



WARWICK

Philosophy

Undergraduate Programmes
2018/19

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.

What if...

I question why?

Welcome to
Philosophy at
Warwick



Why study Philosophy at Warwick?

For the opportunity to be taught by some of the world's leading philosophers in both the analytic and continental traditions.

Our teaching and research

Our excellence in research underpins our teaching in philosophy at all levels. You'll learn from experts in the field throughout your degree. We are rated as one of the top UK departments, as confirmed by our high placing across the range of national leagues tables: we are rated 5th by The Complete University Guide 2017, 9th in the UK by the Times/Sunday Times Good University Guide 2017 and 13th by The Guardian University Guide 2018.

In the 2016 National Student Survey (NSS), we achieved an overall 89% level for student satisfaction for students in the Department of Philosophy. 93% of students in the department were satisfied with the teaching on their course, and 95% of students in the department agreed that their course was intellectually stimulating.

In the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF), we ranked first amongst Philosophy departments in the UK for the quality of our research. 90% of our publications were judged to be internationally excellent or world leading in the REF.

Whether you are studying Heidegger on the nature of human existence, investigating the relationship between children's literature and ethics, or reflecting on consciousness and its connection to reality, you will be learning from experts who are passionate about their subject.



A breadth of specialisms to choose from

While many UK philosophy departments possess strength in analytic philosophy or continental philosophy, **we are unique in having world-leading philosophers from both analytic philosophy and continental philosophy.** You can read more about these traditions on page 14. Providing a wide range of options for undergraduate study, you'll be learning from academics at the forefront of their fields from day one. By selecting options drawn from the analytic tradition, continental philosophy, or a mixture of both, you can tailor your degree to suit your own interests.

Around half of our academics regularly publish work in **Philosophy of Mind**, making us one of the leading institutions in the UK for this very popular area of philosophy. You can learn more about the research that we do in this area through optional modules. For 2017/18 modules in this area that you could look at include 'Philosophy of Mind' and 'Social Cognition'. **Philosophy of Psychology** is an area where several members of our staff regularly conduct research work with empirical psychologists. This is a distinctive strength as we enter a period in which there is increasing interdisciplinary work between philosophers and scientists. Honours level options allow you to study the results of this innovative research in depth. An example module for the 2017/18 academic year is 'Joint Action'.

We have a global research reputation for our strengths in the areas of **Post-Kantian Continental Philosophy**, which focuses on such thinkers as Hegel and Nietzsche, and 20th century French philosophy, which addresses the work of such philosophers as Sartre, Foucault and Deleuze. We are home to several of the world's leading scholars of these figures, who attract research students from around the world to come and study with them. Current 2017/18 modules covering the work of these scholars include: 'Hegel in Context', 'Sartre and Existentialism' and 'Nietzsche in Context'.

We are also well-known for the pioneering work being conducted in **Aesthetics** and **Philosophy of Literature**. Both can be studied in detail by you at Honours level through optional modules, and have close links with the Art, History, English and Comparative Literary departments.



Support

You'll have a personal tutor who will support you and give you advice on academic or personal matters. You'll also have the opportunity to meet with the department's Director of Student Experience who will help you settle in; help develop the key study skills that you will need to get the most out of your course; and prepare you for employment after university. Our student mentoring scheme will pair you with one of our current students who will introduce you to life as a philosophy student, and to student life on and around campus.

A supportive departmental life

We're a philosophy community of around two hundred undergraduate students, around ninety postgraduate students studying for a Masters degree or PhD, and over twenty permanent members of academic staff. Beyond your course, you'll find plenty of opportunities to engage with our community. We also host a range of research activities and events. Each week there are talks by visiting philosophers, members of staff, or graduate students presenting their work in progress. We encourage our undergraduate students to get involved with all aspects of departmental life.

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 course 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, issues surrounding the relation between mind and reality, and other central themes in contemporary philosophy.

What is the course structure?

BA Philosophy, BA Philosophy with Psychology, BA Philosophy with Classical Civilisation, BA Philosophy and Literature, or BSc Mathematics and Philosophy.

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 our 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 course. 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 with Classical Civilisation gives you the options to add in Greek or Latin language, or to focus on the culture and society of the Greek or Roman worlds. Then, you build your degree flexibly with your choice of modules from the departments of Classics and Philosophy for 60% of your second year and 100% of your final year.

BA Philosophy and Literature benefits from our specific expertise in research, teaching and course development across the departments of Philosophy and English and Comparative Literary Studies. On this course, 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 course 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 course, 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. The course also gives you the option to undertake an additional year to undertake advanced study in logic or mathematics, subject to academic requirements.

Take a look at the modules which we are running in 17/18, by going to our web page:

warwick.ac.uk/philosophy/studywithus/ugstudy/modules

These modules are illustrative of what might be on offer in future years.

Amin Shehab
BA Philosophy



For me, the decision of which subject to study at university was not a simple one; I knew I had to consider my immediate goals and interests but also more. I have always been curious about issues in philosophy but more importantly I believed a degree in philosophy would uniquely enhance my critical thinking skills in a way that is fundamentally applicable to all else I choose to pursue. I was in an unconventional position as in terms of careers I wanted to go into a business related field but I was confident Warwick's top tier career department, its esteem in the business world and my own development through outside programmes would close the gap in pursuits - and it did.

I've enjoyed the course so far and it has fulfilled my expectations as I've been able to pick modules related to the very topics that sparked my interest in the first place. Ethics, political philosophy and the philosophy of science have been particularly fascinating, as you go along such topics do develop your perception of the world and how you approach social issues.

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.



Examples of undergraduate dissertations our students have researched and written

What is the role of Eudaimonia in Plato's Republic and how can it be applied to modern day?

Is Spinoza's conception of God convincing?

What is the role of knowledge and self-knowledge in Plato's Phaedrus?

What does an infant know when they communicate referentially?

Should Sexual Labour be Legalised in the UK?

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.

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 others' 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, 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. From year one, there are modules specifically tailored to this degree. 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.

Examples of undergraduate dissertations our students have researched and written

Bootstrapping Concepts

To what extent is there a Connection between Consequentialism and Alienation from our Friendships?

On the Possibility and Implications of Achieving Human-Level Artificial Intelligence



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.

BA in Philosophy with Classical Civilization

"It is through wonder that men now begin and originally began to philosophise" Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, once said.

This degree is designed for those who not only wish to study Philosophy, but also have a keen interest in learning about the history and culture of the ancient Greek and Roman worlds in which philosophy emerged and took shape. The interdisciplinary nature of this degree means that throughout your studies you will benefit from studying in two world-leading departments.

Our first year curriculum will help you to acquire some of the key philosophical knowledge and skills that you will draw on in subsequent years. These skills include how to read philosophy, how to write a philosophical essay, and how to construct a logically sound argument.

Examples of undergraduate dissertations our students have researched and written

The McDowell-Dreyfus Debate:
Coping & the Content of Experience

Is virtue necessary for well-being?

Under what circumstances, if any, is torture morally justifiable?

These modules will also introduce you to foundational philosophical ideas and debates. The options in classics and ancient history are selected to give you a solid grounding in work on the antiquities, as a basis for further work in subsequent years. Beyond your first year you will increasingly be able to specialise in those aspects of Philosophy and Classics that most interest you and also have the opportunity to further tailor your degree to your personal interests by taking modules from outside of the Philosophy and Classics Departments.

Throughout your studies you will develop a range of skills and abilities that are highly marketable and much sought after by employers. Skills you will develop include: critical thinking, communicating complex ideas clearly, identifying presuppositions, challenging traditional and dominant beliefs, arguing clearly and persuasively and seeing things in a broader context.

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. 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?



Examples of undergraduate dissertations our students have researched and written

An Ethic of Care versus Regan's Rights Approach to Animal Liberation

Feminism, Vegetarianism and Sentimentality: Why We Should 'Love' Animals

What is feminist art and why do we need it?

An Exploration of the Ethical Writings of Hobbes and Kant: A Synthesis of Solutions

Nietzsche's account of Nihilism and a critical engagement with Heidegger's reading of Nietzsche

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 Maths 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. 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 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



Obtaining a degree was always something I envisioned as an integral part of my future but the question was: what subject is worth dedicating three years and bucket loads of student loan to? I'd love to pretend the decision was easy but that could not be further from the truth. I was lucky enough to have the most amazingly enthusiastic A-level Philosophy teacher who was able to give me a realistic picture of how Philosophy, as a subject I genuinely enjoyed, could play a crucial role in shaping my future endeavours.



Oray Adedulu
BA Philosophy

Thankfully, after being put in touch with a first-year student already at Warwick, I was able to gain a substantial insight not only into Philosophy at Warwick, but about life at Warwick in general. It is safe to say, I was sold.

The variety of Philosophy modules available at Warwick hugely stood out to me. Some of the most exciting modules have been 'Philosophy in Education' where I was able to lead a Philosophy session with some sixth-form students as part of the assessment, as well as 'Philosophy through film' which consists of reviewing a different film each week before embarking on a Philosophical film project of my own. Beyond the course, there is much room for exploring other areas of Philosophy. I have had opportunities to attend lectures on things like Indian and African Philosophy as well as engaging in discussions about overlooked areas like the role of implicit bias and the racial dimension to ethical discussions that we often neglect within the realm of academia. Ultimately, Philosophy at Warwick is for those that love a challenge and want to be kept on their toes; there is no limit to what you might find yourself doing.

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

Sarah Brown
BA Philosophy (2012)



Upon graduation I started my own philosophy and science-fiction blog to combine my love of both subjects and to continue my interest in my degree topic. This writing experience contributed to my getting a marketing and PR internship with a chocolate-making events company based in London, where my writing and analytical abilities developed through my philosophy degree were invaluable.

Following this, I undertook some work experience at a publishing house in Bath, where my critical and writing abilities were utilised and strengthened by my proof-reading and product review work; in particular as I was reviewing science-fiction products and ideas which linked in fantastically with my blog. I then began a marketing internship at SEA LIFE in Birmingham through the Warwick Graduate Internship scheme, which led to a further temporary position at the attraction, after which I was interviewed and given the job of Marketing Co-ordinator for the Merlin Entertainments Manchester Cluster (SEA LIFE and LEGOLAND Discovery Centre).

Getting a job with Merlin was a dream come true, but I couldn't have done it without the skills I developed from philosophy. My philosophy blog, developed in reflection on my time at Warwick, has impressed at every job interview since graduating and I am proud to say I was inspired by my metaphysics lectures and dissertation, as well as my fellow students. Moreover, the critical thinking that philosophy induces in students has been a crucial trait in my professional development, encouraging an eye for detail which has led me to produce work of a high quality.

Bebe Husakova
BA Philosophy with Psychology (2014)



After graduating, I worked as an elected Sabbatical Officer in Warwick Students' Union. The Students' Union is a charity and it is incredibly rewarding working in a place where everyone is working towards one common goal: that of enabling every Warwick student to develop their talents and flourish both here and beyond their time at University.

I studied Philosophy with Psychology. I really enjoyed the combination of the two subjects as it meant that there was always something new and exciting to read about. Philosophy taught me patience and perseverance; it's a rewarding yet intellectually-stretching subject. Psychology gave me a deeper understanding of people's intentions and the motivations behind their actions.

I had the best time at Warwick. I got involved in many different aspects of university life, from being on student council to running a sports club to organising a trip to the French Alps. I was also involved with the Philosophy Society which gave me the opportunity to interact with people who also share my interest in the subject. Weekends away, balls, student talks and external speakers are all a fantastic part of society life!

What I enjoyed most about the course and the department was that I was able to pick modules that I was really interested in. What's more, having the opportunity to interact on a daily basis with lecturers and researchers who are leaders in their field was an incredible opportunity!



My philosophy 15



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

Below is an example list of places open to our students in 16/17. 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 among the finest universities in Europe in cities such as: Madrid, Dijon, Rome, Koln, Vienna and Copenhagen.

Australia - Monash University (campuses in Melbourne, Australia; and Selangor, Malaysia).

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

China - Tsinghua University.

“For my third year as a Warwick Philosophy student, I decided to take advantage of the study abroad opportunities offered at Warwick and participated in an Erasmus year abroad at the University of Vienna in Austria. This turned out to be an invaluable experience and one I would recommend to anyone. As a student at the university, I had the opportunity to gain a different perspective on the study of philosophy:

I was able to interact with new professors and students, got access to a wide selection of new modules (e.g. Confucian Philosophy), and experienced a different educational system. As an individual, on the other hand, I got to live in amazing city for a year, truly immersing myself into its culture and taking advantage of its offerings.”

Enrica Bellomo
BA Philosophy





What do Warwick Philosophy graduates do?

Six months after graduating, 93% of 2014/15 Warwick graduates in Philosophy were in jobs or further study.

Examples of Philosophy graduates' job titles include:

Accounts Manager, Analyst, Asset Management Analyst, Assistant Retail Communications Manager, Associate Consultant, Audit Associate, Chief Face Mask Maker, Civil Servant, Commercial Banking Analyst, Consulting Analyst, Democracy & Development Officer, Embassy Assistant, English Teacher, Financial Services Consultant, Graduate Sales & Marketing Intern, Graduate Solution Architect, HR Associate, Information Analyst, Investment Banking Analyst, Investment Research Analyst, Junior Web Editor, Language Auxiliari, Private Equity Analyst, Project Manager, Referee, Research Consultant, Self-Employer, Strategy Consultant, Tax Consulting Analyst, Testing IT, Trainee Chartered Accountant, Trainee Mortgage Advisor, Volunteer.

Companies and organisations where Philosophy graduates work include:

Accenture, Adapt Childcare Training & Support, Allianz, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, Capital Fortune Ltd, Deloitte, EY, Embassy of the Kingdom of Belgium, Goldman Sachs, Lloyds Banking Group, PwC, Royal Bank of Scotland, Singapore Economic Development Board, Teach First, Warwick Students' Union.

Philosophy graduates go onto the following Masters Programmes:

Continental Philosophy, Economics, Global Governance and Diplomacy, International Technology Management, International Development, Public Policy, Global Health, Magazine Journalism, Political Economy of Europe.

...at Warwick and other leading universities in the UK, Europe, North America and throughout the world.

Conlan Day

BA Philosophy and Literature (Alumnus)
Communications Business Partner
at Atos IT Services



Warwick taught me a great many skills that I have found useful, and will continue to do so, in all aspects of life. Philosophy especially teaches logic and rational thought, communication skills, lateral thinking and an active application of knowledge to solving problems. Warwick's links with industry are fantastic, and the careers fairs and range of material and contacts available are incredibly practical and useful. No matter what your interest - be it law, the charity sector, the media or becoming a writer - there will be events and resources allowing you to develop your skills and gain an insight into areas of interest.

Since leaving Warwick, I have begun to build my career in the technology and IT services industry. Atos is an international information technology services company. Serving a global client base, it delivers consulting and technology services, systems integration and managed services. It works with clients across market sectors including Manufacturing, Retail Services, Public, Health & Transports, Financial Services; Telecoms, Media & Technology and Energy & Utilities. My first role within the company was in Global Delivery; co-ordinating and transitions of IT Service Delivery from the UK to Delivery Centres in countries such as India, Malaysia, Poland Romania and Tenerife. I then moved into a role in the corporate communications team, co-ordinating communications for our Managed Services IT Delivery. I have since been asked to join a team leading a business transformation project, and I am sure that I will be able to build a successful career moving forward.

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.

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?"

Employers tell us that they like philosophy students 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 your skills more effectively than many students
- ▶ Be rigorously logical
- ▶ Influence ideas and decisions

Chris Manley

Senior Careers Consultant for the Department of Philosophy



Every department at Warwick has a linked Senior Career Consultant. For Philosophy it's me, Chris Manley. Students will usually see me for a one-to-one careers discussion, or when I run a careers workshop for philosophy students, and I work with departmental academic and administrative staff too. I'm part of Student Careers and Skills. You may be interested to know that:

- ▶ There are many ways to develop the skills employers want, sometimes without even realising. Warwick has one of the largest numbers of student societies in the country, a team of staff focused on voluntary opportunities for students, and its own temporary employment agency - all this in addition to first-class teaching! Student Careers and Skills can help you think about how your experiences might relate to the world of work, the possible advantages of developing new skills, and how you impress employers with your unique story.
- ▶ I enjoy working with students with no ideas about what they're going to do when they finish studying. We can talk about the kinds of things you enjoy doing and how they relate to the world of work, or I can suggest resources to help you in your thinking.
- ▶ As well as the opportunity of individual careers appointments, there are a wide range of events and workshops - including small workshops for people with no career ideas, speaker events for people interested in a certain sector, and large career fairs for organisations wanting to recruit a large number of graduates each year.



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 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 making 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 your course, 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 course 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 as 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 course 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 course-mates 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 course-mates, 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 following the weekly mini-speaker events, guest speakers and the end of year ball. Find out more: 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 Philosophy and Literature course at Warwick or whether you're just interested in both of the disciplines and how the two can interlink. You can view more on their current Facebook page: **Warwick Philosophy and Literature Society 16/17**.



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!

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:

'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 2016' - this is the world's leading conference for postgraduate students in the philosophy of mind.

'Philosophy Film Club' - organises weekly screening of Philosophical films.

Join the undergraduate research community

At Warwick, undergraduate students can apply for a **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 course. This project is a fantastic opportunity for you to carry out research supervised by an academic member of staff.

View some examples of URSS project which Philosophy students have completed at:

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 or papers written collaboratively 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

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 the Leamington pubs, singing and playing guitar, and cooking with friends. Only by being yourself will you build meaningful friendships, but only by keeping an open mind will you learn from everyone else’s views and experiences.



Callum Bradley
BA Philosophy and Literature

There are many intellectual and social factors related to my studying in the Philosophy Department at Warwick. Academically, in seminars and one-to-one meetings, you are sat right in front of internationally renowned experts on the subject you’re being taught, providing rigorous philosophical training and inspiration in every classroom. Of course, this was a little intimidating at first, especially for someone who’d only just learnt how to say ‘Descartes’. However, I immediately felt the support of a wide and diverse academic community in the department, and received anything from direct help to kind words from my peers in the Philosophy Common Room and the teaching and office staff walking the corridor. Feeling the support has strengthened my confidence to work more on improving the academic and social experience of others.



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.



Phoebe Murphy-Dunn
BA Philosophy and Literature

I never knew philosophy and aesthetics could come into my daily life in the way that they do. When watching Victoria's Secret Fashion Show I was examining the catwalk philosophically, questioning the ability for the fashion garments to be considered as 'art'. When do they become art? Is it when they are placed on the models' bodies, thus including the individuals themselves as part of the 'art'? Even when watching documentaries on Netflix I found myself thinking about the standards that documentaries would have to adhere to in order to be considered art according to Kant.



Sara Saquib
BA Philosophy with Psychology

Having studied both subjects at A-level, I wanted to further my knowledge of both these disciplines. I was brought up in a religious household and, throughout my childhood, I had always been asking questions to do with the faith that everyone around me just simply accepted. It was from this that I started asking questions not only to do with faith, but with the way that society was structured. Philosophy is such a diverse discipline, you can do philosophy modules that have ties with mathematics, classics and politics - the only thing you need to have at the beginning of your degree is the want to ask questions!



Next steps

Thinking about applying?

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

- ▶ All applications to undergraduate courses are made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service), and you will be able to **apply to up to five courses**.
- ▶ 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 course.
- ▶ When considering your application, we can't see which other courses and universities you've applied to.
- ▶ You receive a decision via **UCAS Track**
- ▶ The UCAS **deadline for our courses is 15 January**; we give equal consideration to all applications received before this date.

You'll have **one personal statement for all your courses**. This is where you demonstrate your interest in the subject and tell us why you would be a great student for our course. So, the more thought-through your course 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 course and place for you. Also check the typical offers and any essential subjects for each course.

You've received an offer...

Once you have received a decision from all your courses, you must choose your first choice course (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 courses with a lower typical offer to serve as a 'back up' for you.

And also

Check out the 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

Find out more detail about our courses and department by visiting our departmental website warwick.ac.uk/philosophy

Browse warwick.ac.uk/ug for information about university life, including finance, accommodation and campus life at Warwick.



Entry requirements and typical offers

Check these before you apply via our website 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.

For 2017 entry:

BA Philosophy, BA Philosophy with Psychology, BA Philosophy with Classical Civilisation: 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 + STEP/ AEA To include grade A* in A level Mathematics, grade A* in A level Further Mathematics and grade A in one additional non-Maths A level and grade 2 in any STEP/ Distinction in AEA Mathematics.

OR

A*A*A* To include A level Mathematics, Further Mathematics and a non-Maths subject.

OR

A*A*AA To include grade A* in A level Mathematics, grade A* in A level Further Mathematics and grades AA in two additional non-Maths A levels.

IB

39 points overall including:

7, 6, 6 in three subjects at Higher Level including Mathematics.

OR

6, 6, 6 in three subjects at Higher Level including Mathematics plus grade 2 in any STEP or Distinction in AEA 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



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This course information was accurate at the time of printing. Our course 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.