Programme Specification

Academic Year 2017-18
MA PHILOSOPHY

Programme Code: 4240 (Full Time); **4241** (Part Time)

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 or Part time is permitted
Duration in years	1 year (full time) or 2 years (part time)
Accreditation details	Not applicable
Final award	Master of Arts
Name of award	MA Philosophy
Interim Exit awards	Postgraduate Certificate
FHEQ level of final award	HE7
UCAS code	Not applicable
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	QAA Masters Degree Characteristics (2010)
Programme Lead	Prof Christopher Janaway
Date specification was written	30/01/2004
Date specification was last updated	June 2017

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

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, you can take an established pathway in Aesthetics or Nineteenth Century German Philosophy, or choose a pick-and-mix approach.

Learning and teaching

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.

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

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate 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, commentary and presentation; and the optional modules are assessed by essay.
- 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. 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

Having successfully completed 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

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
- the 20,000 word dissertation, which tests your ability to construct extended philosophical arguments of your own

Transferable and Generic Skills

Having successfully completed 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

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 four modules with a dissertation for those progressing to the MA. Three of the modules are compulsory; all compulsory modules are worth 15 ECTS (European Credit Transfer Scheme)/30 CATS (Credit Accumulation and Transfer Scheme). The other an option module is worth 7.5 ECTS/15 CATS credits. 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 the four taught modules, but who fail to submit a dissertation are eligible for a Diploma of the University of Southampton.

Availability of Modules

The information contained in programme specification is correct at the time it was published. Typically, around a quarter of optional modules do not run due to low interest or unanticipated changes in staff availability. If we do have insufficient numbers of students interested in an optional module, this may not be offered. If an optional module will not be run, we will advise you as soon as possible and help you choose an alternative module.

Full-time students complete the programme in one year, as follows:

Compulsory modules		Credits
PHIL6048	Individually Negotiated Topic 1	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL6049	Individually Negotiated Topic 2	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL6052	Research Skills in Philosophy	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL6053	Mind, Knowledge and Reality	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL6054	The Philosophy of Value	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
Core modules		
PHIL6051	Dissertation	37.5 ECTS (75 CATS)
Optional modules		
PHIL3007	Nietzsche	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3009	Heidegger	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3011	Kierkegaard	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3020	Philosophy of Mathematics	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3034	Philosophy of Sex	

PHIL3037	Wittgenstein's Later Philosophy	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3038	The Ethics of Belief	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3041	Happiness and Wellbeing	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3042	Fiction and Fictionalism	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3047	Schopenhauer	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3048	Scepticism	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3049	Puzzles and Paradoxes	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3050	Advanced Aesthetics: Aesthetic Creativity	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)
PHIL3051	Other Minds	7.5 ECTS (15 CATS)

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

Additional costs

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. Costs that students registered for this programme typically also have to pay for are included in Appendix 2.

Progression Requirements

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

Intermediate exit points (where available)

You will be eligible for an interim exit award if you complete part of the programme but not all of it, as follows:

Qualification	Minimum overall credit in ECTS credits	Minimum ECTS credits required at level of award
Postgraduate Certificate	at least 30	20

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 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
- Postgraduate Taught Experience 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

Criteria for admission

University Commitment

The University will at all times seek to operate admissions regulations that are fair and are in accordance with the law of the United Kingdom, and the University's Charter, Statutes, Ordinances and Regulations.

This includes specific compliance with legislation relating to discrimination (e.g. Equality Act 2010) and the University's Equal Opportunities Policy Statement. This includes a commitment that the University will:

- actively assist groups that experience disadvantage in education and employment to benefit from belonging to the University

- actively seek to widen participation to enable students that do not traditionally participate in Higher Education to do so;

- ensure that admission procedures select students fairly and appropriately according to their academic ability and that the procedure is monitored and regularly reviewed.

Entry Requirements

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Qualification	Grade/GPA	Subjects requirements	Specific requirements
Honours degree or equivalent	First- or upper second-class	Philosophy or a relevant subject	

Mature applicants
Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

If you are over 21 and feel you would benefit from degree-level studies, we can be more flexible about our entry requirements. For full-time courses, selectors will expect you to demonstrate your commitment by means of some recent serious study, for example, one or two A level passes, successful completion of an Open University foundation course or an appropriate Access course. Your application will be considered on individual merit and you may be asked to attend an interview.

More information on the entry requirements for MA Philosophy can be found on the Philosophy webpage here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/philosophy/v500_ma_philosophy.page

For further information, please contact our Admissions Team: pgafh@southampton.ac.uk

The University's Admission policy is available at
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/studentadmin/admissions/admissionspolicies/policy/

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)
The University has a **Recognition of Prior Learning Policy**
Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
7.0	6.5	7.0	6.5	6.5

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 Examiners(s) for the programme

Name Dr Hans Kristoffer Ahlstrom-Vij
Institution 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 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 (or other appropriate guide) or online at
http://www.southampton.ac.uk/humanities/postgraduate/taught_courses/taught_courses/philosophy/v500_ma_philosophy.page? .

Appendix:

Learning outcomes and Assessment Mapping document template

Module Code	Module Title	Subject Specific Intellectual Skills						
		A1	A2	A3	A4	B1	B2	B3
PHIL6051	Dissertation	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6048	INT 1	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6049	INT 2	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6052	Research Skills in Philosophy	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6053	Mind, Knowledge and Reality	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6054	The Philosophy of Value	x	x	x	x	x	x	x

Module Code	Module Title	Transferable/Key Skills				
		C1	C2	C3	C4	C5
PHIL6051	Dissertation	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6048	INT 1	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6049	INT 2	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6052	Research Skills in Philosophy	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6053	Mind, Knowledge and Reality	x	x	x	x	x
PHIL6054	The Philosophy of Value	x	x	x	x	x

Module Code	Module Title	Coursework 1	Coursework 2	Exam
PHIL6051	Dissertation	20,000 word dissertation **100%**	n/a	n/a
PHIL6048	INT 1	4,000 word essay **100%**	n/a	n/a
PHIL6049	INT 2	4,000 word essay **100%**	n/a	n/a
PHIL6052	Research Skills in Philosophy	1,500 word essay **40%**	500 words research proposal **20%**	1,500 words bibliographical analysis **40%**
PHIL6053	Mind, Knowledge and Reality	15 minutes presentation **20%**	3,000 words essay **80%**	n/a
PHIL6054	The Philosophy of Value	15 minutes presentation **20%**	3,000 words essay **80%**	n/a

Appendix 2:

Additional Costs

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 typically also have to pay for:

- Books and Stationery Equipment (such as Lab equipment, Field Equipment, Art equipment, Recording Equipment, stethoscopes, fob watch, Excavation equipment, Approved Calculators)
- Materials (such as laboratory materials, textbooks, drawing paper, fabric, thread, computer disks, Sheet Music)
- Software Licenses
- Clothing (such as Protective Clothing, Lab Coats, specific shoes and trousers)
- Printing and Photocopying Costs (such as Printing coursework for submission, Printing and binding dissertations or theses, Academic Poster (A1) printing).
- Typing Costs
- Field Trips (including accommodation costs for the field trips)
- Work Experience and Placements (including accommodation costs near the placement, additional insurance costs)
- Travel Costs for placements, field trips and to and from the University and various campus locations (including travel insurance).
- Paying for immunisation and vaccination costs before being allowed to attend placements.
- Obtaining Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance Subsistence Costs
- Paying for a Music accompanist
- Translation of birth certificates (for programmes abroad)
- Conference expenses
- Professional exams
- Parking costs (including on placements at hospitals)
- Replacing lost student ID cards
- Other activities (e.g. visiting specialist marine stations and other institutions)
- Costs of attending a graduation ceremony (e.g. hiring a gown for graduation).

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.