Philosophy

Postgraduate Programmes
2016/17
Introducing Philosophy at Warwick

Be taught by some of the world’s leading philosophers in both the analytic and continental traditions.

Our teaching and research

Our department is one of the most highly regarded Philosophy departments in the UK. In the recent Research Excellence Framework (REF2014), we ranked first in the UK for the quality of our research (‘research outputs’) and fourth overall, with over 90% of the research published by our staff in books and journal articles over a six year period from 2008 assessed as being ‘internationally excellent’ or ‘world leading’.

Our excellence in research underpins our teaching in philosophy at all levels. Our students consistently give us excellent ratings regarding teaching and learning, organisation and management, and resources and services. In the 2014 Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey (PTES) results, we achieved 82% satisfaction rating overall. The PTES analyses a range of feedback from students on teaching quality (such as contact, feedback), course design, student satisfaction, and career development.

So 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 leading 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. We provide a wide range of options for postgraduate study and you can choose to focus on continental philosophy, on analytic philosophy, or combine study of both.

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. 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.

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 across the world to come and study with them.

We are also well-known for the pioneering work being conducted in Philosophy of Photography and Philosophy of Literature. Research on these topics benefits from our close links with the Art History and English departments.

A vibrant, diverse and supportive departmental life

We are a large, active and welcoming department with around seventy postgraduate students studying for a Philosophy Master’s degree or PhD, and twenty two permanent members of academic staff. You’ll find many opportunities to engage with this community, as part of your studies, day to day around the department, and beyond your course. You’ll have a personal tutor to support you in your progress, as well as embedded workshops, seminars and professional development sessions to ensure you have the skills and knowledge you need to succeed. There are also a number of reading or discussion groups dedicated to specific areas of philosophy.

We host an extraordinary range of events and research activities which we encourage you to be involved with. Each week there are talks from visiting philosophers, members of staff and graduate students discussing their work in progress. You’ll find a busy programme of conferences and colloquiums, covering a very broad extent of specialties, regular graduate and departmental seminars to get involved with, and many more informal and social research gatherings. The subject societies of Philosophy Society and Philosophy and Literature Society are very social and supportive, meeting weekly as well as having their own calendars of events, including social gatherings, guest speakers and alumni evenings.

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Introducing Philosophy at Warwick

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Our research environment

Postgraduate study in our department takes place against the backdrop of four distinguished research centres. Each of our research centres provide a range of study and research opportunities for postgraduate students, from major international conferences, workshops, visits from distinguished external speakers, reading groups, to a number of annual international graduate conferences. The strength of our research was acknowledged in REF 2014, in which we were ranked 4th overall for Philosophy, and 1st on the quality of published research.

Philosophy of Mind and CSC

We are one of the UK’s leading institutions for research in the philosophy of mind and psychology. We have also been internationally recognized for our research on the philosophy and psychology of perception, agency, self-consciousness, and temporal representation. We are home to the Consciousness and Self-consciousness Research Centre (CSRC), the AHRC-funded Second Person project, and one of the host institutions for the AHRC-funded project Rethinking the Senses. These groups are host to many research activities of postgraduates and members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff producing internationally recognized work on Kant’s Aesthetics, all aspects of Hegel’s philosophy, Nietzsche, and Fichte’s political philosophy. We are also home to the Research Group in Post-Kantian European Philosophy, which provides a focus for the research activities of postgraduates and members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts some of the world’s most distinguished researchers in post-Kantian philosophy.

19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy

Since the 1980s, we have enjoyed a global reputation for outstanding research in 19th and 20th century Continental Philosophy. We have major research strengths in the areas of Kantian and post-Kantian Continental Philosophy. Members of staff produce internationally recognized work on Kant’s Aesthetics, all aspects of Hegel’s philosophy, Nietzsche, and Fichte’s political philosophy. We are also home to the Research Group in Post-Kantian European Philosophy, which provides a focus for the research activities of postgraduates and members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts members of staff working in this area. This research group meets every fortnight and hosts some of the world’s most distinguished researchers in post-Kantian philosophy. In 20th century Continental Philosophy, members of the department produce world-leading research on Bergson, Sartre, Heidegger, Foucault and Deleuze. Recent funded research includes Prospects for an Ethics of Self-Cultivation, which seeks to investigate the Hellenistic conception of ethics as a practice of self-cultivation and its revival in modern European philosophy.

Aesthetics and Philosophy & Literature

We have one of the most active centres for research in aesthetic and the philosophy of literature in the UK. Distinguishing features of our research are the links between analytic and continental approaches to these topics, and the links with researchers in the departments of History of Art, English and Comparative Literature Studies, French, German, Italian and Film & Television Studies. We are home to the Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts (CRPLA), which runs a dynamic programme of events including regular seminar papers and workshops throughout the academic year. Recent events have included the major international conferences 21st Century Theories of Literature: Essence, Fiction and Value, the workshop ‘Eating Well: Experience and Value in Meals’ and a series of ongoing workshops on Children’s Literature and Ethics.

Moral and Political Philosophy

We are internationally recognized for the strength of our research on practical normativity, and on the links between epistemic and moral normativity. Research on moral and political philosophy in our department takes place in close collaboration with political and legal philosophers in the departments of Politics and International Studies, and the department of Law. Together with the department of Politics and International Studies and the department of Law, we are home to the Centre for Ethics, Law and Public Affairs (CELPA). Recent events have included the workshops ‘Why Law Matters’ and ‘Normative Theory’ as well as a series of seminars hosting world-leading research in the field.

Active graduate community

As a postgraduate student, you will be part of a large and active graduate community. This graduate community plays an important part in shaping the research environment, and the research profile, of our department. We are home to MindGrad, the world’s leading graduate conference in the philosophy of mind, and in conjunction with PAIS, we host the Warwick Graduate Conference in Political and Legal Theory - one of the world’s outstanding graduate conferences in political philosophy.

We believe that one of the most important parts of being a member of a graduate community, and of your development as a philosopher, is discussing your work with your peers. There is a fortnightly work-in-progress seminar for research students, at which all taught postgraduate students are welcome. And building on the success of this seminar, there is now a dedicated student-led work-in-progress seminar for taught postgraduate students. We encourage all our taught postgraduate students to take up the opportunities provided by the rich and varied research life of the department.
Support, community and resources

As you progress to the next level as a university student, you’ll find plenty of resources available to develop your study skills, and provide you with advice and support.

Your personal tutor will support your academic development throughout your course. They will discuss your academic progress, advise on matters such as module choices, and act as your referee for job or further academic applications.

Module tutors - Your module tutors can provide specific advice about the subject matter of individual modules and also advise in terms of specific essays and assignments.

You’ll have compulsory workshops throughout the year which are designed to equip you with the skills and information you need to successfully complete your degree. Workshops include: feedback and marking, how to conduct research, getting published and how to present your research effectively. You’ll also find a wide range of sessions preparing you for your next steps; including applying for philosophy jobs and mock interviews to advice on making applications for PhD programmes and funding.

Philosophy postgraduate professional development sessions are a series of discussions on topics specifically related to graduate study and professional development. Sessions include: feedback and marking, how to conduct research, getting published and how to present your research effectively. You’ll also find a wide range of sessions preparing you for your next steps; including applying for philosophy jobs and mock interviews to advice on making applications for PhD programmes and funding.

Your academic support librarian provides targeted support in your subject area, helping you to develop information and research skills during your course. You can also make requests for book purchases, skills training or assistance with your research.

Warwick skills programmes. Warwick also provides a number of excellent academic programmes to support you in your studies and personal and professional development, including the Master Skills Programme, Warwick Skills Portfolio Award and the Academic Writing Programme.

Groups, forums and societies

We have a vibrant departmental community, with regular and varied colloquia, conferences and guest speakers which we encourage you to attend as a postgraduate student. Warwick also has a wide range of societies covering academic and non-academic interests, and postgraduate students have a range of dedicated spaces on campus on top of all the other spaces available to all students. We’ve picked out just some of the groups, events and resources available to make sure you settle in and make the most of your time as a Philosophy postgraduate student.

Philosophy Society (PhilSec) and Philosophy and Literature Society have weekly socials, weekly mini-speaker events and run talks and support sessions in various aspects of the subject. Additionally Phil ‘n’ Tea is a great chance to catch up with others who are interested in your subject area over free tea and biscuits on Friday afternoons. warwicksu.com/societies

Fortnightly departmental graduate seminars provide an opportunity to meet other graduate students and staff, as well as a chance to present your own research and to engage in the questions and discussions across a range of topics. Previous seminars have been titled: ‘A Husserlian response to Berkeley’s puzzle’, ‘Elements of a pragmatic theory of metaphor’, ‘Two Arguments to motivate the higher-order belief account of agnosticism’.

Philosophy reading groups

We have a number of departmental reading groups, which provide previously included: Foucault; Logic; Poetry and Philosophy (concerning the relations between poetry and philosophy). These provide a useful forum for staff and students at all levels of study to meet and discuss the topics of interest within these areas.

The London-Warwick Graduate Mind Forum aims to forge and maintain a cross-institutional research community for graduate students working in the philosophy of mind, broadly construed. Currently, the network consists of students in the philosophy departments of the University of Warwick, King’s College London and University College London. Each term they hold a research day, where students from each department present their work for commentary and discussion.

Dedicated spaces

On the first floor of the University Library there is a postgraduate reading room, accessed via a code lock. On the ground floor of the Library, there is another computer cluster, with 150 machines. Access is available 24 hours a day, using your library card for entry. A Help Desk is available during office hours.

The PG Hub is a space for Warwick postgraduate taught and research students to access support and to work and meet other postgraduate students day to day, not just study.

The Philosophy common room (S2.71) is for your use and acts as a central meeting point for everyone working in the Department. You can also book the common room for a specific meeting or event.

“One of the great things about the Department is how active the research community is, and how many talks and conferences and workshops go on. Whether they’re in your area of research or not, they are often really interesting and you get to meet some really great researchers from other universities. Even if you’re a bit shy, one of the members of staff will make the introduction and they’ll make sure you get to ask your question.”

Will Stafford
Philosophy postgraduate taught courses

We offer three taught MA programmes: Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, and Philosophy and the Arts. We also offer the MPhil (2+2) Programme (for which the first 2 years are taught), please refer to page 18 for further information regarding this course which is a taught research degree.

Studying for an MA provides you with the opportunity to engage with a particular area of philosophy in more depth than you typically can as an undergraduate. It will also provide you with research skills in preparation for employment or further postgraduate study.

Whatever MA programme you choose, you can study from a wide range of modules. We are unique in our breadth and depth of specialist choices available, allowing you to combine study of continental philosophy with contemporary analytic philosophy.

Members of academic staff have an especially wide range of research interests, but we have particular strengths in: Philosophy of Mind (particularly the Philosophy of Perception), 19th Century Continental Philosophy, 20th Century Continental Philosophy; Epistemology; Philosophy of Psychology; Aesthetics; Continental Philosophy; 20th Century Philosophy of Perception); 19th Century Philosophy of Mind (particularly the Philosophy of Perception), 19th Century Continental Philosophy, 20th Century Continental Philosophy; Epistemology; Philosophy of Psychology, Aesthetics; Moral and Political Philosophy.

We have close connections with a number of other departments in the Social Sciences and Humanities, including Politics, English Literature, and Sociology. Studying at Warwick provides an unparalleled opportunity to explore these interdisciplinary connections.

You take six modules, followed by six essays, followed by a dissertation (though there is some leeway to combine an essay with the dissertation). As a part-time student I decided to complete four essays my first year and two the second, providing a substantial flexibility which allowed me to study alongside work.

Alex Underwood
MA Philosophy and Literature

MA course structures

All our MA courses follow a consistent structure meaning that you will follow a programme of taught modules making up 120 CATS (academic credits), followed by a 10,000 word dissertation worth 60 CATS. Our modules are generally 20 CATS, so you will cover 6 modules - although your exact pathway will depend on the programme you choose and your selection of optional modules. Philosophy modules are assessed through essay coursework.

We offer a wide range of optional modules reflecting the great breadth of research areas within our department. So, beyond any core modules your course may have, you will be able to tailor your course to your interests and aspirations. The next pages describe the modules available currently across our MA courses.

You will have a personal tutor who will be able to advise you on your academic progress as well as discuss aspects such as which modules are best for you.

Mode of study - duration and timings

You can study our MA programmes full time over 12 months, or you can alternatively study part-time over a period of 24 months. Courses begin in October each year.

Full-time students will undertake taught modules and submit assessed essays for these during the academic term. You will also begin planning your dissertation and generally you will undertake your supervision sessions for this with your agreed supervisor during the summer months of July and August.

If you study part-time then you will study your taught modules over two years: with teaching taking place during the academic terms. The order in which you study your modules will be agreed following discussion with your course convenor. You will also begin planning your dissertation in year 2.

You will receive support in your dissertation through one-to-one sessions with your supervisor. You will also be prepared through research skills sessions and specific sessions on essay writing and dissertation planning and writing throughout your course.

From the start of your course, you will begin considering possible dissertation topics and you will look to confirm a supervisor for your dissertation by the end of spring term. Part-time students will confirm a supervisor for their dissertation by the end of the autumn term in their second year.

You will be assigned a dissertation supervisor who has the appropriate expertise in the area and, in the case of Joint degrees, you may approach colleagues in the partner department after consultation with one of your course convenors.
Table of modules

This table shows the core modules that you must take for each programme (c). It also shows the optional modules which can be taken on any of the programmes (o) and the related modules (r) which are relevant for certain courses.

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<tr>
<th>MA Modules</th>
<th>Staff</th>
<th>MA Continental Philosophy</th>
<th>MA Philosophy</th>
<th>MA Philosophy and the Arts</th>
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<tr>
<td>Aristotle's Physics</td>
<td>Thomas Crowther</td>
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<tr>
<td>Critique of Enlightenment in Post-Kantian German Philosophy</td>
<td>David James</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hegel's Aesthetics</td>
<td>Stephen Houlgate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hegel's Science of Logic</td>
<td>Stephen Houlgate</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Research Methods</td>
<td>Thomas Crowther</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kant's Critique of Pure Reason</td>
<td>Diarmuid Costello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kant's Aesthetics</td>
<td>Diarmuid Costello</td>
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<tr>
<td>Nietzsche</td>
<td>Keith Ansell-Pearson</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Origins of Phenomenology</td>
<td>Peter Pritch</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>The Problem of Modernity</td>
<td>Peter Pritch</td>
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<td>Time and Experience</td>
<td>Christoph Hertl</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in 20th Century French Philosophy I</td>
<td>Miguel Beistegui</td>
<td>R</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in 20th Century French Philosophy II</td>
<td>Miguel Beistegui</td>
<td>R</td>
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<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology</td>
<td>Matthew Stears</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in the Philosophy of Mind and Language</td>
<td>Guy Longworth</td>
<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Moral and Political Philosophy</td>
<td>Fabienne Peter</td>
<td>O</td>
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<td>O</td>
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<tr>
<td>Topics in Philosophy and the Arts</td>
<td>Diarmuid Costello</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>C</td>
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<tr>
<td>Wittgenstein: Philosophical Investigations</td>
<td>Michael Lucey</td>
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<tr>
<td>Literature and Knowledge</td>
<td>Eileen John</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>O</td>
<td>R</td>
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C: core module for that degree (compulsory)
R: module specifically related to that degree (i.e. Continental Philosophy), but not compulsory
O: philosophy module that can be taken as an option for that degree (optional)

During my undergraduate degree in Theology we covered a large number of topics, including a number of philosophical topics: philosophy of religion, postmodernism, existentialism and continental philosophy, but out of them all continental philosophy stuck in my mind as both fascinating and moving. I decided to follow my interests and begin looking for places where I could study continental philosophy at postgraduate level.

A few universities came up as worth a look, but the university that stood out for me was the University of Warwick, not least because, as well as the wide range of topics covered in the taught Masters degree, the leader in my field of research interest, Keith Ansell-Pearson, was teaching at the university.

Finding a university that could deliver high quality teaching, a wealth of experts and leading figures in research were all key to my choosing a university and fortunately the University of Warwick had it all.

The number of courses on offer at Warwick is huge, and with so much choice, it was tricky to pick something that you weren’t going to enjoy.

My experience of the Philosophy Department at the University of Warwick over the last year has been a whirlwind of excitement, emotion, anxiety and a whole ton of reading and writing, but I’ve made friendships here that will last a lifetime, built connections with academics that will help advance my career, and had the opportunity to work with individuals who are the sharpest and most innovative minds of their respective fields - only at the University of Warwick does your life change so comprehensively in such a short space of time: studying at the University of Warwick isn’t about learning alone, it’s about becoming who you are.

Shaun Stevenson
MA Continental Philosophy
This programme draws on our long-established strengths in research and teaching in Continental Philosophy. It is distinctive in offering an unusually broad range of modules, covering major figures and themes, as well as more specialized or less mainstream topics. Because of the breadth of our expertise in this area, you will be taught by world leaders in their respective fields. Unlike some other postgraduate programmes, you will have the chance to choose all of your course work and your dissertation from the field of Continental Philosophy, although modules from other philosophical traditions or subject areas can also be taken. There is no restriction on the selection of module options. On this course, you’ll have the freedom to choose six modules from our department’s extensive selection. You can view our complete listing on page 10 of this brochure. So, whether you’re interested in Nietzsche, Kant’s Aesthetics, Hegel’s Science of Logic or 20th Century French Philosophy, you’ll find modules here that suit you.

You might wish to take this MA as a self-standing degree, to enhance your knowledge of continental philosophy, or perhaps you wish to take this programme as an entry route to PhD research in Continental Philosophy. Either way, we’ll offer you a comprehensive education in the Continental tradition.

The influential Leiter Report 2014-15 ranks our graduate programme 1st in the UK and 3rd internationally in the area 20th Century Continental Philosophy. In the category 19th Century Continental Philosophy we are ranked 1st in the UK and 4th internationally. The 2014 UK Research Excellence Framework (REF) ranks the research produced by our department as 1st in the UK.

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“Most important to me when deciding where to undertake my MA was course content and department reputation—Warwick fulfilled these criteria. Warwick’s Philosophy department is impressively large and varied; whilst it possesses a strong footing in Analytic Philosophy, it also—quite uniquely—offers the chance to study thinkers who are typically bracketed into Continental Philosophy and who are poorly represented in UK departments.

The MA in Continental Philosophy boasts a host of modules and a remarkably flexible structure. I really struggled to whittle my module choices down to the required six, because of the range of choice. In addition to a 10,000 word dissertation, you write a 5000 word essay for each of your six freely-chosen modules. The flexibility of the course shows itself in the potential for combining assessments. For example, you can combine two modules that you feel can be related in an interesting way and produce a double-weight essay, or, if you feel as if you really want to explore one of your modules in depth, you can write a longer dissertation on that topic.

Those who incline toward Continental Philosophy and are looking to establish a solid foundation for a career as a Philosopher can do no better than the department at Warwick. The Philosophy department at Warwick occupies the unique space of being a top-tier department that offers classes on thinkers who, whilst being no less important to the Philosophical canon, are very much outside the mainstream interests of UK Philosophy departments.”

George Webster
MA in Continental Philosophy
This programme provides you with the opportunity to study Philosophy at an advanced level, with world leading researchers and teachers. Through interactive seminars, written and oral coursework, research skills classes, and—in the dissertation—the production of a piece of independent philosophical research, you will develop and refine the skills which will provide a foundation for PhD research in Philosophy, or for the research, communication and analysis needed in a non-academic career.

The breadth and depth of research expertise in the Philosophy department means that we can offer you an unusually broad range of options for Masters-level study. The department has strengths across all core areas of analytic philosophy and continental philosophy. But, we have particular strengths in Philosophy of Mind and Psychology, Epistemology, Aesthetics, Moral and Political Philosophy, Post-Kantian Continental Philosophy, and 20th Century Continental Philosophy. The influential Leiter report lists us in the top groupings in each of those six areas. In each area, we are one of the top 3 UK departments for that specialism. The strength of research in the Philosophy department was acknowledged in the 2014 REF, in which the department was ranked 4th in the UK overall and 1st in the UK for the quality of published research in Philosophy.

To develop your research skills, you’ll take a core Research Methods module. You can read more about this core module below. To promote breadth of knowledge, you’ll also be expected to take at least one module from three different areas of Philosophy.

- Theoretical Philosophy (including: Epistemology, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language or Logic)
- Value Theory (modules covering topics in Ethics, Aesthetics, or Political Philosophy)
- History of Philosophy

View the complete list of our module options on page 10 of this brochure.

Core module: Research Methods

Research Methods is a new core module, allowing you to develop the analytical and dialectical skills needed to do research in philosophy. The module will cover a variety of topics and foster in-depth reflection on philosophical methods. You will engage with a broad range of philosophical issues that are central to contemporary work in philosophy through close reading and discussion of classic texts, guided by two members of staff. Each seminar focuses on the text of an important paper or book chapter. Some of the papers focus explicitly on the topic of philosophical research methods. Other papers show different kinds of research skills and methods in use. For each seminar, a student oral presentation on the text will be given to initiate critical discussion of the reading. The seminars are an opportunity for you to explore and discuss philosophical methods and research techniques, and to understand the most effective ways of presenting arguments and ideas orally and in writing.

Vincent Leung
MA Philosophy

“In general, we are offered considerable freedom and flexibility in our module options, which allows us to align our choices of study with what we find philosophically interesting or stimulating. Unique to the MA in Philosophy however, is a compulsory requirement to take at least one study option in one of three broad categories: these fields being Historical, Analytical and Ethical, with the accompanying ideal of developing students into well-rounded philosophers who have a grounding in a wide range of subjects. Of course however, if there are issues with study options, there is room to discuss such options with the course convenor, to find a solution which suits your personal study tastes.

Topics in the Philosophy of Thought & Language and Self-Knowledge stood out as modules which were particularly interesting. The subject matter, as well as the quality of teaching in such modules was exceptional, particularly in Self-Knowledge, where classes would consist of a short presentation, followed by an extended discussion of the topics covered. Often we’d leave the class with more questions than answers, which we would then proceed to discuss in our research and essay writing.”
MA in Philosophy and the Arts

This is a new interdisciplinary degree that allows you to combine study of philosophy with any or all of three arts disciplines. Warwick has been a home for interdisciplinary work in philosophy and literature since the early days of the university, and this new degree is the successor to Warwick’s long-standing MA in Philosophy and Literature.

The degree is designed to take advantage of Warwick’s strengths across Philosophy, English and Comparative Literary Studies, History of Art, and Film and Television Studies. Warwick has excellent research strength in all of these areas, and it also has lively scholarly interaction across these fields, especially through the programming of the Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts. On this programme, you will participate in this intellectual community, pursue advanced study in two or more disciplines, and address questions about philosophy and the arts that speak to students’ individual interests.

You will take a core module entitled Topics in Philosophy and the Arts, and then the further structure of the degree will depend on whether you choose to take the dissertation or non-dissertation route. If you write a dissertation you will take a total of four modules (allowing a choice from two departments in addition to Philosophy). Your project can be supervised by faculty members from any of the contributing departments. If you take the non-dissertation route you will take six modules in total (allowing a choice of modules from all four contributing departments).

Whether you want to continue on to PhD study or whether you’re looking to enter a career outside of academia, this programme is a great foundation. Broadly, this is a degree on which you will have a chance to learn from specialists in the visual, cinematic and literary arts, and from philosophers deeply interested in the arts.

You will also be able to tailor your study in these fields to your own specific backgrounds, interests and goals. For example, if you wish to focus on Philosophy and Literature you can do so through your choice of options, by selecting modules (and developing a dissertation project) in Philosophy and in English and Comparative Literary Studies. Alternatively, you might choose to study different combinations e.g. to focus on Philosophy and Film, or Philosophy, Literature and History of Art.

The Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts (CRPLA) runs a seminar series and hosts a range of events bringing these fields together outside of the classroom. As a student here, you would have access to all of these activities and would be encouraged to participate in them.

You might choose to study different combinations e.g. to focus on Philosophy and Film, or Philosophy, Literature and History of Art. The Centre for Research in Philosophy, Literature and the Arts (CRPLA) runs a seminar series and hosts a range of events bringing these fields together outside of the classroom. As a student here, you would have access to all of these activities and would be encouraged to participate in them.

A sample of modules which can be selected from other disciplines include:

- English and Comparative Literary Studies
  - Freud’s Metapsychology and its Problems: Texts and Sub-texts
  - The Literature of the Asian Diaspora
  - Modernism and Psychoanalysis
  - Infinite Modernisms: Pessoa, Kafka, Proust
  - Writing about Human Rights and Injustice
  - Postcolonial Theory
  - Introduction to Pan Romanticisms
  - Ecopoetics Workshop

- History of Art
  - Making Art in Venice, 1200-1600
  - Venetian Art and its Histories
  - The Aesthetic Legacy of Venice, 1700 - the present
  - Art History and its Methods

- Film and Television Studies
  - Screen Cultures and Methods
  - The City in Film and Television
  - Film Criticism, Film Style
  - Film-Philosophy
  - History and Ministry in Italian Cinema
  - Journeys and Landscapes in Film and Television
  - Television History and Aesthetics
  - Textual Analysis and Film Style
If you’re looking for a taught research degree, this is the programme for you. It’ll provide you with relevant experience at first-degree level to carry out focused research in your discipline under close supervision. You’ll develop skills and expertise relevant to your research interests.

Our MPhil is designed to cover the first two years of a ‘2+2’ programme (i.e. two year Masters plus PhD). The first year is equivalent part-time study towards completion of a doctorate. You’ll be required to study, and will receive supervisions, in three main areas of philosophy, chosen from two lists. One list covers historical areas including key figures, such as: Descartes, Plato, Kant and the second list covers topic areas, including: Epistemology and Philosophy of the Mind. We want to give you the key skills in both the historical philosophy and contemporary philosophy. You’ll then choose a third area from either of the two lists. On completion, you’ll have sufficient depth in these areas to be qualified to teach them at university level.

In the second year, you will undertake and submit a research thesis of approximately 30,000 words. You will then develop your research into a thesis of doctoral length and standard, in years three and four of the programme. The programme can be tailored to your particular interests, reflecting our department’s research strengths, including: Ancient Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind & Psychology, and much more. If you wish to pursue an academic career, then this programme will set you in good stead.

The primary means of study is by fortnightly supervisions, with at least one term devoted to each of the three areas of study. You’ll be assigned a different supervisor for each area, and will produce an essay (maximum 5,000 words, no minimum length) for each supervision. In addition, you’ll be encouraged to attend appropriate graduate classes to support your supervisory preparation. Graduate classes may be taken from amongst those offered for an MA programme, or be research led classes put on for the benefit specifically of MPhil students and PhD students. Essays written for supervisions are for formative assessment. They are not expected to exhibit the degree of polish and sophistication that will be required for the essays required for summative assessment at the end of the programme. The learning process is built primarily around the regular production of sustained pieces of philosophical prose and their critical scrutiny in fortnightly supervisions.

Sam Clarke
MPhil, 2nd year

“I chose to do an MPhil for two reasons. Firstly, because it gave me great flexibility to work on the topics that most interested me. In standard, taught masters programmes, your studies are restricted to those courses that are made available by the department that year. But, the MPhil allows you to work on, more or less, whatever you want, provided you can find a member of the department willing to supervise them. Warwick is a large and diverse philosophy department so it should be easy to find specialists to supervise you on your areas of interest. Secondly, I chose to do an MPhil because I knew I wanted to continue with philosophy at a PhD level and beyond. In this regard, the MPhD programme is the obvious choice after an undergraduate degree.

It is not that taught masters programmes shut any doors-and many students continue on to complete PhDs and have careers in academia. However, it would be fair to say that the MPhil specifically targets the independent research skills needed to succeed in academia through one on one supervisions and completion of an extended 30,000 word thesis.

The MPhil is structured such that you have regular meetings with supervisors to discuss papers you have written. The supervisions are tough—you can expect to have your papers pulled apart at first. However, this just means that when you come to redraft them for assessment they will be that much stronger. All my supervisors have been great and have certainly helped to make my papers significantly better than they would otherwise have been.”
Deluze's Difference and Repetition (1968) is one of the most challenging and significant works of twentieth century 'continental' philosophy. It marks the completion of a process of thought that began with the publication of Empiricism and Subjectivity in 1953 and that can be summarised as 'transcendental empiricism'. By that, and beyond what may seem like a contradiction in terms, Deluze means a method as well as a philosophical project, which we will try and define in detail. This module will consist of a close reading of key passages from Deleuze's magnum opus, and especially of Chapter 3 ('The Image of Thought'). The third chapter of Difference and Repetition consists of a confrontation with key figures in the history of philosophy, and possibly the most canonical ones: Plato, Descartes and Kant. The point of that chapter is simply to ask: what does it mean to philosophise, or, more broadly perhaps, to think? How does thought come about? What are its conditions not of possibility, but actual emergence? As a way of approaching that complex chapter, and introducing some of Deleuze's key concepts, you'll begin by reading a number of shorter texts, from his early review of Jean Hyppolite's Logique and Existence to his studies on Bergson, Nietzsche, Kant, Proust, and Plato, which all found their way into Difference and Repetition. No prior knowledge of Deleuze's thought is required.

Topics in French Philosophy I: The Deleuzian Image of Thought

This module aims to provide an in-depth examination of, and critical engagement with, critiques of enlightenment found in the German Post-Kantian philosophical tradition. It will chart the development of a distinctive, increasingly critical view of enlightenment from Kant's essay What is Enlightenment? to Horkheimer's and Adorno's Dialectic of Enlightenment. Other texts may include works by such philosophers as Richte, Helder, Hegel and Nietzsche that can be interpreted as representing either enlightenment or counter-enlightenment standpoints. Key issues and questions to be discussed will include: What is common to the various conceptions of enlightenment found in the German Post-Kantian philosophical tradition? What distinguishes them from each other? What is the relation of these conceptions of enlightenment to the historical Enlightenment? How do these conceptions of enlightenment inform the views of history and politics developed by the philosophers in question? To what extent do enlightenment values (or a rejection of them) find expression in the methods adopted by these philosophers? The module is special in that it addresses such wide-ranging issues and questions at the same time as it retains focus by remaining within the bounds of a particular philosophical tradition and by focusing on a particular concept. It provides not only a way of engaging with this philosophical tradition for anyone interested in it, but also a conceptual and argumentative basis for discussing more general issues that are relevant today.

Critiques of Enlightenment in Post-Kantian German Philosophy

Most of us have heard of the ancient recommendation to 'know thyself', but what would it be to know yourself, and why does it matter whether you know yourself? These are among the issues you will be exploring in this course, which should be of interest to both 'analytic' and 'continental' philosophers. Specifically, the course will be organized around 4 questions: (1) What are the sources of self-knowledge for humans? (2) What is the character of self-knowledge? (3) What are the obstacles to self-knowledge? (4) What is the value of self-knowledge? Self-knowledge includes 'substantial' self-knowledge (e.g. knowledge of your own character or values or emotions) as well as the relatively trivial self-knowledge which has been the focus of so much discussion in philosophy (e.g. knowing that you believe that it's raining). You will examine different approaches to self-knowledge (rationalism, empiricism, inferentialism) and consider which of these approaches delivers the most convincing account of self-knowledge for humans, given all the respects in which humans beings are less than perfect epistemic citizens.

Self-Knowledge
Featured modules

Topics in the Philosophy of Mind & Language

This module explores some central questions about the natures of mind, language, and their intersections—for example, abilities to speak and understand language. The specific topics you’ll cover might include the ways in which our thought and experience might depend on features of our environments, ways in which our thinking might be idiosyncratic or shared, and questions about the requirements on, and possibilities, of communicating our thoughts to others. You’ll be exposed to important work on these topics, and it’ll provide you with an opportunity to engage critically with that work. The module is rare in its focus on the rigorous scrutiny of specific claims and arguments that have been offered about the topics it covers. Its significance lies not only in the importance to us of the specific topics it includes, but in the ways in which views about mind and language figure in, and shape, wider debates in philosophy.

Topics in Metaphysics and Epistemology

This module will address selected central topics in Epistemology through the careful study and discussion of work on the Metaphysics of knowledge. You will start by considering work that focuses on the distinctions between different forms of knowledge—propositional knowledge, know how, and knowledge by acquaintance. What do these varieties of knowledge have in common that make them all instances of knowledge, and what are the differences, and connections, between them? Among the questions you will consider is whether knowledge how is reducible to a form of propositional knowledge, as some have recently argued. You will then consider work on the differences between, and relations between, propositional knowledge and belief. Is propositional knowledge to be thought of as a mental state that is distinct from mere belief? Is propositional knowledge a relation to a fact, and belief a relation to a proposition? And if certain of our mental states are individuated in terms of ‘knowledge’, rather than belief, what bearing does this have on accounts of epistemic justification? Here you will also consider work on disjunctivist approaches to epistemology. Finally, you will consider debates about the place and role of the notion of ‘epistemic virtues’ in an account of knowledge. What metaphysical assumptions are being made by those who advocate virtue epistemology, and how can such assumptions affect the stance one takes on more traditional epistemological concerns?
What do Warwick Philosophy MA graduates do?

Over 85% of our Philosophy MA graduates who were available for work or study, gained employment or further study within six months of graduation (average figure for the last 6 years of reporting).

Examples of Philosophy MA graduates’ job titles include:
- Trainee Chartered Accountant, Ernst and Young
- Teacher, Kaplan
- Senior Executive Officer, Asia Pacific Academy of Ophthalmology
- Personal Administrator, Belfast Health and Social Care Trust
- Gateway Assessor, Citizens Advice Bureau
- Database Maintenance, Locators Ltd
- Staff writer, Prefix Magazine

Further study destinations:

Of the Philosophy MA graduates who went on to further study, the majority went on to undertake PhD/MPhil study in Philosophy at Warwick, but some students also went on to study for PhDs at University of Edinburgh, and Keele University.

Barney Walker
Current PhD candidate
MA Philosophy (2010), BA Philosophy (2008)

I did the MA in philosophy. The main thing that attracted me was the quality and range of the modules on offer; it seemed the perfect way to deepen my understanding of the philosophy. I did my BA in philosophy at Warwick, so I knew that the academics in the department were excellent, and I was really keen to continue to learn from them.

The most impressive aspect of the department is the strength of the research going on here—it’s difficult to convey the intellectual excitement and inspiration that comes from being in close contact with academics discussing their work, and encouraging you to develop your own ideas about the topics you’re interested in. What has also struck me at the department is how friendly and supportive it is. In terms of the course itself, the sheer range of modules on offer, across both the analytic and continental traditions, really marks Warwick out.

Towards the end of my MA, the opportunity came up to do a PhD here, and I jumped at the chance. I already had a good relationship with my supervisor, and I knew that Warwick was the best place for me to pursue my research.

I’m hoping to become a philosophy academic. My supervisor has recently been helping me to write job applications, and he even arranged a mock interview for me when I got invited to interview for a teaching position at another university. He’s also encouraged me to publish things I’ve written when he thinks they’re good enough to go into a journal.

Bethany Parsons
MA Continental Philosophy (2014)
BA (Hons) Philosophy with Classical Civilisation (2013)

I studied BA (Hons) Philosophy with Classical Civilisation from 2010-2013 at the University of Warwick. I stayed to study the MA Continental Philosophy in 2013-2014 because I knew that the department could support my research interest in the interplay between Ancient Greek Philosophy and 19th and 20th Century Continental Philosophy. Becoming involved in the postgraduate community was one of the best aspects of the course. Everyone was incredibly friendly and supportive, which made a great environment for discussing my work and ideas.

I was impressed by the range of rewarding opportunities available to postgraduate students; I worked on the editorial board of Pli, the Warwick Journal of Philosophy, and joined a research project that has hosted two international conferences. I am starting my PhD in Classics at the University of Edinburgh in September 2015, researching Nietzsche’s lectures on Pre-Socratic philosophy. My MA experience confirmed for me that I want to pursue an academic career and gave me a strong background in my area of interest.”
Entry requirements

There are four entry requirements that you must meet in order to be eligible for our MA programmes:

1. For our MA programmes, you’ll need to have an upper-second class (2:1) honours degree or equivalent. For our MPhil programme, you’ll need to have a first class honours degree (First) or equivalent. Your undergraduate degree should be in the area of philosophy or another discipline in which you have had significant exposure to philosophical concepts.

2. A strong academic reference. When you apply, you will be able to supply your referee’s contact details, and we will request a reference from them directly. If you graduated more than two years ago, you may supply a professional referee instead if you are no longer in touch with your undergraduate tutors.

3. A good statement of purpose. Typical personal statements are 1-2 pages long; you should include:
   a. Your motivation. Why this particular MA, and why Warwick?
   b. Your background. How has your education prepared you for rigorous postgraduate study in this area? This is particularly important if your undergraduate degree is not in the area of philosophy.
   c. Your expectations. How does this degree fit into your future plans—what do you hope to gain from it?

4. Fluency in English. If English is not your first language, you must have an IELTS score of 7.0 with no more than two components at 6.5 and none below 6.5. If your previous education was in the UK or another English speaking country, you may be exempt from this requirement, but please inquire to be certain. Please also note that taking a pre-sessional English course at Warwick or elsewhere is not sufficient to replace an IELTS score at the required level.

Supporting documents

In order to make a decision on your application, we will need to see some documents that demonstrate you meet our entry requirements. You should supply these electronically in the first instance, if you receive an official offer. Admissions will tell you precisely which original hard copies are required to secure an unconditional offer. When you submit your application, you will receive a link where you can upload your documents for review:

1. Transcript. If you have not yet finished your degree, you can send us an interim transcript and simply state in your application what your final classification, GPA, or average is expected to be.

2. Reference(s). As mentioned, we will contact your referees directly, but if they do not respond in a reasonable timeframe we may contact you and ask that you remind them to submit your reference.

3. Statement of purpose. You can either paste your statement into the space provided on the application form or, if it’s too long to fit in the allocated space, upload it as a PDF or Word document.

4. Writing sample. You should upload a sample of academic writing on a philosophical topic around 3000 words in length. A recent essay on which you received a high mark or an extract from your dissertation would be ideal.

5. English test (if applicable). You do not need to supply your IELTS certificate straight away; however, please ensure you arrange to take your English test sooner rather than later so that you can secure an unconditional offer in time to apply for your visa (if needed) and start your course on time.

Timings

We review applications on a rolling basis, so you should submit your application as soon as you are ready. We will normally make a decision on your application within 4 working weeks of receiving all necessary documents.

Overseas candidates must apply no later than 31 July, while there is no deadline for Home/EU candidates, we strongly recommend applying by 31 July as well in order to ensure enough time is left to sort out logistics such as accommodation.

If you plan to apply for funding, please read the scholarship criteria carefully. If you need an offer in order to apply for funding, please allow enough time for your MA application to be processed.

Deadlines and details about scholarships available can be found at warwick.ac.uk/philosophy/applyingtosudy/studymasters/funding/scholarships

Further information

- Further information about fees and funding, including scholarships available for MA students can be found on our fees and funding webpages: warwick.ac.uk/philosophy/applyingtosudy/studymasters/funding/scholarships
- Find out more detail about course courses and department by visiting our departmental website: warwick.ac.uk/philosophy
- Visit the university to get a feel for yourself. See warwick.ac.uk/pg/visits
- If you have any questions about your eligibility or about the application process, please don’t hesitate to get in touch with us at pgphilsec@warwick.ac.uk
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