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 our 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.

Please remember 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
upphiladmissions@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

PHILOSOPHY
DO YOU WONDER?

Philosophy at the University of Warwick
https://youtu.be/mQZnhcIVrac
Hello David, I’m Stephen - what would you say makes Philosophy at Warwick different from my other possible university options - say Exeter or Birmingham?

Hi Stephen! Thanks for your question. One difference between Warwick on many UK universities is that our staff includes specialists in both the analytic and the continental traditions of philosophy, making us very pluralistic. We also have specialists in philosophy of the arts, philosophy of mind and psychology, and moral and political philosophy - we’re very well known for research in these areas, among others.
Hello David, I'm Stephen - what would you say makes Philosophy at Warwick different from my other possible university options - say Exeter or Birmingham?

If you can see the current slide, here's an example of module you are unlikely to find anywhere else - the Philosophy of Terrorism and Counterterrorism. This is taught by Professor Quassim Cassam, who has recently been asking metaphysical and epistemological questions in these fields.

I've got it, thank you - that does look interesting!

I can also share a video of Quassim giving a TEDx talk on the epistemology of conspiracy theories (the subject of his most recent book).

Is the connection between philosophy and real-world current issues something that defines Warwick? How does it compare with the amount taught on more theoretical perspectives?

Conspiracy Theories and the Problem of Disappearing Knowledge | Quassim Cassam | TEDxWarwick

https://youtu.be/h-eQZbR1HfK

Thanks - got the video :)

Is the connection between philosophy and real-world current issues something that defines Warwick? How does it compare with the amount taught on more theoretical perspectives?

There’s a balance between practical and theoretical topics. Our current modules Philosophy of Terrorism, Ethics of Sociability, and Applied Ethics, for instance, deal with “real world” issues (Quassim also does a first year module called Philosophy for the Real World: Knowledge, Ignorance, and Bullshit). But there are modules like Epistemology, Metaphysics, and Moral Psychology, which are more theoretical. Moral Psychology is a good example of our expertise in the philosophy of psychology, in that it’s all about combining the insights from empirical psychology with philosophical reflection on ethical ideas.
Is the connection between philosophy and real-world current issues something that defines Warwick? How does it compare with the amount taught on more theoretical perspectives?

See the current slide for more examples of optional modules!

That's really good to see - lots of choice!

Right! Is there a particular area of philosophy that interests you?

How much flexibility do students get in choosing optional modules?

I am interested in how philosophy and psychology fit together, and philosophy of mind

How much flexibility do students get in choosing optional modules?

Good question. In your first year, there are core modules, but there is enough optional credit to take two optional modules in Philosophy (or outside Philosophy). In your second year, your choices are mostly optional (you do a core double module in History of Modern Philosophy). In your third year, its 100% optional on our BA Philosophy course.
I am interested in how philosophy and psychology fit together, and philosophy of mind.

I see! You might consider our Philosophy with Psychology degree course then.

How does it work at Warwick when there are more than two subjects? Do I study in two departments, or am I mainly based in one place?

I am interested in how philosophy and psychology fit together, and philosophy of mind.

By the way, you can view our full departmental brochure here:
https://warwick.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/philosophy/philosophy_brochure.pdf

Thank you - I'll take a look :)

How does it work at Warwick when there are more than two subjects? Do I study in two departments, or am I mainly based in one place?

You do have a home department - with BA in Philosophy with Psychology, the home department is Philosophy. Like with the single honours course, there are core modules early on in the course, but some are from Philosophy and some are from Psychology. As things progress, you get more optionality, but you would need to select a certain amount of options from each department.

Thank you - I'll take a look :)

Great! Did you have any other questions I can help with?
That’s been really helpful. I’ve got quite a lot of reading to do!

I’m glad it’s been helpful! You are welcome to stay in touch if you have more questions.

Good to see that the final year is just option modules :) Do we get guidance on what might be good to take? For instance, for certain jobs?

Everyone is assigned a personal tutor who can help with (e.g.) module selection. The department also has a director of student experience and a careers consultant - they are good sources of support for making wise choices while you are here.

Plus, as you progress, you’ll get a sense of what interests you most in philosophy - and beyond! At the end of the year, we have a module fair where we present the optional modules available in the next year. Teaching staff attend and you are able to ask any question you have about their forthcoming module.

Lots of support, which I’m sure I’ll need - there are lots of choices to make!

Thanks so much for your help and advice - appreciate it :)

No problem! It’s my pleasure.

It’s 10 minutes until our Philosophy Live Chat finishes. Transcripts will be available after the chat closes, but make sure to get any final questions in now!

Philosophy at the University of Warwick

https://youtu.be/mQZ/nhcIVrac
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 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 ugphiladmissions@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.