



# PHILOSOPHY

UNDERGRADUATE PROGRAMMES

**WARWICK**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF WARWICK

# WELCOME TO PHILOSOPHY AT WARWICK

## WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?

Philosophy is the systematic attempt to answer the deepest and most fundamental questions about the nature of reality, including: 'What am I?', 'How should I live?', 'What is the conscious mind?', and 'What would a just society look like?' Philosophy employs distinctive methods of enquiry to answer these questions. Unlike the natural sciences, which endeavour to establish the truth about the world through experiment and observation, philosophers attempt to find out the truth by careful thinking, reasoning and reflection, and by dialogue and discussion with other thinkers.

Whether you have taken A-level Philosophy or not, you have probably encountered philosophical questions and methods in other aspects of your studies. For example, in religious studies, politics, law or history, you'll have engaged in ordered thinking to explore topic areas and issues of human importance. Your studies in maths, sciences and computer science, use models such as logic and inductive reasoning, which developed from structures employed by ancient thinkers for answering questions clearly. And your studies in art, literature or psychology may have posed questions to you about the nature of the self, including how do we - and can we - understand, explore and communicate what we are.

All institutions in society are based on some philosophical concepts. From government to marriage; religion to industry; family to education - philosophy is a subject which directly affects our everyday lives. Consider the issue of climate change and global warming: moral philosophy asks us to think about the impact that our emissions will have on the world of the future. Philosophy can also help us make decisions on the use of new technology, such as bioengineering and stem cells.

Philosophy's many traditions offer structure, tools and techniques which we can use to tackle the big questions in life. Philosophy provides ordered ways to interpret and understand the world; it grows with new knowledge and it continually employs its techniques to meet new challenges. Most of all, philosophy is about being willing and prepared to relentlessly reflect on notions of values and identity, which are fundamental to life as a human being.



# WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY AT WARWICK?

Build your degree from an expansive range of options in different philosophical fields and traditions. Learn from world leading philosophers working at the cutting edge of contemporary research. Join a vibrant and supportive student community that is passionate about all things philosophy.

## Our teaching

Our department offers an exceptionally wide range of learning opportunities from day one. From your very first year of study you will be able to engage with both the analytic and the continental traditions of western philosophy. As you progress in your degree programme, you can choose from a range of optional modules across a broad spectrum of fields in philosophy - from logic, metaphysics and the philosophy of mind, to ethics, aesthetics and political philosophy. There are also opportunities for genuinely interdisciplinary learning, especially as part of our multi-disciplinary degree programmes. You could find yourself being taught by leading experts from different departments as part of the same module, or by a lecturer who is an active researcher in more than one discipline.

We strongly believe that an essential part of learning about philosophy is doing philosophy. For this reason, the teaching provision for our modules includes small-group seminars as well as lectures. In these environments we encourage you to share your ideas with your peers and tutors, develop and test your newly acquired knowledge and abilities, and fine-tune the art of good philosophical thinking and discussion.

## Our research

The breadth of learning opportunities in our department is a reflection of the fact that our staff are active researchers in a wide range of fields in philosophy. This ensures that our teaching is informed by cutting-edge research and the latest developments in the field. It also means that our optional modules includes unique offerings that depend on the specific research expertise of our staff.

Our research is motivated by questions such as:

**Philosophy of mind, psychology, and perception** - What is consciousness? What are the differences between dreaming and waking consciousness? What do I learn about the world through sensory perception? Am I able to perceive what goes on in the minds of others?

**Aesthetics, philosophy of art, philosophy of poetry and literature** - What do we learn about ourselves by engaging with art, literature and poetry? Why do we care about the fate of fictional characters? When is a photograph a work of art and when is it not? Can meals be works of art?

**Moral philosophy, political, and social philosophy** - What are human rights? Do humans have a right against social deprivation? Is there a duty to obey the law or should we be anarchists? What should we do when we are ordered to fight an unjust war? What are our duties concerning the global poor?

The Department of Philosophy is affiliated with, or home to, active research groups such as:

**The Research Group in Post-Kantian European Philosophy** - Reflecting our department's expertise in the continental tradition in Western philosophy, staff associated with this group investigate the continuing relevance of the works of such figures in the history of philosophy as Hegel, Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Foucault, and Deleuze.

**The Warwick Mind and Action Research Centre (WMA)** - A legacy of our department's Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC) funded project 'Consciousness and Self-Consciousness' (1997-2001); promoting work in the philosophy of mind, the philosophy of action, and fostering collaborative research by philosophers and psychologists.

**The Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts (CRPLA)** - A unique forum for interdisciplinary enquiry into the intersections between philosophy, literature, the arts, classics, television and film.

**The Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs (CELPA)** - Established in 2008 to coordinate and develop the activities of Warwick researchers with interests in inquiry into public affairs, CELPA promotes close collaboration between the departments of Philosophy, Politics and International Studies (PAIS), and Law.

## But don't just take our word for it

Our excellence in teaching and learning is reflected in our rankings in top university guides. In the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2018 and the Complete University Guide 2019, Warwick's Department of Philosophy is ranked 9th out of all UK philosophy departments. We also rank 13th in the Guardian University Guide 2018. Furthermore, in the latest National Student Survey (NSS), 87% of students reported overall satisfaction, and over 90% agreed that our staff are good at explaining things and that our programmes are intellectually stimulating. Plus, the University of Warwick as a whole was awarded silver status in the government's recent Teaching Excellence Framework (TEF) exercise. As for our research, in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF) exercise, over 90% of our department's publications were deemed 'world leading' or 'internationally excellent'.



## Support, development, and community

We aim to give our students all the personal and academic support they need to progress and excel in their chosen studies. One of the first members of staff you will meet - and then meet many times again - is your personal tutor. Your personal tutor is a guaranteed familiar face in the department and a source of support, advice and guidance for when you are making important personal and academic decisions. You can gain further support from our Director of Student Development and Progression (DSEP), who is specially responsible for ensuring that measures are taken to enhance student experience and opportunities, whether it be through academic writing skills workshops, careers events, or helping to support self-organised student ventures and activities. Our DSEP also helps to represent the student voice by regularly advising staff about how best to implement your feedback about our teaching and your learning experience.

And our students support each other, too! Through our student mentoring scheme you have the opportunity to be paired with one of our current students who will gladly introduce you to life as a Warwick philosophy student. We are also proud to have a very active Philosophy Society (PhilSoc), a student-run organisation which aims to build a supportive community for any Warwick student with an interest in philosophy. PhilSoc organise regular social events and outings, film screenings, academic talks, and study and revision sessions. They are just one example of the many student-organised activities that happen in the Department of Philosophy; another recent example is Pharos, Warwick's own student-run undergraduate philosophy magazine, founded as a platform for students to showcase their own philosophical works, as well as to publish interviews, module reviews and society news.

# WHAT CAN I STUDY?

We want you to become a confident, capable and skilled philosopher familiar with the core aspects of this expansive subject area, its key thinkers and traditions, and their many debates.

Flexibility and choice are also key features of your philosophy degree: by selecting specialist modules you can create your own individual path. You can even complete your degree with a choice of dissertation or independent research project on a topic of your own, developed and agreed in discussion with your supervisor.

Whatever programme you choose, you'll encounter important philosophers including Descartes and Plato, and you'll investigate areas of philosophy including Metaphysics, Epistemology, Moral and Political Philosophy. Specific modules will introduce you to Ancient Philosophy, Logic, and issues surrounding the relation between mind and reality, and other central themes in contemporary philosophy.

## What is the programme structure?

Our first year curriculum aims to hone your ability to critically argue and complete well-structured analytical essays on philosophical readings. We'll help you master the fundamentals block by block, from reading to understanding, outlining key concepts, detecting patterns of argument, and developing essay plans.

You'll be exposed to major philosophical arguments and positions in Central Themes in Philosophy and Mind and Reality. Are beauty and goodness a matter of opinion? Are we just animals? Is experience a feature of the brain? Can we know anything about the external world? In Plato and Descartes, you'll pursue questions about justice and knowledge by standing on the shoulders of two philosophical giants. And in Introduction to Symbolic Logic, you'll develop your ability to analyse and assess complex trains of argument.

From here, your degree will be defined by the pathway and modules you choose to take.



**BA Philosophy** offers you a flexible and comprehensive education in philosophy. You'll encounter Ancient Philosophy, a module in philosophical skills (in which you'll learn how to analyse, evaluate and construct good arguments, and develop skills in academic writing and research), and Ethics and History of Modern Philosophy as compulsory aspects in later years to complete your grounding. A quarter of your first year's credits are your choice, and this increases to over 60% of modules being selected by you in your second year. Your final year is down to you: all your modules are chosen by you according to your individual interests and goals, and you'll choose from an extensive and varied selection.

**BA Philosophy with Psychology** involves spending at least a quarter of your time engaging with psychology, in addition to philosophy. Our specialised modules in areas of the Philosophy of Mind and Psychology underpin the focus of this programme. This allows you to tackle broad areas such as perception, cognition, knowledge of the self and others, and consciousness from a multidisciplinary perspective. Whilst you are by no means bound to limit your optional choices to this area of interest, you will find that the vibrant research community in this area offer you a range of fresh, current modules that you won't find elsewhere.

**BA Philosophy and Literature** benefits from our specific expertise in research, teaching and programme development across the departments of Philosophy and English and Comparative Literary Studies. On this programme, you will take two interdisciplinary modules, which are jointly taught by staff from the Philosophy and English Literature departments: Problems in Philosophy and Literature in your first year and Textual Studies in your third year. Additionally, you will be able to choose complimentary modules from across the two departments. You can shape your programme of study from year one, choosing a quarter of your modules from available options. You choose 60% of your modules in year two, and 75% of your modules in your final year.

**BSc Mathematics and Philosophy** allows you to explore the relationship between the two disciplines through logic and the philosophy of mathematics. On this programme, you will take the required core modules during your first year within the two departments. You will be exploring areas such as symbolic logic, algebra and analysis, and the challenges in mathematics and philosophy. In your second and third year, more than 50% of your modules are up to you and may be selected from a broad range of optional modules, including any honours level optional modules in philosophy. The programme also gives you the option to undertake an additional year to complete advanced studies in logic or mathematics, subject to academic requirements.

Take a look at the modules which we are running in 2018/19, by going to our web page: [warwick.ac.uk/philosophy/studywithus/ugstudy/modules](http://warwick.ac.uk/philosophy/studywithus/ugstudy/modules) These modules are illustrative of what might be on offer in future years.

There's more to being at Warwick than just completing a degree. One of the opportunities available to help you advance your personal development is to join your department's Student-Staff Liaison Committee (that's SSLC for short). This is something I joined in my second year and continued to do so until the end of my course.

As part of my role as an SSLC officer, I represented the opinion of the student body. This means I was responsible for learning about what my course-mates think about how the course is run, gauging the general satisfaction levels of my peers, gathering feedback about how teaching and learning could be improved, and more. This was passed onto senior members of staff at bi-termly meetings. In addition to being a representative, I was also the secretary for the committee, so I was responsible for recording all of the meetings and creating agendas.

This is both an important and interesting role you can undertake during your time here, because you get to learn about the inner workings of the department, and be an integral figure in ensuring everyone has the best possible learning experience. This is extremely rewarding, when the ideas you pushed for are implemented for future years. But what I got most out of the role was the chance to improve my communication skills, leadership qualities and public speaking confidence.

Zoe Law  
BA Philosophy



# BA IN PHILOSOPHY

This degree will enable you to wrestle with fundamental questions about the nature of existence, minds, objects, language, logic, space and time. You will not only learn about philosophical topics, but you'll also develop the skills required to engage actively with those topics, in a vibrant and supportive academic community.

We emphasise the study of philosophy's core traditions (e.g. in the works of Plato, Aristotle, Descartes, Hume and Kant) as a background to understanding and critically interrogating more recent philosophical questions and concerns. In your second and third years, we give you the freedom to choose your own path through the subject, selecting from an exceptionally broad range of module topics; these currently include Hegel, Nietzsche, Sartre, Russell, Ethics of Sociability, Gödel's Incompleteness Theorems, Aesthetics, Feminism, Meaning, and Mind. Throughout your degree you will also have the opportunity to take modules from outside of the department, tailoring your degree to what interests you.

Our students benefit from expert guidance from staff in developing strong analytical and critical skills alongside the ability to integrate large bodies of information involving multiple perspectives.



Dr Diarmuid Costello  
Professor of Philosophy



A wide variety of employers value the core abilities of philosophers, to explain ideas clearly and to argue persuasively orally and in writing. In your first year, you'll gain a solid grounding in the art of philosophy and its history, and familiarity with an unusually broad range of philosophical questions. You'll also develop proficiency in the close reading of complex texts and the preparation of well-crafted prose. Throughout your time with us, we'll support you in improving your philosophical abilities and your knowledge of the subject.

In your second and third years, we'll help you to deepen your philosophical knowledge and skills through a wide range of more specialised option modules. Through engaging in depth with specific topics and thinkers, you'll learn how to closely read and analyse philosophical and other literature, and to think and write clearly.

Our academics produce world-leading research in both analytic and continental philosophy, as well as in interdisciplinary work involving psychology, mathematics, and literature. Because we are involved in teaching at all levels, you are learning from individuals at the forefront of their fields from day one.

## Examples of undergraduate dissertations that our students have researched and written

- Can we advocate animal rights and still prioritize humans?  
Leibniz's Conception of God: a Critical Assessment.
- Should religious believers be exempt from certain laws?  
"Spare words: nature's way": Analysing the Philosophical Value of an Aesthetics of Ambiguity in Heraclitus and Lao Tzu's Tao Te Ching.
- The Metaphysics of Gender.

# BA IN PHILOSOPHY WITH PSYCHOLOGY

What are minds and how do they work? What explains the objective character of thought, the fact that thoughts can be true or false? Can the subjective character of experience be explained scientifically? What makes other peoples' minds and actions intelligible to us? Addressing questions such as these requires both insights into mechanisms from psychology, and facing conceptual challenges in philosophy.

Throughout this degree, you'll focus on minds and actions: the mechanisms and structures, biological, cognitive and social, which underpin them; their development and evolution; the reasons they vary between individuals and species; and their complex relations with culture.

Your first year will cover foundational topics in philosophy and psychology and you'll be introduced to philosophical psychology. In the honours years, you'll be able to choose from a wide variety of modules on topics such as the origins of mind, the nature of thought and language, the philosophy of mind and action, social cognition, and joint action.

This degree is not simply an opportunity to take modules from two departments: it provides you with a coherent programme of study on topics at the intersection of philosophy and psychology. We are unique in having many lecturers who are experts in philosophical psychology, and several lecturers whose published research includes both experimental psychology and philosophy.

If you have an interest in theoretical and philosophical aspects of psychology, or if you want to understand how actions are produced and what minds are for, our BA Philosophy with Psychology could be the degree for you.

This degree is not BPS approved and does not provide a route to clinical psychology.

## Examples of undergraduate dissertations that our students have researched and written

- Are there behavioural clues of awareness in rats?  
Millar, Disjunctivism, and the Nature of Cognitive Contact.
- To what extent can Sartre's concept of 'nausea' be compared with generalized anxiety disorder?





# BA IN PHILOSOPHY AND LITERATURE

This is a degree for students interested in philosophy and literature and how they relate to each other. It gives you the opportunity to study the two subjects, each with distinctive traditions and lively contemporary scholarship, and to consider how these two fields matter to each other: are they in conflict, as Plato suggested? Do they complement, or even need one another? What can we learn about ourselves by having the goals, methods and problems of both fields in view and considering how they 'speak to' each other?

Some of the central themes and questions concern the way we express ourselves – what concrete form do we give to our thoughts and experience? We consider how the diverse human capacities for imagination, emotion, and reason can be relevant to truth-seeking.



## Examples of undergraduate dissertations that our students have researched and written

Can we learn what is important about loving people from Plato's Symposium?

Early Sartre on Consciousness and Freedom.

An Analysis of Responses to the Problem of Existential Suffering in Schopenhauer and Epicurus.

Thinking of Evil in a Biopolitical Age.

To what extent is Aristotelian friendship possible in a social media age?

And very broadly, we are interested in the goals and values that are at work in philosophy and literature: what are the projects and challenges that show up as worthwhile in these practices?

We bring philosophy and literature together in the classroom. At key points in the degree you will be jointly taught by faculty from the Philosophy and the English and Comparative Literary Studies Departments. Though the particular thinkers and texts studied vary, these are some of the figures you might encounter: Friedrich Nietzsche, Virginia Woolf, Jean-Jacques Rousseau, Toni Morrison, Walter Benjamin, J. M. Coetzee, Emily Dickinson, William Wordsworth, and Vladimir Nabokov. You will also have a chance to write on a philosophy and literature topic of your choice, bringing together authors and questions that you find challenging. This degree encourages you to learn about these fields in depth and to develop your own understanding of what is important in the relationship between philosophy and literature.

# BSC IN MATHEMATICS AND PHILOSOPHY



The BSc in Mathematics and Philosophy provides the opportunity to study both subjects in depth while also exploring how they are related through logic and philosophy of mathematics. In addition to Central Themes in Philosophy and Symbolic Logic during your first year, you'll also take core mathematics modules in analysis, geometry, abstract algebra, and probability which will prepare you for more advanced work in mathematics.

In your honours years you'll explore further topics in logic – such as Gödel's completeness and incompleteness theorems, set theory, modal operators, Turing machines, undecidable problems, computational complexity – as well as having the opportunity to consider related philosophical questions – e.g. how can we escape from the logical paradoxes? What is a mathematical proof?

Are there true but unprovable statements? How is mathematics related to computation and to the empirical sciences?

You'll also continue your work in maths by taking more advanced modules in algebra and analysis. More than 50% of your modules in the second and third years are up to you and may be selected from a broad range of options, including any honours level optional modules in Philosophy. Subject to meeting academic requirements, there is also an option to stay for a fourth year during which you'll undertake additional advanced study in logic or mathematics and work on an independent project or dissertation on a topic of your choice under the supervision of a faculty member in mathematics or philosophy.

## Examples of undergraduate dissertations that our students have researched and written

The consistency of the Generalised Continuum Hypothesis and the Axiom of Choice in Zermelo-Fraenkel Theory

The semantics of Intuitionistic Logic

On Reflection Principles and their Relation to Large Cardinals

If I could sum up the Philosophy course at Warwick in one word it would be...modern. I found that unlike some institutions that tend to focus only on the typical Plato and Aristotle type modules, Warwick gives you the opportunity to intertwine philosophy with your everyday life. One of my favourite modules was 'Philosophy through film' which involved investigating whether films could actually do philosophy. Although we didn't get to swap lectures for film screenings, we had fun movie nights, thoughtful debates and eventually created our own short films which is less daunting than it sounds. Our lecturers encourage us to genuinely investigate the aspects of philosophy that interests us so that we are constantly interested in what we study and keen to contribute our own ideas.

The department is keen to show us that we have support systems and holds events, talks and movie nights to bring philosophy students together. As a smaller department, philosophy students here are very connected and have a safe space (common room) with free beverages to accommodate us. I like the fact that no matter how intense things get, you know you have someone to rant to and a nice cosy space to do it in.

Oray Adedulu  
BA Philosophy

# WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN ANALYTIC PHILOSOPHY AND CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY?

There are two kinds of philosophy widely taught and practised in university philosophy departments across the UK: so-called 'analytic' and 'continental' philosophy.

**Analytic philosophy** follows in the tradition established by the great late-nineteenth and early-twentieth philosophers Gottlob Frege and Bertrand Russell. It is marked by a focus on questions about the nature of language, meaning and thought, and on questions about how the mind relates to the world. An example of such a question is: 'Is the meaning of a name just the object in the world to which that name refers?' On the one hand, it might seem obvious that the answer is 'yes'. After all, we might think, names function to pick out particular objects in the world, and so it is natural to think that those objects are their meanings. On the other hand, there is a reason to think the answer is 'no'. After all, names like 'Santa Claus' seem to be perfectly meaningful. But they do not pick out any object in the world. So, what, then, is the meaning of a name? Analytical philosophers have tended to pursue these questions through methods of argument and proof similar to those used in mathematics and logic.

**Continental philosophy** is a discipline that draws on a range of distinct but related traditions of European philosophy, exemplified by such philosophers as Hegel, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche, and 20th century French thinkers such as Sartre, Foucault and Deleuze. Continental philosophy is often characterised by a focus on certain themes; including history, politics (particularly the politics of gender and sexuality), the self and self-consciousness, freedom, desire and the will. The techniques of continental philosophy are as wide-ranging as its subject-matter, from close historical analysis of texts, to creative reading of ancient and modern literature, to reflection on one's own lived experience. Questions that one might find addressed in continental philosophy are, for example: 'Has philosophy traditionally focussed too exclusively on the being of objects in its understanding of being?', 'Are there different modes of being?', and 'Is our everyday understanding of ourselves mostly inauthentic and, if so, what would an authentic existence be?'



# LOOKING BACK AT MY TIME STUDYING PHILOSOPHY AT WARWICK



I chose my course because I really enjoyed studying philosophy at school and the abstract concepts that it involves. I originally started at Warwick studying philosophy on its own, but after taking an optional Psychology module in term one, I found a real love for the subject. The departments were really supportive about changing courses (as it was so early on in term one) and I'm so glad I did as it meant I could spend my degree doing 50:50 Philosophy with Psychology. I chose Warwick because I felt really comfortable on the open day, the Philosophy department felt friendly and I liked the campus feel.

My favourite modules in philosophy were Applied Ethics, Feminism and Crime & Punishment. I loved being able to apply traditional theories to real practices in the world today. I particularly enjoyed the seminars in these subjects because I felt really engaged and liked the informal debates that we had. The lecturers always had time for me and are all experts with a huge interest in their field. Finally, I always felt supported in the Philosophy department, from all members of staff and students- I couldn't have asked for better!

**Nicole Langdon**  
BA Philosophy with Psychology

I took part in a number of extracurricular activities at Warwick, including being President of Sub-Aqua, competing in Underwater Hockey, triathlon club, athletics club and a coxswain for the Rowing Squads. I also volunteered at a primary school in Leamington Spa with Warwick volunteers. Joining these clubs really widened my friendship circle and made me try things I thought I'd never do! I would really recommend joining at least one society at Warwick; there's so many to choose from and it was the best decision I made.

From studying some modules in psychology and from my dissertation I figured out that I have a passion for exploring the development of children and this has motivated me to pursue the career path I have chosen. I graduated in 2017 and am currently working as a Teaching Assistant in a special needs school. I am hoping to complete further study so that I can become a qualified Educational Psychologist.

# CAN I STUDY ABROAD?

Experience different cultures. Meet new people.  
Explore another part of the world.

Our department is part of a global network of exchange partners enabling you to spend time studying in another country during your time with us. We have long-standing agreements with prestigious universities in countries around the world. There are two options for study abroad: an integrated year or an intercalated year.

## **Integrated:** study abroad included within your three year degree

An integrated year allows you to replace year two of your programme with a year abroad. The marks you earn will count as the second year of your final degree results. Single Honours, Joint Honours or Philosophy *with* students are eligible to apply. We participate in exchange schemes with two North American Universities.

## **Intercalated:** study abroad adding a year to your degree

The intercalated option will add one year to your degree programme. Undergraduate students doing Single Honours Philosophy, Philosophy and Literature and the Philosophy *with* degree programmes can also set up an approved work placement abroad.

Typically students apply in their second year of study to go abroad for a third year of study at a European institution. Students then return to Warwick for their final year.

Warwick also has university-wide partnerships with universities all around the world. Each year the Philosophy department is allocated a number of places on these exchanges to which you can apply. Find out more at [warwick.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://warwick.ac.uk/studyabroad)

Below is an example list of places open to our students in 2018/19. The list is illustrative of what might be on offer in future years, as places and availability are always subject to change on an annual basis.

### Integrated country options

**Canada** - Queen's University in Ontario; Western University in Ontario

**USA** - University of Wisconsin-Madison

### Intercalated country options

**Europe** - Our department has partners in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Denmark and more. You can choose from amongst the finest universities in Europe in cities such as: Madrid, Dijon, Rome, Koln, Vienna and Copenhagen.

**Australia** - Monash University (Melbourne campus).

**Malaysia** - Monash University (Selangor campus).

**Japan** - If you're interested in Japan, you can apply for options such as: University of Tokyo or Hokkaido University.

**China** - Tsinghua University.



In my third year I studied abroad at Monash University with the opportunity to explore two of its campuses. I spent my first semester in Melbourne, Australia, before moving to Selangor, Malaysia. Warwick has a tight partnership with Monash, making the transition and integration from one university to another very smooth for any Warwick student. I decided to delve into other subject areas than philosophy, such as Journalism or Business, and was surprised how useful and transferable my philosophy skills are.

This experience was decisive for the postgraduate studies I will pursue next year. Being so far away from Europe was challenging but entirely worth it. My year abroad taught me how to be independent, adaptable and made me realise how incredibly enriching it is to explore other cultures and lifestyles.

Svenja Roy  
BA Philosophy



# WHAT DO WARWICK PHILOSOPHY GRADUATES DO?

Our graduates get careers that value fresh, creative, critical thinking.

Examples of recent philosophy graduates' careers include:

- ▶ Policy Development Associate at Civil Aviation Authority
- ▶ Journalist and Interviews Producer for Sky News
- ▶ Pupil Barrister Specialising in Criminal Law
- ▶ Freelance Theatre and Film Producer
- ▶ Assistant Professor in philosophy

**Other examples of our recent graduates' job titles include:**

News Writer, Travel Programme Consultant, Fashion Buying Assistant, Wealth Manager Assistant, Chartered Accountant, Secondary School Teacher, Librarian, Charity Volunteer Coordinator, Fundraising Assistant, Youth Worker, Junior Web Editor, Healthcare Assistant, Commercial Banking Strategy Associate, Sales and Marketing Administrator, Private Equity Analyst, Data Analyst, EU Exit Advisor, Assistant Event Director, TV Researcher, Partnership Manager, Management Consultant, HR Associate, Project Manager.

**Companies and organisations where our graduates work include:**

Accenture, Lloyds Bank, Deloitte, PwC, Bank of England, London School of Economics, BBC, Sky News, Waterstones, Verso, Transport for London, Natural History Museum, Teach First, British Council, British Army, Royal Bank of Canada, House of Fraser, Dogs Trust, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, HMRC.



## What can I do with a degree in philosophy?

From the point of view of graduate recruiters, philosophy is well-known and well-regarded as a subject, so the range of opportunities is very wide. Recent graduates have progressed into research, consultancy, marketing, local government, human resources, construction management, the IT industry, public relations and the arts.

**Employers tell us that they like philosophy graduates because they can:**

- ▶ Formulate complex problems
- ▶ Articulate clearly the underlying and complex issues of debates
- ▶ Analyse
- ▶ Pay attention to detail
- ▶ Think clearly in the abstract and construct sound arguments
- ▶ Consider social and ethical issues in a structured way
- ▶ Find and articulate evidence of their skills more effectively than many students
- ▶ Be rigorously logical
- ▶ Influence ideas and decisions

**Given that 94% of all Warwick Graduates end up in either employment or further study, and that 70% of graduate recruiters do not require graduates to have a specific degree, perhaps the most important question to ask is not "What degree will get me a good graduate job?" but "How can I make the most of my time at Warwick so that I can get the job I want?"**



**Joe Lane**  
Head of Humanities,  
Harris Academy, Peckham  
BA Philosophy

Following my degree I went on to coach basketball around the UK through Midnight Madness and The London School of Basketball, two organisations that aim to create change in young people through sport. Midnight Madness, for example, started opening gyms at night for competitions to get young people off the streets causing trouble. In this process they recruit a nationwide Midnight Madness team that competes with teams around the world.

Following this, I worked as a learning support assistant with students with special educational needs and then as a teacher in an inner London school. Today I work as a Head of Humanities in Harris Academy Peckham, where I lead a team of teachers of RE, history, geography, psychology, sociology, media, law, citizenship and health and social care. I also hold some pastoral roles helping to raise attainment of our students who may find it challenging to engage with the curriculum, have attendance issues or need encouragement regarding exam stress, homework etc. Alongside this I run a project at the school called WORD, which aims to refine an explicit approach to the teaching of literacy across the school and encourage a pride in writing, oracy, reading and development from our students.

The job is fantastic. The children love learning philosophy. Due to them coming from a plethora of nationalities and faiths, debates can become lively and perceptive. Highlights of such work include seeing students go on to university and a yearly trip that I manage, where Peckham children work in a French monastery for a week, with an Ecumenical community of young people from around the world.

# HOW WILL I LEARN?

Through a variety of teaching methods, you will encounter a wide range of areas and traditions of philosophy. Text-based modules will introduce you to the key texts from the history of philosophy, and thematically organised modules will focus on contemporary treatments of philosophical problems.

Importantly, you will also begin to 'do philosophy'. You'll be exposed to good craftsmanship and get regular practice in reading, interpreting, debating about and arguing with texts, philosophers and theories.

Lectures provide information, analysis and argument about particular philosophical positions. There will be time for questions and some discussion within the general format.

Seminars are an opportunity to cement and further your learning through interactive group discussion, debates, and exchange of ideas and learning in a small group. Your seminar tutor will set the format and guide the discussion, making sure everyone gets a say and prompting debate. You may take it in turns to begin the discussion with a presentation, be set some questions to consider beforehand or approach a specific task as a group.

Lecturers and seminar teachers are available outside of class to give advice on essay writing, and on other matters related to their module. They will also give you feedback on your essays to help you improve both your writing and your philosophical engagement with topics.

Our teaching exposes you to philosophical texts, arguments and theories and to good philosophical practice. But it is through your study that you'll begin to participate in the practice of philosophy. A central aspect of this is your reading of philosophical texts. The aim in doing this is to understand the structure of arguments, grasp how and why they work (or don't work), practice interrogating them and make your own judgement about their merit relative to other texts and arguments that you have studied. This is a complex business, and your skills here will develop gradually over time.

At Warwick, you will be part of a supportive and enthusiastic community of philosophy students who often discuss philosophical ideas outside of class and offer study support to fellow students. You will also get academic support from your lecturers and seminar leaders, who are experts in their field and therefore the very best to introduce you to their area of philosophy.

# HOW WILL I BE ASSESSED?

Modules are assessed mainly through a mix of exams and essays, and you'll get extensive feedback to help you progress. Some modules involve other modes of assessment, including group work or oral presentations. Throughout, feedback on these assessments will provide you with invaluable advice to ensure that you are accustomed to what is required to succeed on your degree, whilst providing you with ideas about how to further develop your skills.



# WHAT SUPPORT WILL I RECEIVE?

## Your personal tutor

You will have a personal tutor who will be a first point of contact for you, offering you guidance and support for your general academic questions and any academic or personal difficulties you might have. They will support your academic development throughout the duration of your programme, and you will meet regularly, discussing, for example, how you are progressing and what you might choose as your optional modules. This means they have a complete picture of your strengths, experiences and skills, and will provide references for you during and beyond your time as a student.

## Module directors

Your module tutors are in charge of your module content, set seminar topic areas, and deliver the main lectures of your module. They can provide specific advice about the subject matter of individual modules along with advice about particular essays and assignments.

## The Director of Student Experience and Progression (DSEP)

The DSEP can offer advice on study skills, including how to do well (or even better) in essay writing or exams, which modules might suit you best, or guidance on internships, careers, and postgraduate study.

## Your academic librarian and library helpdesk

Your Academic Support Librarian will help you to develop information and research skills during your studies and they can offer you training in literature searching, finding and using information, referencing and avoiding plagiarism, and reference management tools. They can help you develop skills to find what you're looking for quickly, and they can give you techniques for delving into the vast array of resources available to you.

## Skills sessions and programmes

Study skills will be built into your core modules in the first year. In those modules, you will develop skills in close reading, essay writing, exam technique, critical thinking and presentation. We also offer specific sessions for second and third years, directed at honours level assessed work. Warwick also offers the Undergraduate Skills Programme and Academic Writing Programme to help you further develop academic and career-related skills.

## Student mentors

When you arrive, you will be given a mentor, a current student on your programme who can tell you about their experiences of life and studies at Warwick. These student volunteers can also help guide and support you, give advice and answer questions. We've found that new students appreciate the availability of older hands who are willing to share their experiences with them in this way.

## Warwick Philosophy Society

Warwick Philosophy Society organises informal academic support, as well as discussions, talks, and socials. You can expect a friendly welcome from the PhilSoc members, whether you're a regular or just fancy popping along to specific events.

# STUDENT LIFE IN WARWICK PHILOSOPHY

We are based right in the heart of campus, next to the library, Arts Centre and near to the main lecture theatres. Our student common room provides free tea and coffee, and acts as a hub for fellow students to gather between lectures. This also provides you with a study space when exam time looms. Of course, all areas are fully Wi-Fi enabled too.

With such a friendly departmental atmosphere, you'll find plenty of things philosophy related to keep you busy, engaged and sociable. You'll get the chance to make friends with fellow students, exchange experiences, get advice, and hear interesting perspectives from various speakers and conferences.

Warwick has over 250 societies that you can join. The **Philosophy Society** and the **Philosophy and Literature Society** are particularly active, social and supportive societies which are open to students with a passion for philosophy. The two societies are closely linked and both offer support to students, as well as the usual socials and speakers. Support includes regular help sessions throughout the year, advice and guidance sheets, as well as weekly logic sessions in the second term.

The Philosophy Society hosts a regular 'Phil 'n' Tea' event. This involves catching up on a Friday afternoon with fellow society members to talk philosophy (or anything else) over tea and biscuits. There is also the trip to the Dirty Duck pub following the weekly mini-speaker events, guest speakers and the end of year ball. Find out more: [warwicksu.com/societies/philosophy](http://warwicksu.com/societies/philosophy)

The **Philosophy and Literature Society** too hosts various socials and academic events. It is aimed at any students - whether you're taking the BA in Philosophy and Literature programme at Warwick or whether you're just interested in both of the disciplines and how the two can interlink. You can find out more about the Philosophy and Literature Society on their website: [warwicksu.com/societies/phil-lit](http://warwicksu.com/societies/phil-lit)



When I first came to Warwick I was impressed by how modern the campus was, and I liked the convenience of all the facilities being within walking distance: university buildings, the library, accommodation halls, bars and cafes, the arts centre and supermarkets.

With all the essential information about the course given, it was easy to get into the new student routine. The workload during the first term wasn't too huge and I didn't find it hard to keep up the pace, even though I am an international student and I needed to adapt to the English language as well as studying at university level. Also, there were no marked philosophy assignments during the first term, only a few unassessed essays meant to give you an opportunity to practice writing and gain feedback. As a fresher, I had a student mentor assigned to me who was there to help me with queries that arose during the first term, and the whole year.

It was quite easy to make friends with those I was living with and also with people doing different philosophy degrees. I met many of them in the philosophy common room where students come to share their ideas, study, or enjoy a cup of free coffee/tea. There are also different societies to join, including the Philosophy Society that organises social events, which is a good opportunity to find people that you have something in common with.

Rugile Jonusaite  
BA Philosophy with Psychology

## Events

Whether you're an undergraduate, postgraduate or member of staff, you'll be encouraged to attend our department seminars and other research activities which take place throughout the year. We host a range of fantastic philosophical speakers from across the UK at these seminars and events.

Examples of some of the exciting research events and activities that have gone on here in the last year include:

**Minorities and Philosophy (MAP) events** - MAP is a worldwide network that aims to facilitate the participation of under represented groups in Philosophy. MAP at Warwick hosts a variety of events including student and staff workshops, coffee mornings and external speakers.

**Engaging Art Philosophically** - A workshop organised by philosophy postgraduate students.

**MindGrad 2017** - This is the world's leading conference for postgraduate students in the philosophy of mind.

**Philosophy Film Club** - Organises weekly screening of philosophical films.

**Philosophy Open House** - An evening of philosophy talks, student and staff socialising, and pizza.

## Join the undergraduate research community

At Warwick, undergraduate students can apply for the **Warwick Undergraduate Research Support Scheme**. If you are successful, you'll get a bursary and skills development training to carry out your summer research project, as an addition to your philosophy degree programme. This project is a fantastic opportunity for you to carry out research supervised by an academic member of staff. View some examples of URSS projects which philosophy students have completed at: [warwick.ac.uk/urss](http://warwick.ac.uk/urss)

**Reinvention** is an open-access, online, peer-reviewed journal, dedicated to the publication of high-quality undergraduate student research. The journal welcomes academic articles from all disciplinary areas and all universities. **Reinvention** is published bi-annually and only houses papers written by undergraduate students and academics. Students play a strong and active role in this community, and the journal aims to support undergraduate students in their first venture into academic publishing. In 2012, Monash University became partners in the journal which is now produced, edited and managed by students and staff at the University of Warwick in the UK and Monash University in Australia. [warwick.ac.uk/iatl/reinvention](http://warwick.ac.uk/iatl/reinvention)



# MEET OUR STUDENTS



**Xita Rubert**  
BA Philosophy and Literature

Some of my non-philosophy friends say I “don’t seem like a philosophy student”. I think that there is the “myth” that philosophers mainly exist in solitude, reading, thinking, detached from life. While my degree includes that, I am naturally very sociable; you will see me around campus all the time. I do many things beyond my course – I love going to the theatre, dancing to live music in Leamington pubs, singing and playing guitar, and cooking with friends. By being yourself you will build meaningful friendships, but only by keeping an open mind will you learn from everyone else’s views and experiences.



**Stefan Sanders**  
BA Philosophy

It’s easy to get involved with the Philosophy Society, which always welcomes new members. At the start of term they hosted a Skype Q&A session with philosopher Peter Singer, which was really well-done, and they often host revision sessions to help with exams. Outside of the society, the philosophy common room is the place to get to know other philosophy students from every year, and talk to anyone about philosophy in general. I’m also a Philosophy Ambassador, which means I help out on offer holder days and introduce people to the department. I also enjoy going to the gym regularly at university. People tend to think that philosophers and philosophy students sit and only focus on training their minds, but we go to the gym and participate in sports just as much as anyone else. Even Plato was a wrestler!



**Isabella Clarke-Price**  
BA Philosophy

What initially drew me to Warwick was the warm and welcoming reception I received from everyone I met on the open day; I could immediately picture myself not only studying here but living here as well. All of the lecturers and academics I spoke to were not only knowledgeable about philosophy but genuinely passionate about it, a quality which I don’t think can be faked. I love studying philosophy because of the intellectual challenge it presents. When I finally have that “light bulb” moment and understand an argument or theory, it’s incredibly rewarding, especially when I am then able to contribute towards a debate in the subject area and develop my own opinion.



**Sara Saquib**  
BA Philosophy with Psychology

Whether you’re into applying philosophy in a wider educational setting or grappling with Kant’s ‘Critique of Pure Reason’ there are a wide range of modules you can choose. One thing which really stands out to me is the fact that research talks are constantly being advertised in the department, whether this is from professors or our very own postgraduates.

Everyone in the department is super friendly. The department provides advice on how to write essays and they put your academic success on the top of their priority list. I really feel that the advice given on how to write essays is useful for all students, with staff even offering to go through all the essays I wrote during the first and second year.

Academic support in the department is coupled with the opportunity to attend end of term parties in addition to the Philosophy Society’s events. These range from socials at the Dirty Duck (our very own campus pub) to ‘Phil n Tea’ every Friday, which happens in our very own common room!



# NEXT STEPS

## Thinking about applying?

There are a few things about the process you should know:

- ▶ All applications to undergraduate programmes are made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), and you will be able to **apply to up to five programmes**.
- ▶ You'll submit **one UCAS form** with your qualifications, predicted grades, a reference and your personal statement.
- ▶ UCAS sends this to each of your chosen universities, who then decide whether to make you an offer for your chosen programme.
- ▶ When considering your application, we can't see which other programmes and universities you've applied to.
- ▶ You receive a decision via **UCAS Track**
- ▶ The UCAS deadline for 2019/20 admissions is **15th January 2019**; we give equal consideration to all applications received before this date.

You'll have **one personal statement for all your chosen programmes**. This is where you demonstrate your interest in the subject and tell us why you would be a great student for our programme. So, the more thought-through your programme choices, the easier your personal statement will be to write.

Of course, taking the time to research and consider your options is also advisable to find the right programme and place for you. Also check the typical offers and any essential subjects for each programme.

## You've received an offer

Once you have received a decision from all your programmes, you must choose your first choice programme ('firm' choice).

Unless you've already taken your exams, your offer will be conditional on your achieving specified grades. Your place at your firm choice is guaranteed if you meet these conditions at results time. So your firm choice needs to be where you want and intend to go, as long as everything goes to plan.

You might also select an insurance choice, in case you miss the grades for your firm choice. You will only go to your insurance if you are not accepted by your firm choice, but do meet the grades of your insurance offer.

You **may want to bear this in mind when applying**, and consider one or two programmes with a lower typical offer to serve as a 'back up' for you.

## Entry requirements and typical offers

Check these before you apply via our website [warwick.ac.uk/ug/courses](http://warwick.ac.uk/ug/courses), so that you have the most up-to-date information, as these could change for the next admissions cycle.

Offers normally exclude General Studies and Critical Thinking.

### BA Philosophy, BA Philosophy with Psychology: A Level

AAB

IB

36

### BA Philosophy and Literature: A Level

AAB to include A in English Literature or English Language and Literature.

IB

36 to include 6 in Higher Level English Literature or English Language and Literature.

### BSc Mathematics and Philosophy: A level

A\*A\*A to include A\*s in Mathematics and Further Mathematics.

IB

39 to include:

6,6,6 in three Higher Level subjects including Mathematics.

We welcome a range of A level equivalent qualifications from across the world, so if you are unsure what the level is for you, just get in touch [ugadmissions@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:ugadmissions@warwick.ac.uk)

## And also...

Check out the [studentblogs.warwick.ac.uk](http://studentblogs.warwick.ac.uk) and read about daily life for our student bloggers.

**Visit to get a feel for Warwick for yourself.** If you receive an offer we will invite you to come along to an offer-holders day so you can meet us, our students and see the department. But you are also welcome to come to see campus anytime, or book onto a tour or visit day. See [warwick.ac.uk/ug/visits](http://warwick.ac.uk/ug/visits)

Find out more details about our programmes and department by visiting our departmental website [warwick.ac.uk/philosophy](http://warwick.ac.uk/philosophy)

Browse [warwick.ac.uk/ug](http://warwick.ac.uk/ug) for information about university life, including finance, accommodation and campus life at Warwick.



# CONTACT US

## Department of Philosophy

University of Warwick  
Coventry  
CV4 7AL  
United Kingdom

**Tel:** +44 (0) 24 7657 3312

**Email:** [ugphiladmissions@warwick.ac.uk](mailto:ugphiladmissions@warwick.ac.uk)

 @PhilosWarwick

 Department of Philosophy, The University of Warwick

**Website:** [warwick.ac.uk/philosophy](http://warwick.ac.uk/philosophy)

This programme information was accurate at the time of printing. Our programme and module content and schedule is continually reviewed and updated to reflect the latest research expertise at Warwick, so it is therefore very important that you check the website for the latest information before you apply and when you accept an offer.