



University of  
**BRISTOL**

**Undergraduate study**

# Philosophy



## Key highlights



### Renowned department

With one of the country's largest philosophy departments, distinguished staff and an active research culture, Bristol is ranked 8th in the UK for the subject (QS World University Rankings, 2020).



### Course choice

We offer a wide range of philosophy courses, each with exciting optional units. As well as single honours BA Philosophy, you can combine the subject with economics, English, mathematics, politics, physics, sociology, theology or a modern language.



### Interdisciplinary learning

Our joint honours courses span three faculties, meaning you will study alongside students from a variety of disciplines. Our courses engage with other subjects from literary aesthetics to physics.

[bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study)

## Why study philosophy at Bristol?

Philosophy questions everyday assumptions and enquires into the foundations of the natural and social sciences. At Bristol you will learn the basics of logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy, and will be able to explore your own interests through special units and independent research.

The department is largely based within the 'analytic' tradition in philosophy, but some continental philosophy is taught. 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).

### What you will 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, as well as a competence in both formal and informal logic. You can also choose from a range of optional units.

In the second year you will take one mandatory unit in realism and normativity, and you can choose from a wide range of optional units to broaden your knowledge. You may also have the opportunity to spend a semester studying abroad at one of our worldwide partners.

By the final year you will be in a position to specialise and undertake independent study, with optional units usually focused on current staff research interests.

We distinguish between summative and formative assessment. Marks for some coursework essays are for formative purposes only and do not count towards your mark for the course. Your final degree class depends on your second- and third-year summative assessments.

Sample units may include:

- Virtue and Well-Being
- Evil, Deviance and Crime
- Probability and Rationality
- The Social Epistemology of the Internet
- Philosophical Issues of the Physical Sciences.

'My degree has provided me with the conceptual tools and breadth of knowledge to build up – and continue to develop – a strong, critical and well-informed understanding of the world.'

**Sasha** (BA Philosophy)



Our academics and students are regularly involved in philosophy education outreach events and projects with the general public, thanks to strong links with schools and community groups across the city.



The department's allotment, known as the 'Kierkegaard', is maintained by students and academics – encouraging discussion around ethics of the environment as well as providing delicious food.



Extend your discussions outside the classroom with like-minded friends in the Philosophy Society. There's also a society for Physics and Philosophy students, Paradox, and science-based debates in Paradigm.



The analytical skills you'll gain at Bristol – as well as flexibility of thought, the capacity to develop coherent and compelling arguments, and the ability to think and write clearly – will prepare you for a wide range of careers or further study.

## Find out more

Entry requirements, course structure and units  
[bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-philosophy](https://bristol.ac.uk/ug2021-philosophy)

# Courses

BA Philosophy

BA English and Philosophy

BA Philosophy and French / German / Italian / Portuguese / Russian / Spanish

BA Philosophy and Theology

BSc / MSci Mathematics and Philosophy

BSc Philosophy and Economics /

BSc Philosophy and Economics with Study Abroad

BSc Philosophy and Politics

BSc / MSci Physics and Philosophy

BSc Sociology and Philosophy

## Connect with the Department of Philosophy

 @PhilATBristol

### Photography

Dan Rowley, Bristol City Council

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This leaflet contains information for students planning to start university in autumn 2021. We have made every effort to ensure all details are correct at the time of going to press (May 2020). However, since this information is subject to change, you are advised to check the University's website, [bristol.ac.uk/ug-study](http://bristol.ac.uk/ug-study) for the latest updates. Any sample units listed are indicative and offerings may change due to developments in the relevant academic field. Unit availability varies depending on staffing, student choice and timetabling constraints.

