experience of being part of a university research community
- Key research and professional skills
- Training in the forensic, dialectical and analytical tools that characterise good philosophical practice

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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

You may take an optional module from outside Philosophy, subject to agreement from the programme leader.

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>RELIGION, ETHICS AND PRACTICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL704)</u>	30
<u>PHILOSOPHY AND SOCIAL CHANGE (PHIL771)</u>	15
<u>RESEARCH AND PROFESSIONAL SKILLS (PHIL703)</u>	15
Optional modules	Credits
<u>CONSCIOUSNESS (PHIL709)</u>	15
<u>AESTHETICS (PHIL716)</u>	15
<u>FUNDAMENTALS OF STRATEGIC COMMUNICATION B (COMM517)</u>	15
<u>BIG DATA AND SOCIETY: FOUNDATIONS, POLITICS, AND POLICY B (COMM752)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND POLITICS: THEORIES AND CASES B (COMM765)</u>	15

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

Semester two

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>SCIENCE, SOCIETY AND PUBLIC POLICY (PHIL732)</u>	30
Optional modules	Credits
<u>METAPHYSICAL AND EPISTEMIC ISSUES IN PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION (PHIL715)</u>	15
<u>SUBSTANCE AND PROCESS IN INDIAN METAPHYSICS (PHIL726)</u>	15
<u>PHILOSOPHY OF FILM (PHIL757)</u>	15
<u>CULTURAL INSTITUTIONS B (PHIL770)</u>	15
<u>INFLUENCING STRATEGIES IN DIGITAL MEDIA (COMM520)</u>	15
<u>ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND COMMUNICATION B (COMM718)</u>	15
<u>BIG DATA AND SOCIETY: ALGORITHMS AND PLATFORMS B (COMM754)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA PRACTICES AND EVERYDAY LIFE B (COMM759)</u>	15
<u>MEDIA AND POLITICS: ECONOMY AND SOCIETY B (COMM763)</u>	15

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

Final project

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

Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<u>M.A. DISSERTATION (PHIL706)</u>	60

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

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 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

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 – £11,700

Part-time place, per year – £5,850

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Part-time place, per year – £12,050

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

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.

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.

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

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 19, writing 19, reading 19 and speaking 20. 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 no component below 6.0	6 weeks	On campus
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
6.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 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	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no more than one component below 5.0, and 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 6.0, for further details.

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Generated: 1 Oct 2025, 15:08

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