Programme Specification

Philosophy (2019-20)

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Master of Arts (MA)
Name of award	Philosophy
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate in Higher Education
	Postgraduate Diploma in Higher Education
FHEQ level of final award	Level 7
UCAS code	
Programme code	4240
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Master's Degree Characteristics 2016
Programme Lead	Aaron Ridley

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The programme can be studied Part Time (4241).

Combining a thorough grounding in philosophy at postgraduate level with an exceptional range of options, the MA Philosophy offers a unique opportunity for advanced work in the subject. Whether you are simply intending to build on your undergraduate studies or planning to pursue advanced research, this programme has been designed to meet your needs. The range of specialised modules reflects the broad spectrum of research interests represented by our philosophers. Following core modules devoted to classic philosophical texts and research skills, you also have available a wide range of optional modules and individually negotiated topics.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

Compulsory MA modules are seminar-based. While the course tutor will be leading the discussion, active student participation in the form of student presentations, discussion and engagement are a requirement. Seminars are

in small groups that facilitate discussion and student learning. In option modules students have considerable freedom in agreeing with their supervisor the topics they wish to study.

Assessment

A variety of different assessment methods are used to ensure that students are able to hone both their oral and written skills: presentation, commentary, assessed essay, bibliographical analysis etc. This will equip students with the necessary skills for further advanced work in philosophy or their chosen career.

Special Features of the programme

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

The aims of the programme are to:

·   provide you with an understanding of central areas of philosophy and of the concepts, arguments and positions of major philosophers in the Western tradition
·   enable you to develop the discipline-specific and key skills required for further study and/or employment
·   encourage you to think critically, develop the ability to learn independently and remain receptive to fresh ideas and approaches

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1.   particular areas of philosophy and of the work of specific philosophers in the Western tradition, past and present

A2.   the problems of main areas of philosophy and of the interconnections between them

A3.   the wide range of techniques of philosophical reasoning

A4.   how to undertake independent research with appropriate supervision

Teaching and Learning Methods

·   At MA level, Philosophy employs a variety of teaching methods, including seminars, course-specific Research Skills tasks and individual consultation, so as to facilitate a progressively deeper understanding of the discipline, develop discipline-specific and key skills and progressively foster independent learning. Seminars are intended, in particular, to deepen your understanding of the issues

raised by your own reading through group discussion. The teaching associated with dissertations is provided through individual supervision, which promotes and reflects the self-directed character of study appropriate to postgraduate work. Philosophy recognizes that, although most MA students are recent philosophy graduates, some are graduates of related disciplines and some are returning to education after a long break. The design of our postgraduate curricula attempts to accommodate the needs of this diverse population.

·   The compulsory modules of the MA programme provide a thorough foundation that is intended to build on and deepen whatever prior knowledge and understanding you have already acquired.

·   All MA students take a compulsory module in research skills designed to equip you with the skills required to write an MA dissertation and for any further postgraduate work you may undertake in philosophy.

·   A wide range of optional modules, offered by Philosophy and by other disciplines within the Faculty of Humanities, allows you to build on the foundation provided by the compulsory modules in ways determined by your own particular interests.

·   Compulsory modules and optional modules are taught by members of staff with an active research interest in the areas covered, so that you receive the specialist, in-depth tuition appropriate to your level of study.

Assessment Methods

·   Assessment procedures play an integral role in the teaching and learning process, and are designed to assess your knowledge and understanding of the material studied, as well as your competence in key and discipline- specific skills. Explicit criteria for assessment are included in the Discipline's and Faculty's MA handbooks.

·   The Research Skills module is assessed by specific course-work tasks, including giving presentations, preparing bibliographies, writing a structured essay and dissertation proposals. The other compulsory modules are assessed by essay and presentation; individually negotiated topics are assessed by essay; and optional modules are assessed by a range of methods, including essay, exam, and class presentation.

·   Summative Assessment - Summative assessment is the assessment which determines whether you pass individual modules and your overall degree result. All modules are subject to summative assessment at the end of the semester in which they are taught, and in some cases there is an element of summative coursework assessment in addition. Assessed essays test your abilities to interpret and engage critically with difficult texts, to analyse and synthesise material, and to construct and develop arguments. The dissertation tests your ability to study independently and to construct extended arguments of your own.

·   Formative Assessment - Formative assessment performs the vital function of letting you know how your learning is progressing. (Formative assessment does not directly affect whether you pass individual modules or your overall degree result.) Formative assessment takes place throughout the curriculum. In your weekly seminars, you will receive feedback on your understanding of the issues raised by your own reading. You will receive written feedback on assessed essays and written and oral feedback on dissertation work-in-progress. These measures constitute our best efforts to ensure sufficient and timely feedback.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1.   Interpret and criticise complex text and positions that have figured in debates in philosophy

B2.   Identify and analyse philosophical problems

B3.   Articulate, present and debate philosophical ideas, both orally and in writing, in an open-minded but rigorous way

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities designed to enhance the above skills are integrated into all elements teaching. Activities particularly important for their enhancement are:

- giving presentations on the philosophical texts that are required reading for your modules
- reading and analysing those texts
- active participation in the philosophical debate that will be central to your module seminars
- writing, and receiving formative assessment on, your essays on the philosophical issues to be studied
- writing, and receiving formative assessment on, your dissertation
- compulsory Research Skills module
· lecture attendance and note-taking
· preparing for and sitting exams in some optional modules

Assessment Methods

Methods designed to assess the above skills are integrated into all elements of assessment. Methods particularly important for their assessment are:

- Methods designed to assess the above skills are integrated into all elements of assessment. Methods particularly important for their assessment are:
- assessed essays, which test your ability to interpret and engage critically with difficult philosophical texts, to analyse and synthesise philosophical ideas, and to construct and develop philosophical arguments
- presentations and seminar performance, which allow us to assess and provide feedback on the development of your capacity to interpret, analyse and criticise the philosophical texts, problems and positions under debate
· On some optional modules, an exam
- the 20,000 word dissertation, which tests your ability to construct extended philosophical arguments of your own

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1.   identify and analyse ideas

C2.   present and debate ideas, both orally and in writing

C3.   undertake, with appropriate supervision, independent work

C4.   identify and use appropriate resources,

C5.   work effectively to deadlines

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities designed to enhance the above skills are integrated into all elements of teaching.

Assessment Methods

- assessed essay, which test your ability to present and debate ideas in writing. to work effectively to deadlines and to identify and use appropriate resources
- 20,000 word dissertation, which tests your ability to study independently. to present and debate ideas in writing, to work effectively to deadlines and to identify and use appropriate resources
- presentations and seminar performance, which allow us to assess and provide feedback on the development of your ability to present and debate ideas, both orally and in writing

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Where optional modules have been specified, the following is an indicative list of available optional modules, which are subject to change each academic year. Please note in some instances modules have limited spaces available.

Part I

Programme details:

The programme is normally studied over one year full-time, but may also be taken on a part-time basis for a period of two years.

The programme consists of seven modules with a dissertation for those progressing to the MA. All compulsory modules are worth 15 ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)/30 CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme). The 20,000 word dissertation is weighted at 37.5 ECTS (75 CATS) and thus the programme as a whole comprises a total of 90 ECTS (180 CATS) credits. Students who successfully complete four taught modules, are eligible for a Postgraduate Certificate of the University of Southampton..

Students may, in consultation with the convenor, also choose modules offered by other Humanities MAs.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL6053	Mind, Knowledge and Reality	7.5	Compulsory
PHIL6048	Philosophy Individually Negotiated Topic 1	7.5	Compulsory
PHIL6049	Philosophy Individually Negotiated Topic 2	7.5	Compulsory
PHIL6052	Research Skills in Philosophy	7.5	Compulsory
PHIL6054	The Philosophy of Value	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL6051	Philosophy Dissertation	37.5	Core

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL6063	Action, Reason and Ethics	7.5	Optional
PHIL6056	Advanced Aesthetics: Aesthetic Creativity	7.5	Optional
PHIL6068	Classical Indian Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PHIL6069	Happiness and Wellbeing	7.5	Optional
PHIL6067	Heidegger	7.5	Optional
PHIL6061	Islamic Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PHIL6062	Nietzsche	7.5	Optional
PHIL6055	Other Minds	7.5	Optional
PHIL6060	Philosophy of Mathematics	7.5	Optional
PHIL6064	Puzzles and Paradoxes	7.5	Optional
PHIL6065	Schopenhauer	7.5	Optional
PHIL6057	Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme follows the University's regulations for *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results : Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes* and *Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Postgraduate Master's Programmes* as set out in the University Calendar: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:
- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides
- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

The University provides:

·   library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources
·   high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
·   computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
·   standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
·   access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
·   IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated

helpdesk in the Student Services Centre

·   Enabling Services offering assessment and support facilities (including specialist IT support) if you have a disability, dyslexia, mental health issue or specific learning difficulties

·   the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas and ID cards

·   Career Destinations, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV

·   a range of personal support services : mentoring, counselling, residence support service, chaplaincy, health service

·   a Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides:

·   an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; Students' Union provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.

·   opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering

·   an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal

·   Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

·   Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme

·   Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff: Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feed back on your behalf.

·   Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation

·   Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

·   National Student Survey

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

·   Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty

·   Programme validation, normally every five years.

·   External examiners, who produce an annual report

·   A National Research Assessment Exercise (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)

·   Higher Education Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality Handbook.*

Career Opportunities

Our MA programme provides you with the skills to pursue further advanced work in philosophy, but also enables you to develop transferable skills that can effectively be applied in whatever career you choose. Philosophy graduates possess in-depth critical thinking, rhetorical and analytical skills that are invaluable to any employer.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Dr Kristoffer Hans Ahlstrom-Vij - University of Kent

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Software Licenses	All software is provided
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device.
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	All laboratory equipment and materials are provided.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	Where possible, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing/

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.