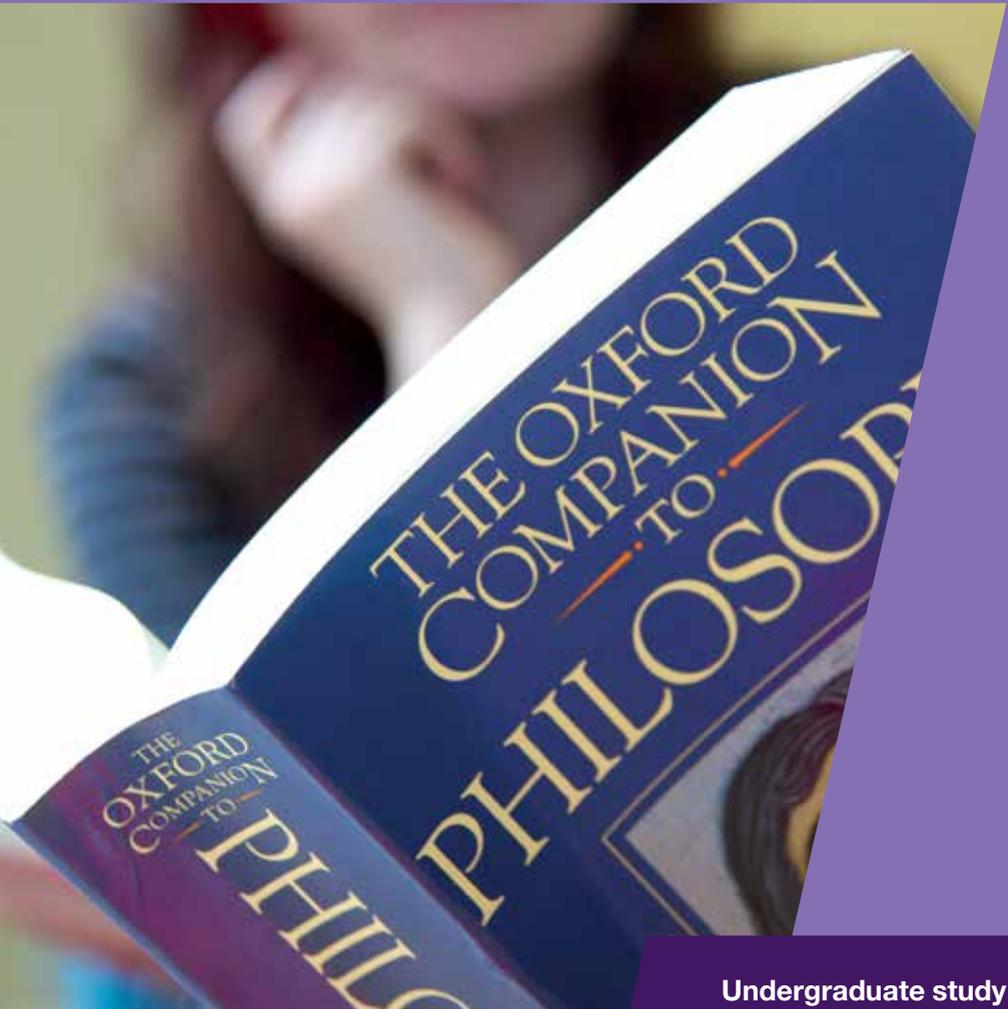


Philosophy



Undergraduate study

Courses

Single Honours

BA Philosophy
three years V500

Joint Honours

BA English and Philosophy
three years QV35

BA Philosophy and French
four years RV15

BA Philosophy and German
four years RV25

BA Philosophy and Italian
four years RV35

BA Philosophy and Portuguese
four years RV55

BA Philosophy and Russian
four years RV75

BA Philosophy and Spanish
four years RV45

BA Philosophy and Theology
three years VV56

BSc Mathematics and Philosophy
three years VG51

BSc Philosophy and Economics
three years VL51

**BSc Philosophy and Economics
with Study Abroad**
four years*

BSc Philosophy and Politics
three years VL52

BSc Physics and Philosophy
three years FV35

BSc Sociology and Philosophy
three years LV35

MSci Mathematics and Philosophy
four years GV15

MSci Physics and Philosophy
four years FVH5

*Entry by transfer

Why study philosophy at Bristol?

Philosophy is not a subject with a body of truths or theories to learn but an activity in which you engage when trying to answer very general, abstract questions. Moral issues such as abortion and euthanasia prompt philosophical debate, as do theoretical discussions about the nature of time or consciousness. Philosophy begins with questions like these; they have a common feature.

Although other disciplines such as psychology, sociology and physics may provide relevant facts, they cannot provide the answers to such questions. Indeed, much of philosophy is concerned with basic, sometimes implicit assumptions made in these subjects. If these issues appeal and you find satisfaction in reasoned argument, you may want to study philosophy.

Bristol's Department of Philosophy is very strong academically, with an established reputation for excellence in teaching and research. It is one of the largest philosophy departments in the UK and all our academics are active researchers. Areas of special strength include philosophy of mind and language, ethics, political philosophy, logic and philosophical logic, philosophy of mathematics and philosophy of science (especially biology and physics). The department is largely based within the 'analytic' tradition in philosophy, but some continental philosophy is taught (eg Schopenhauer, Nietzsche, Heidegger and Sartre).

'It took time for me to understand the value of studying something as abstract and non-specific as philosophy - eventually I realised that my degree had given me an open mind, the ability to think critically and rationally, and to understand and coherently explain complicated concepts.'

Amy (BA Philosophy)

This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2019. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (June 2018). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, bristol.ac.uk/ug-study, for the latest updates.

What will you study?

Our philosophy courses offer you both depth and breadth in three or four years of exciting and challenging study.

Our first-year units introduce you to philosophy and its methods. You will gain a basic knowledge of some of the fundamental problems of metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and political philosophy, and a competence in both formal and informal logic. You can also choose from a range of optional units, introducing you to some of the central texts in the history of philosophy, for example Aristotle's *Nicomachean Ethics* or John Stuart Mill's *On Liberty*.

In the second year you will take one mandatory unit, giving you a solid grounding in some of the central issues of analytic philosophy, and you can choose from a wide range of optional units to broaden your knowledge. Current options include:

- Aesthetics
- Ethics
- Political Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Language

- Philosophy of the Natural and Social Sciences
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Mind
- Schopenhauer and Nietzsche.

By the final year you will be in a position to specialise and undertake independent study. Final-year optional units are usually focused on the current research interests of staff. Recent units offered include:

- Kant's Theoretical Philosophy
- Ethics and Literature
- Philosophy of Biology
- Probability and Rationality
- Philosophy of Physics
- Death, Dying and Disease
- Environmental Ethics
- Truth
- Global Justice
- Philosophy of Mathematics.

Teaching methods

Contact hours vary each academic year but your contact time with academics will mainly be during lectures, seminars, tutorials and problem classes. A certain amount of one-to-one teaching is delivered during essay feedback sessions and extended essay supervision.

Assessment

Assessment is by a combination of examinations, coursework and final-year extended essays.



'The lovely thing about philosophy at Bristol is the size of the course and department. It's the perfect mix between being large enough to have lots of friends, and small enough to feel close to the lecturers and students.'

Emily (BA Philosophy)

'Studying philosophy leaves me with wide-ranging career options, so whatever I choose to do I know I'll have a strong grounding in academic evaluation and the ability to unpick arguments and think more widely about issues.'

Lucy (BA Philosophy)



Careers and graduate destinations

The skills that arts students traditionally bring to the workplace are valued in every part of the employment market. Our students go on to succeed in careers as diverse as the subjects they study here – commerce, tech start-ups, law, accountancy, theatre, museums, publishing, the charity sector, journalism, politics, education and international relations, as well as sectors not immediately associated with arts disciplines, such as engineering and IT.

The Bristol Skills Framework enables our students to recognise their development in academic writing, problem solving, group work and individual and group presenting. We will equip you with the tools to market your skills, your achievement and your potential in whatever career path you choose to pursue after you graduate.

Philosophy students acquire a significant package of analytical skills that prepares them for a wide range of careers. Many employers value the flexibility of thought, the capacity for marshalling arguments in a coherent and compelling manner, and the ability to think and write clearly that philosophy tends to foster.

Our recent graduates include those who have entered law, accountancy, computing, commerce and industry, the civil service, media and journalism. Others take their studies in philosophy or related subjects further. A number of well-known professional philosophers were once students at Bristol.

The University of Bristol has one of the best employment records in the UK. We are rated sixth in the UK in the QS Graduate Employability Rankings 2018 and are the fourth most targeted university by top UK graduate employers (High Fliers Research 2018).

Making your application

Typical offer for BA Philosophy*

Visit bristol.ac.uk/ug19-philosophy for Joint Honours and other qualifications.

A-levels AAA (contextual ABB[†]).

IB Diploma 36 points overall (contextual 32[†]) to include 18 points at Higher Level (contextual 16[†]).

English Language profile B^{††}

GCSEs Higher numeracy requirement (B in GCSE Mathematics or equivalent).

[†]For information on contextual offers, visit bristol.ac.uk/contextual-offers.

^{††}For details of English language profiles, visit bristol.ac.uk/ug-language-requirements.

Selection UCAS or Common Application.

*The typical offer is indicative only and the University accepts a wide range of qualifications. The information is correct at the time of printing (June 2018); however, we recommend you check the University's website for the most up-to-date information: bristol.ac.uk/ug-study.

We are looking for students who demonstrate a genuine interest in the central problems of philosophy. Since the subject is not widely taught at A-level, this usually means students who have sought out and read some books about philosophy on their own initiative.

Some indication of the sorts of questions that interest you and have led you to want to study philosophy, and the reading you have done outside the school curriculum to satisfy this interest is likely to impress selectors.

Further information

Find out more about the Department of Philosophy: bristol.ac.uk/philosophy.



Contact us

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If you have any questions about courses, applications or any aspect of being a UK or international student at Bristol please contact the Enquiries Team.

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bristol.ac.uk/disability-services

University guide to the city of Bristol

bristol.ac.uk/citybristol

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