Philosophy Department - Undergraduate Chat - Find out more about study opportunities

Dr David Bather Woods will be hosting a live chat for undergraduate enquirers about study opportunities available at the Department of Philosophy.

Hello and welcome to the Philosophy Live Chat! I am Dr. David Bather Woods (but you can call me David) and I will be chatting with you today. I teach in the Department of Philosophy and I am also the admissions tutor. As admissions tutor, I oversee matters concerning applications and admissions to the Department of Philosophy. Please feel free to ask me your questions about our courses and our department.

Don't forget that this is a public chat, so please do not share personal or confidential information. If you have anything that is confidential that you wish to ask, please feel welcome to contact me by email at ugphiladmissions@warwick.ac.uk

INTRODUCING MYSELF

David Bather Woods
Teaching Fellow in Philosophy
Admissions Tutor

Teaches
'Philosophy of Religion'
'Nietzsche in Context'

Favourite philosopher:
Arthur Schopenhauer

Hello

Thanks for offering this today

It's really nice to be able to learn more about Warwick
Hello

Hello Anne! Nice to meet you

I'm really nice to be able to learn more about Warwick

You're welcome! Thanks for coming to learn more.

I'm really nice to be able to learn more about Warwick

Do you have any questions I can answer?

You're welcome. It's a lot easier than trying to go to the UK lol

I'd like to know more about Philosophy. What can you tell me about studying there? What is life like at warwick?

You're welcome. It's a lot easier than trying to go to the UK lol

Yes! That's why we decided to have the virtual open week, to help our international students get in touch

It's a really good idea.

Warwick has an active community of philosophers, whether academic staff or students, who work in a variety of fields - some of the best things we are known for are philosophy of mind, philosophy of art, moral philosophy, and continental philosophy.

I'm going to display a slide with an outline of the first year of our BA in Philosophy, so you can see what you can study from the start.
I like the idea of learning pure philosophy, but the other dual courses look intriguing too! I'm struggling to decide which direction to go in.

Aha! What combined courses look interesting to you?

A couple to be honest. I like the idea of the global sustainable course, as well as Philosophy and literature.

That's great! Philosophy and Literature is unique in that it has a module called Problems of Philosophy and Literature which is co-taught by staff in both Philosophy and English departments.

It's two of my passions at the moment. I do like the thought of studying both.

A couple to be honest. I like the idea of the global sustainable course, as well as Philosophy and literature.

The reason we offer it is that we have a couple of specialist philosophers in our department who work in the philosophy of literature - Dr. Karen Simecek and Dr. Eileen John. They're interested in questions about how literature can present and answer philosophical questions, and how philosophy can benefit from a literary presentation. Among other things!

That sounds very interesting.
Can I ask you what you’re looking for in an application?

It's two of my passions at the moment. I do like the thought of studying both.

Do you have a favourite piece of philosophical literature? I'm a Dostoyevsky fan myself.

That's a difficult question!

Can I ask you what you’re looking for in an application?

Sure! I'll display the entry requirements, but that's not the end of the story. We are looking for students who are motivated by philosophical questions and enjoy intellectual challenges. You can demonstrate this in an application by discussing what experience you have of your subject so far, even if it’s not formal study. How did you come across it? What interested you about it? Have you read or done anything while pursuing that interest? We want to know you're passionate about the subject—like we are!

So, just demonstrate the passion for the subject?

What would happen if I don’t meet the 36 points? I'm taking the higher level English so that's ok if I decide on that course?

Can I ask you what you’re looking for in an application?

I always see that when writing a personal statement, try to connect the dots and fill in the gaps for someone looking at your qualifications. So you may have studied English, for example—but what did you gain from it? How did that help inform your decision to study Philosophy and Literature? How has it helped you prepare for this study?

Do you need any example essays? Or do I need to have an interview?

What would happen if I don’t meet the 36 points? I'm taking the higher level English so that's ok if I decide on that course?

That's great that you are taking HL English. So, you were made an offer and on results day things didn't go to plan, it's not necessarily the end of the story. Depending on whether there are remaining places to fill on the courses, you may still be accepted onto the course, but there will always still be a minimum threshold. We have a responsibility to make sure students are admitted to courses they are prepared for.
Do you need any example essays? Or do I need to have an interview?

No, we don’t need example essays and you would not normally need to interview. (We might only interview if someone has a non-typical academic profile, for instance if they are returning to education after a long break from it.) If you were made an offer, you would be invited to an offer holder open day, so that may be your chance to meet us in person - if you are able to make it! We’re also hoping to hold more live chats for those who can’t.

That’s a difficult question!

Sorry for the curve ball!

Joseph Alfon talking about his experience of the Philosophy Department’s Offer Holder Open Day

https://youtu.be/0XkwHd4KLc0

So, just demonstrate the passion for the subject?

Passion and motivation is one important thing (i.e. why is the course right for you). Another is aptitude (i.e. why are you right for the course). A good rule to apply here is the ABC rule - Activity (what did you do?) - Benefit (what did you gain from it?) - Course (how does this relate to your motivation or aptitude to study the course?)

Do you offer things like study abroad or internships during the course?

**YEAR ABROAD**

Integrated: allows you to replace your year two of your programme with a year abroad at a partner institution.

Intercalated: add one year abroad to your degree programme.

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Do you offer things like study abroad or internships during the course?

We do! You can study abroad as an intercalated year (adding a year to your studies) or an integrated year (taking one of your years at another institution). You can also take an intercalated work placement year. This is a new scheme, but one of our students who made use of it right away spent her time on an internship with Microsoft and the Google (she also had an offer from IBM).
I really want to get as much as I can out of my degree

Do you offer things like study abroad or internships during the course?
There is more about where you can take your year abroad in our departmental brochure, which has lots of other information: https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/philosophy/philosophy_brochure.pdf

I really want to get as much as I can out of my degree
That's great to hear! We have a very proactive student community, with over 250 societies registered with the student union, devoted to things like travel, culture, arts, and work experience - and there's the Philosophy Society too of course, which has its own philosophy magazine called Pharos. You can find them on Instagram and Facebook!

I really want to get as much as I can out of my degree
Have you had any thoughts about what you might do after your degree?

Philosophy at the University of Warwick
https://youtu.be/mQZmhc1Vrac

I'm not sure at this moment. I'm hoping that once I get to university the different opportunities will come about??

Of course! Lots of people decide what they want to do - and who they are! - while they're here. I was just curious in case the was a kind of work or career you are interested in, in case philosophy could provide you with relevant skills. You may like to know that we have a careers consultant and the Philosophy Society has recently been organising external speakers from industry to give talks on work opportunities. That might help you discover some opportunities!

That's really interesting to hear.

What other types of activities do the society organise?
They organise both social and academic activities. For instance, they have a weekly event called Phil' and Chill, which happened at the end of the week in the philosophy student common room - student together to chat about the week over tea and biscuits, so it's a good way to decompress and make friends. They also have nights out. On the academic side of things, they invite external speakers, like last year where they had Adrian Moore, a philosopher from Oxford, come to talk about infinity and immortality.

**What other types of activities do the society organise?**

Here's an upcoming event, for example [https://www.facebook.com/events/2414833872178693/](https://www.facebook.com/events/2414833872178693/)

**Medicine or Murder: A Medical Ethics Panel**

Event in Coventry, Royaume-Uni by Warwick PPL Society and 3 others on samedi, novembre 16 2019 with 419 people interested and 63 people going.

That sounds much more than what I expected

Our current PhilSoc committee are a very organised outfit!

That event sounds really good fun

They really area. Im really looking for to being part of a society like that

You would get to know them very soon because we have a Welcome Week where lots of introduction happen, including a greeting from PhilSoc. they’re a big part of making new students feel welcome, and of course any student can run to be elected to a member of the committee, so you could really get involved.

That’s really good to hear. Sounds a little less daunting with those types of activities planned
We're already just 10 minutes away from the end of the chat! Do let me know if you have any final questions.

Is there anything else that you think I should know?

That's really good to hear. Sounds a little less daunting with those types of activities planned. Yes, Welcome Week is a bit help for making people feel less daunted by all the newness of uni. This year our new first years went on an Instagram scavenger hunt to help them bond and get to know the campus. They had to find people, places and items on campus, and put them on Instagram.

I really like the sound of that!

Is there anything else that you think I should know?

Well, one thing I haven't mentioned yet is our range of optional modules to do in the second and third (or fourth) years of study. I'm displaying them now. As you can see, there are lots of fields of philosophy covered, as well as some rather unique options - like the philosophy of terrorism and counterterrorism!

How many modules do you take each year?

I really like the sound of that!

The Instagram scavenger hunt? yes, it was great fun to watch!

How many modules do you take each year?

So, typically a student takes around 8 modules per year. But it can vary. Some modules are worth double credits, so you take fewer modules overall. History of Modern Philosophy, for example, is double credit, as is our Dissertation module where students do independent research in their final year (it's optional).

How many modules do you take each year?

Another way to put it is that students typically take 120 CATS (= credits) and a single module in Philosophy is worth 15 CATS.

How many modules do you take each year?

Oh! And you can take up to 30 CATS (i.e. 25% of your modules) outside of Philosophy. Some students like to learn a language, for instance, or do interdisciplinary studies.

Ok, thank you so much for answering my questions today
Its been really helpful

No problem! It’s been my pleasure. Hope to see you soon, but feel free to keep in touch by email if you have further questions.

Thank you, I will

bye

Bye!!

Thank you for joining me and asking your questions. I really enjoyed chatting with you and I look forward to chatting with you again in future. You can find updates about any forthcoming philosophy live chats at https://warwick.ac.uk/fac/soc/philosophy/studywithus/undergraduate/philosophylivechat/. If you have any questions in the meantime, please feel welcome to contact me at uphiladmissions@warwick.ac.uk

**Live Chats**

The University of Warwick’s Philosophy department is running Live Chats to give you the chance to chat with current students and ask us your questions.