Philosophy BA

This programme aims to provide an understanding of a range of central philosophical debates. All major areas of philosophy are available for study, covering branches such as moral and political philosophy, metaphysics and epistemology, and drawing upon the writings of philosophers both ancient and modern to contextualise your studies.

Key information

Programme starts
September 2018

Location
London, Bloomsbury

Degree benefits

// UCL Philosophy was one of the top-rated departments in the UK in the most recent (2014) Research Excellence Framework. The research interests of the academic staff are wide-ranging, covering all the main areas of philosophy.

// We regard philosophy as a co-operative endeavour. We ensure personal support in your learning, and the department deservedly has a reputation for excellent relations between staff and students.

// A rich array of extracurricular philosophy events is available in London. As a UCL philosophy student you will be able to attend the meetings of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, the Aristotelian Society and the University of London's Institute of Philosophy.

Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014
The Research Excellence Framework, or REF, is the system for assessing the quality of research in UK higher education institutions. The 2014 REF was carried out by the UK’s higher education funding bodies, and the results used to allocate research funding from 2015/16.

// 75% rated 4* (‘world-leading’) or 3* (‘internationally excellent’)

Learn more about the scope of UCL’s research, and browse case studies, on our Research Impact website.

Degree structure

In each year of your degree you will take a number of individual modules, normally valued at 0.5 or 1.0 credits, adding up to a total of 4.0 credits for the year. Modules are assessed in the academic year in which they are taken. The balance of compulsory and optional modules varies from programme to programme and year to year. A 1.0 credit is considered equivalent to 15 credits in the European Credit Transfer System (ECTS).

The first year begins with several introductory lecture courses, providing a foundation for later studies. The programme covers political philosophy, examining questions about the state, liberty and laws; moral philosophy, questioning distinctions of right and wrong, and our motivation for choosing between the two; epistemology which investigates the nature of knowledge and belief; metaphysics, which attempts to grasp the nature of things; and logic, which imparts principles of sound reasoning.

Your second and third years will be spent studying a range of subjects from metaphysics and epistemology and the philosophies of mind and language, to moral and political philosophy, aesthetics and phenomenology, and the history of philosophy.

The programme is designed to ensure that the central areas of the subject are covered, while also allowing you to choose from an array of optional modules, some of which may be taken from other departments at UCL.

YEAR ONE
Core or compulsory module(s)
// Introduction to the History of Philosophy I
Introduction to the History of Philosophy II
Introduction to Logic I
Introduction to Logic II
Introduction to Moral Philosophy
Introduction to Political Philosophy
Knowledge and Reality
Philosophical Study Skills: Reading, Understanding and Essay Writing

Optional modules
// All first year modules are compulsory.

YEAR TWO
Core or compulsory module(s)
// All second year modules are optional.

Optional modules
// You will select 4.0 credits of optional modules, including at least one module from each of Groups A, B, and C:
Group A
Theoretical Philosophy (e.g. Knowledge; Metaphysics; Mind and Body; Language)
Group B
Normative Philosophy (e.g. Aesthetics; Applied Ethics; Global Justice and Health; Morality and Literature; Normative Ethics; Political Philosophy)
Group C
History of Philosophy (e.g. Aristotle; Plato; Marxism; Nietzsche; Wittgenstein; Sartre)

FINAL YEAR
Core or compulsory module(s)
// All third year modules are optional.

Optional modules
// You will choose eight from the wide range of optional modules available to the value of 4.0 credits. You can take a total of 2.0 credits from other departments at UCL.
// You must pass at least six level 3* (advanced) modules - one of which may be taken in year two - and have passed one module from each of Groups A, B, and C (above) to graduate.
Your learning

Our teaching is based on lectures and seminars that complement each other. In your first year, you will be introduced to the basic elements of philosophical reasoning through lectures, seminars and small-group tutorial classes. In years two and three your chosen modules will be taught by an expert from within our department through a combination of lectures, related seminars and classes.

Assessment

Assessment is by a mixture of coursework (essays) and written examination. You may also elect to submit a dissertation as one of your optional modules.

Your career

This programme will assist you in constructing and assessing philosophical positions and arguments, thereby teaching you how to analyse and present complex ideas. Furthermore, it will provide you with an understanding of a wide range of traditional and contemporary philosophical theories. Such skills are transferable to non-philosophical contexts.

The discipline of philosophical training, and in particular its emphasis on rigorous argumentation, logic, and clarity of thought and expression, makes philosophy graduates highly suitable for a wide variety of careers.

First career destinations of recent graduates (2013-2015) of this programme include:

// Investment Banking Analyst, J.P. Morgan
// Full-time student, B.Phil in Philosophy (Ancient Philosophy Track) at University of Oxford
// Full-time student, MA in History of Art at UCL
// Assistant Private Secretary and Diary Manager, Cabinet Office
// Full-time student, GDL (Graduate Diploma in Law) at BPP University

Your application

Application for admission should be made through UCAS (the Universities and Colleges Admissions Service). Applicants currently at school or college will be provided with advice on the process; however, applicants who have left school or who are based outside the United Kingdom may obtain information directly from UCAS.

In addition to looking for outstanding grades in your academic record, we also assess your application for evidence of your ability to engage with philosophical arguments and your skills in reasoning.

Selection will be made on the basis of information contained in the UCAS application: achieved and predicted academic grades, the level of interest in, motivation towards, and experience of the subject as indicated in the personal statement, the reference supplied, and any relevant contextual factors.
Entry requirements

A LEVELS
Grades
AAA
Subjects
No specific subjects.

GCSE
English Language at grade B or 6, plus Mathematics at grade C or 5. For UK-based students, a grade C or 5 or equivalent in a foreign language (other than Ancient Greek, Biblical Hebrew or Latin) is required. UCL provides opportunities to meet the foreign language requirement following enrolment, further details at: www.ucl.ac.uk/ug-reqs

IB DIPLOMA
Points
38 overall.
Subjects
A total of 18 points in three higher level subjects, with no score below 5.

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS
UCL considers a wide range of UK and international qualifications for entry into its undergraduate programmes. Full details are given at: www.ucl.ac.uk/otherquals

UNDERGRADUATE PREPARATORY CERTIFICATES (International foundation courses)
The Undergraduate Preparatory Certificates (UPCs) are intensive one-year foundation courses for international students of high academic potential who are aiming to gain access to undergraduate degree programmes at UCL and other top UK universities.

Typical UPC students will be high achievers in a 12-year school system which does not meet the standard required for direct entry to UCL.

For more information see: www.ucl.ac.uk/upc.

TUITION FEES
The fees indicated are for undergraduate entry in the 2018/19 academic year. The UK/EU fees shown are for the first year of the programme at UCL only. The Overseas fees shown are the fees that will be charged to 2018/19 entrants for each year of study on the programme, unless otherwise indicated below.

// UK & EU: £9,250 (2018/19)
// Overseas: £19,390 (2018/19)

Full details of UCL’s tuition fees, tuition fee policy and potential increases to fees can be found on the UCL Students website.

FUNDING
Various funding options are available, including student loans, scholarships and bursaries. UK students whose household income falls below a certain level may also be eligible for a non-repayable bursary or for certain scholarships. Please see the Fees and funding pages for more details.

CONTACT
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EU referendum
For up-to-date information relating to specific key questions following the UK’s decision to leave the EU, please refer to: www.ucl.ac.uk/eu-referendum

Disclaimer
This information is for guidance only. It should not be construed as advice nor relied upon and does not form part of any contract. For more information on UCL’s degree programmes please see the UCL Undergraduate Prospectus at www.ucl.ac.uk/prospectus