



University of  
BRISTOL

Erasmus+ Study Guide  
2019/20  
Philosophy



## **Department of Philosophy**

### **GUIDE FOR INCOMING ERASMUS STUDENTS 2019-20**

#### Welcome to the Department

The Bristol Philosophy Department is a warm and welcoming place, and we are delighted to accept ERASMUS students.

The Philosophy Department is in Cotham House, a grand old mansion full of wood panels and stained glass. It has a common room where philosophy students can meet, a library with a piano and a kitchen. Some classes are taught in Cotham House itself, and the rest are usually taught in nearby Woodland Road or Priory Road. We have many extra-curricular activities, including events organised by the undergraduate philosophy society. If you have any questions about units or the department, we are happy for you to contact us ahead of your visit. The contact person for Erasmus students is Dr Joanna Burch-Brown ([jb12159@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:jb12159@bristol.ac.uk)).

#### Academic Calendar and Structure

The year is split into two teaching blocks. The first, TB1 ('teaching block 1'), runs from September to January, with exams taken in January after the Christmas break. The second (TB2) runs from January to June, with a 3-week holiday over Easter and exams at the end of the semester. Erasmus students are welcome for both terms. See [www.bristol.ac.uk/university/dates](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/university/dates) for precise dates. The Global Opportunities team can tell you more about arrival dates and application deadlines ([global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk))

Most philosophy units involve 1-2 lectures and 1 seminar every week. Lectures can range in size from 12 to 200 students. Seminars are typically no more than 12-15 students.

You are expected to take a total of 60 credits (= 30 ECTS) during one semester in Bristol.

## Assessment

Classes are assessed in a variety of ways. Usually the assessment will be by an exam, or essay, or a combination of the two. A standard exam format would be a 3-hour, written examination, in which you write 3 short essays, chosen from 8 possible topics (allowing 1 hour per question). A standard essay format might ask you to write 2,000 words on a question of your choice, from a list of possible essay titles.

For some classes the assessment will also involve student presentations. Other classes also require submission of weekly on-line journal entries.

Many classes require students to write a 'formative' essay or complete an alternative formative assessment (which must be passed but doesn't contribute to your final grade).

## Units and Credits

There are no pre-requisites for philosophy units, but we do recommend that students only take courses they are suitable for. In practice this means that students who have not studied philosophy before will be expected to take entry-level units in philosophy.

In addition, philosophy of maths and advanced logic courses may be unsuitable for students without a background in philosophy, mathematical, or formal disciplines. We can meet with you when you arrive in Bristol and discuss which units are the most suitable for you. Please get in touch with Dr Joanna Burch-Brown at [jb12159@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:jb12159@bristol.ac.uk) in advance if you have concerns. Once you have decided which units you would like to take, please email your completed Learning Agreement to the Global Opportunities team: [global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk](mailto:global-opportunities@bristol.ac.uk)

Some units are offered every year, but it is possible that unit availability (especially in third year units) can change. The latest information can be found here: <https://www.bris.ac.uk/unit-programme-catalogue/UnitsForDept.jsa?orgCode=PHIL&ayrCode=19%2F20>

When reading the unit catalogue please note that 1<sup>st</sup> year undergraduate units are listed as 'level C', 2<sup>nd</sup> year units as 'level I', and 3<sup>rd</sup> year units as 'level H'. ('M' refers to masters-level postgraduate courses, which are not available to ERASMUS students.)

## Department policy for Erasmus students from other areas wishing to take units.

Erasmus students from other academic departments are welcome to take units with us, if we have sufficient space on those units and the student has the appropriate background studies.

### English Language Skills

If you need to develop your academic English language skills, you can take optional units at CELFS (the Centre for English Language and Foundation Studies). These units focus on listening and speaking, reading and writing, and advanced grammar. Visit the [CELFS website to register for these units.](#)

### Departmental contact information

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