Undergraduate Programmes
2016/17
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 techniques 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.

What’s more, all institutions in society are based on some philosophical concepts. From government to marriage; religion to industry; family to education - it 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. In the recent National Student Survey (NSS), 92% of students confirmed that our staff members are good at explaining things, and 88% found the course to be 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 a later page. 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 by taking a look at the ‘Philosophy of Mind’ and ‘Perception and Cognition’ modules that we offer. 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. The Honours level options ‘Joint Action’ and ‘Social Cognition’ allow you to study the results of this innovative research in depth.

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. You can learn from these scholars on such modules as ‘Hegel in Context’, ‘Sartre and Existentialism’, and ‘Genealogy and Critique of Neoliberalism: Foucault and Bataille’.

We are also well-known for the pioneering work being conducted in Philosophy of Photography and Philosophy of Literature. Both can be studied in detail by you at Honours level through optional modules. Research on these topics benefits from our close links with the Art History and English departments.
**Support**

You’ll have a personal tutor who will support you and give you advice on academic or personal matters. You’ll meet regularly 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 vibrant department life**

We’re a vibrant and diverse community of around two hundred undergraduate students, seventy postgraduate students studying for a Masters degree or PhD, and twenty two permanent members of academic staff. Beyond your course, you’ll find plenty of opportunities to engage with our community. We also host an extraordinary range and variety 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.

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**Izzy Beaumont**  
2nd year, BA Philosophy

“I chose philosophy at Warwick because of the high standard of lecturers, in terms of specialist research and teaching quality. Also, philosophy at Warwick sets itself apart from other courses due to the wide range of modules on offer, for example in areas such as aesthetics, political philosophy and Ancient Greek philosophy.

The course is suitably challenging but lecturers and teaching assistants are always more than happy to give help and support. New modules are offered each year, which increases variety and the likelihood of finding something really unique which grabs your interest!

One of the biggest considerations for me was Warwick’s (and specifically the philosophy department’s) amazing reputation. Belonging to a first class university and department really gives you pride in your learning and motivates you to push yourself.”
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 initially encounter philosophers including: Descartes and John Stuart Mill, covering areas including Metaphysics, Epistemology, Moral and Political Philosophy. Specific modules will familiarize you with the traditions of Logic, Analytic and Continental Philosophy. But they’ll also introduce you to key issues in Ancient Philosophy, History of Philosophy, Philosophy of Mind and Meaning and Communication.

What is the course structure?

BA Philosophy, BA Philosophy with Psychology, or BA Philosophy with Classical Civilisation. If you choose one of these programmes, there are further common core modules.

Week by week, tutorials in ‘Doing Philosophy’ will hone your ability to critically argue and complete well-structured analytical essays on philosophical readings. So you can master the fundamentals block by block. From reading well with understanding, outlining key concepts, detecting patterns of argument, and developing essay plans.

‘Elements of Scientific Method’ will familiarise you with the philosophical analysis of the status of science, its principles and real-world examples. This includes the likes of Popper and Kuhn; and induction and realism. You’ll examine assumptions and approaches of science, such as the concept of concrete data, and compare these with philosophical theories, positions and debate.

From here, your individual degree will begin to define the additional core modules that you add to this.

BA Philosophy offers you a most flexible and comprehensive Philosophy education. You’ll encounter Ancient philosophy, Philosophy in Practice (in which you’ll do your first philosophy project-based work in your first year), and Ethics and 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 means you’ll spend around a quarter of your time engaging with Psychology degree-level learning, as well as your philosophy. The specialised modules in ‘Philosophy of Mind’ 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 science and non-science, and even multidisciplinary perspective. Whilst you are by no means bound to limit your optional choices to this area of interest, you will find that the intense research interests that make us renowned for this specialism offer you a range of fresh, current modules that you won’t find elsewhere.
If **BA Philosophy with Classical Civilisation** is your choice, you’ll have 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** - don’t underestimate this course, by assuming it is simply a joint degree. Thanks to some very specific expertise built up by Warwick in research, teaching and course development in this area, your degree will be a coherent and custom designed course. At least 10% of your time will be spent on combined Philosophy and Literature modules. So, you will be incorporating combined areas such as aesthetics, textual studies and problems in Philosophy and Literature with relevant expertise offered by our well-reputed English department, as well as other aspects of Philosophy. You can shape your course from year one, choosing one of your modules from six options. You choose 60% of your modules in year two, and 75% of your modules in your final year.

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**Cat Padbury**  
Final year, BA Philosophy

"Warwick has been a fantastic place to study a broad range of philosophical disciplines. The Philosophy department is brilliant, as it offers such diverse modules. In my first year, the focus of the course was to study the foundations of Philosophy that would be used in the honours level modules. This included Ancient Philosophy, Logic I (which has been surprising useful!), Descartes and Mill, Issues in Philosophy and many more. In second year, very few of my modules were compulsory, and by third year I had full control of my options; this meant I could shape my degree however I wanted.

Some students choose to follow a specialised pathway throughout their course, others, like myself, have followed a wide variety of modules. Many students even opt to take a few modules from external departments. The freedom to structure your degree based on your interests, is something that I really love about the department here."

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If you want to wrestle with absolutely fundamental questions about the nature of existence, minds, objects, language, logic, space and time, then this degree is for you. 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, including Hegel, Nietzsche, Sartre, Russell, Wittgenstein, Gödel’s Incompleteness Theorems, Aesthetics, Feminism, Meaning, and Mind.

Our students benefit from some of the highest contact hours in the sector, and develop strong analytical and critical skills alongside the ability to integrate large bodies of information involving multiple perspectives.

The capacity to explain and argue persuasively in writing, presentations, and negotiations is something that is sought after by a wide variety of employers. In your first year, we provide you with a solid grounding in the art of philosophy and its history, and develop your familiarity with a range of philosophical questions. Intensive tutorial work in the first-year ‘Doing Philosophy’ module provides supervised engagement with the skills of close reading of complex texts and the preparation of well-crafted prose. Throughout your time with us, we’ll support you in developing your philosophical abilities.

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.

Examples of the range of undergraduate dissertations our students carried out in 2014/15

- Are intervening states that act out of national interest morally problematic for humanitarian intervention?
- Is Spinoza’s God really ‘God’?
- Critically assess the relationship between Eros and Philia in Plato’s ‘Dialogues’
- Should freedom of expression ever be sacrificed in the name of equality?
- A critical analysis of Singer’s argument for vegetarianism
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 the range of undergraduate dissertations our students carried out in 2014/15

- The extent of Misapplied Induction: An Essay in Philosophical Psychology
- Philosophy and the nature of erotic love in Plato’s Symposium
- Can the idea of a character be challenged?: A Philosophical Critique.

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 BPA approved and does not provide a route to clinical psychology.
“It is through wonder that men now begin and originally began to philosophise” Greek Philosopher, Aristotle, once quoted.

The degree is flexible in order to accommodate your interests in studying philosophy, but if you also want to learn 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 you will benefit from studying in two world-leading departments.

It is a flexible degree to accommodate your interests: at least a quarter of your degree will be devoted to classics, but you can always choose to do more classics if you wish. In addition, if you fancy a change you can take option modules in an entirely different subject.

Examples of the range of undergraduate dissertations our students carried out in 2014/15

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

Is virtue necessary for well-being?

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

Philosophy asks fundamental questions about the nature of reality, the meaning of human existence and the basis of knowledge. Studying philosophy at Warwick, you can select from a wide range of courses that cover ancient philosophy, epistemology, metaphysics and ethics.

You’re not required to have studied philosophy or classics, nor do we expect you to have knowledge of Latin or Greek.

You’ll acquire a range of skills and abilities that are highly marketable and much sought after by employers. Skills you’ll 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 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 the range of undergraduate dissertations our students carried out in 2014/15

- Phenomenological analysis in the philosophy of technology: Heidegger, Derrida and Stiegler
- ‘Gilles Deleuze and Felix Guattari’s Anti-Oedipus: ‘What is a desiring-machine?’
- Kant and Spinoza on Substance and Universals
- An examination of freedom within the philosophies of Nietzsche and Spinoza
- Is it possible to pursue human enhancement in an ethically responsible way?

Bringing philosophy and literature together in the classroom; this degree programme offers this special vantage point into both programmes. At key points in the degree you will be jointly taught by faculty from the Philosophy and the English 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.
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 - which perhaps explains why philosophy graduates are some of the most sought after graduates in the country.

Bebe Husakova  
BA Philosophy with Psychology (2014)

Since graduating, I have been working 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 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!
Can I Study Abroad?

Extend your horizons. Broaden your mind. See the world differently.

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 go on an Erasmus placement for a full academic year.

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. This means that students from any degree discipline can apply to study at one of these institutions for an intercalated year. [warwick.ac.uk/studyabroad](http://warwick.ac.uk/studyabroad)

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**Integrated country options**

**USA** - University of Wisconsin-Madison

**Canada** - Queen’s University in Ontario

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**Intercalated country options**

**Erasmus** - Our department has extensive partners in France, Spain, Italy, Germany, Netherlands, Austria, Denmark and more. Our Erasmus exchange gives you the opportunity to choose from among the finest universities in Europe in cities such as: Madrid, Dijon, Rome, Koln, Vienna and Copenhagen.

**Australia** - Monash University (three campuses in Melbourne, Australia; Bandar Sunway, Malaysia; Johannesburg, South Africa)

**Hong-Kong** - University of Hong Kong

**Japan** - If you’re interested in Japan, you can choose from options such as: University of Tokyo or Hokkaido University in the north of the country.

**China** - Xiamen University, Tsinghua University, Sun Yat-Sen University or Renmin University of China are all current options for students.

**South Korea** - Seoul National University

**Brazil** - Pontificial Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro

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**So, what are the benefits of studying abroad?**

On a personal level, you’ll gain invaluable skills that you can transfer to future study and career opportunities. You’ll grow as an individual in our global world and it’ll open your mind to new challenges and possibilities. Living life as a ‘local’ will give you a fresh view on culture; whilst conversing with academics and friends will develop your communication and networking skills. You’ll gain confidence and independence. You’ll have the chance to study different modules or subjects, allowing you to tailor your placement to your interests. Most importantly, you’ll expand your knowledge and be able to employ this to the rest of your degree when you return to Warwick.
“I spent the year at the University of Wisconsin, USA. My year abroad has been one of the best years of my life and I did not want to leave! It has been rewarding in ways that I did not even expect. I have learnt so much about myself and really grown as a person. I even had the chance to travel around the US; visiting 13 different states. I would definitely recommend studying abroad. I have had my eyes opened to a completely different way of teaching and learning, and know that this was the best thing I could have done for myself. I have met some of the most amazing people, and taken part in classes that I wouldn’t have been able to otherwise.”

Karina De-Bourne
Final Year, BA Philosophy
What do Warwick Philosophy graduates do?

Six months after graduating over 80% of 2013 Warwick students were in jobs (over 65%) and continued to study (17%).

Examples jobs of graduates include:
Account Manager, Assistant Researcher, Assistant Underwriter, Author Acquisitions Researcher, Computer specialist, Consulting Analyst, Disability Support Assistant, English Language Teacher, Events Organiser, Financial Assessor, Global Sourcing Manager, Graduate Trainee, Human Resources Assistant, Junior Managing Director, Junior Strategist, Lecturer in Philosophy, Legal Secretary, Local Government Officer, Marketing Co-ordinator, Project Assistant, Proof-reader, Public Relations Executive, Research Analyst, Tax Adviser, Teacher, Technology Consultant, Tour Guide, Tutor.

Companies where graduates were working include:

Courses graduates progressed onto included:

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 began 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.

Conlan Day
Communications Business Partner
at Atos IT Services
What do Warwick Philosophy graduates do?

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 91.7% 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

Chris Manley
Senior Careers Consultant

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:

- 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.
- 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.
- 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 module 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.

How will I be assessed?

Modules are assessed through a mix of exams and essays, and you’ll get extensive feedback to help you progress. You will have ‘non-assessed essays’ which are compulsory assessments, but they will not necessarily contribute marks to your overall grade. However, these assessments will provide you with invaluable feedback to ensure that you are accustoming yourself to what is required from your degree, whilst providing you with ideas about how to develop your style and skills. Exams and assessed essays will contribute to overall grades. Particularly in later years, you will find that there will sometimes be modules where you can choose your method of assessment: whether this is by exam, or assessed essay.

Tutorials are normally no larger than five students and you will typically be expected to write an essay or another piece of work for these, which will then form the basis for discussion. Modules such as ‘Doing Philosophy’ will be delivered through tutorials with close advice and guidance whilst you undertake problem based learning.

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 takes time and practice to become good at it.

The most important resources you have for your study are human resources – your fellow students, your personal tutor, and the lecturers and seminar leaders responsible for the modules you take.
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 support your academic development throughout your course, and you will meet regularly, discussing aspects such as 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 tutors

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 in terms of specific essays and assignments.

The Director of Student Experience and Progression (DSEP)

The DSEP will provide additional tailored, building on support offered by your personal tutor. This might be 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’ll help you develop skills to find what you’re looking for quickly, and they’ll 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. So you will develop your academic reading, essay writing, exam technique, critical thinking and presentation skills. We also offer specific sessions for second and third years. Warwick also offers the Undergraduate Skills Programme and Academic Writing Programme to help you perfect a range of skills and develop yourself further.

Student mentors

When you arrive, you will receive a mentor who is an existing student on the same 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 you may have. New students very much appreciate knowing that there is another student who is willing to share their experiences with them in this way.

Warwick Philosophy Society

Warwick Philosophy Society provides academic support, as well as discussions and talks, plus socials. You can expect a friendly welcome from the PhilSoc members, whether you’re a regular or you just fancy popping in to see how they can help you.
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 vibrant and 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 14/15.

Antonia Roberts
3rd year, BA Philosophy and Literature

Whether you are sporty, musical or perhaps seemingly lacking in any specific talent (don’t worry I’m also the latter), there is a society for you at Warwick. With the vast range of choice it may seem a little daunting knowing which ones to join, but the society fair at the beginning of fresher’s week is a great way to get an insight into what different societies have to offer.

I joined the society for my course, Philosophy and Literature, which was a great opportunity to meet more people on my course across the different years and to get involved with academic and social aspects of the society. I highly recommend joining your course society as you never know how it and its members might be able to help you! I also joined Oxfam society first year and have recently been getting more involved with the animal ethics society and I have been loving both.

Read Antonia’s blog at: studentblogs.warwick.ac.uk/philosophy

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**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:

*‘Philosophy of Food’* – at this interdisciplinary workshop researchers and practitioners shared diverse expertise relevant to what is at stake when people gather to eat.

*‘The Ethics of Self-Cultivation in Hellenic and Contemporary Philosophy’* - this conference is part of a project run jointly between graduate students at Warwick and Monash, in Australia.

*MindGrad 2014* - this is the world’s leading conference for postgraduate students in the philosophy of mind.

*“A Person’s a Person, No Matter How Small”: Children’s Literature and Ethics* - this interdisciplinary event answered a question of central importance to human life. The area is one which shapes much of our thinking and professional practice concerning child-adult interaction and pedagogical philosophies.

**Join the undergraduate research community**

Imagine securing a bursary to carry out a research project of your choosing during your summer holidays whilst at university. At Warwick undergraduate students can apply for a [Warwick Undergraduate Research Scheme](warwick.ac.uk/urss).

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](http://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](http://warwick.ac.uk/iatl/reinvention)
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.

- We won’t see which other courses and Universities you have 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 student.blogs.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 2015 entry:

BA Philosophy, BA Philosophy with Psychology, BA Philosophy with Classical Civilisation: A level AAB/IB 36

BA Philosophy and Literature: A level AAB including English Literature A level. IB 36 including 6 in HL English Literature

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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