ETHICS
GOOD & EVIL
EMOTION
EDUCATION
LIFE & DEATH
KNOWLEDGE
LANGUAGE
SELF & SOCIETY

PHILOSOPHY: THINK ABOUT IT
“I chose Sheffield to study philosophy ultimately because the welcoming, positive and exciting atmosphere of the department really stuck out amongst other universities - and it has definitely not disappointed! Having staff that really are prominent researchers in their field but who are also extremely friendly and encouraging is what has driven me to really push further in my studies to achieve the good marks I have, but more importantly this has enabled my studies to be genuinely fascinating.” - Sabina Wantoch – Philosophy, Single Honours

**WHY PHILOSOPHY?**

**WHAT IS PHILOSOPHY?**

Philosophy typically involves getting puzzled about apparently familiar features of the ways we think about ourselves, about one another and about the world around us. For example, we praise and blame one another for actions we take to be good and bad; and we commonly organise systems of government which enable us to take large scale collective decisions. But what justifies our practices of praise and blame? What fixes where the contrast between good and bad action is located? What is the fairest and most effective way of making large scale collective decisions? These are difficult and provoking questions.

**WHAT CAN YOU DO WITH IT?**

A philosophy degree gives you the core problem solving skills: to analyse a problem, think clearly through it, recognise and respond to the views of others, and communicate your ideas in a clear and respectful way. These skills are valuable in a wide range of careers: teaching, charities and NGOs, computing technology, journalism, publishing, finance, management, the civil service and law. Some of our alumni also go on to postgraduate study, while many follow rewarding careers outside the academic world.

**WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?**

What’s more, many of the questions philosophers study are questions you are likely to have to think about anyway in the course of your life: questions about euthanasia, democracy, gender equality, rights to privacy, cloning and genetic engineering. A philosophy degree will not always tell you the answers to those questions. But it will empower you to be able to think about the issues for yourself, and familiarise you with the problems and the different ways in which they have been approached. A lot of opinion shaping goes on in our world, and it isn’t always fair and honest. Philosophy is important because it is important to have the confidence and ability to form your own views.

*Philosophers in the Philosophy Department garden.*
NO COMPULSORY MODULES
We have no compulsory modules in our Philosophy degrees. Whether you are taking a single or dual honours degree, you are free to design your own programme of study in Philosophy. Philosophy is a broad subject, and we find students benefit by being able to focus on the areas they find particularly engaging. Guidance is available from your academic personal advisor, but the choice is yours.

WIDE RANGE OF MODULES
We offer a wide range of modules for you to choose from. We teach across key areas such as metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of mind, political philosophy and formal logic. We offer modules on historical figures including Socrates, Aristotle, Kant, Hegel and Merleau-Ponty. And we engage with a variety of approaches, including feminist epistemology and metaphysics, and experimental philosophy.

PLURALITY OF APPROACHES
Our staff approach philosophical research in different ways, and this translates into a wide range of ways to study philosophy in our department. Aristotle’s philosophy of mind, for example, is equally and differently interesting to a feminist epistemologist, a cognitive scientist and an academic classicist. Having the opportunity to study philosophy from different perspectives is a great way to learn to think creatively and see the different aspects of a problem.

LANGUAGES FOR ALL
As part of the University’s Languages for All programme, you have the option to incorporate language learning into your degree – either learning a new language or building on something you have already started. The 20 languages currently offered include Latin, Japanese, German and Arabic.

STUDY ABROAD
You can choose to spend all or part of your second or third year abroad. We have programmes available with 27 universities in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and the USA, as well as five universities in continental Europe (more if you are a dual honours student).

DEGREE WITH EMPLOYMENT EXPERIENCE
You have the option to incorporate a placement year into your Philosophy degree, through the University’s Degree With Employment Experience scheme. If you do so, the title of your degree will change to recognise this, e.g. to ‘BA (Hons) Philosophy with Employment Experience’.

“I have really enjoyed studying Politics and Philosophy at the University of Sheffield. The Philosophy Department does not have any core modules so I could choose those topics I found most interesting, making it so much more fun to learn. It has also enabled me to be involved in Philosophy in the City, a great student-run teaching organisation that mentors students in schools. Working as a Philosophy Ambassador has been really great too - I’ve met so many lovely people over the past two years!” - Phoebe Holland – Politics and Philosophy
OUR RESEARCH

We are a world-leading, internationally-recognised research department. In the most recent UK-wide research assessment (REF2014) we were ranked no. 2 in the UK for the quality of our published work. We ensure that we bring the same enthusiasm and expertise to our teaching as we do to our research. As a philosophy student at Sheffield you will be taught by experts in the field.

RESEARCH IN THE CLASSROOM

Philosophy is an engaged and collaborative discipline. Everyone has the potential to contribute an insight. Your ideas matter, and we encourage our students to pursue their own research and share it with others. It is rewarding to see our alumni entering academic philosophy, and publishing books and articles which benefit later generations of students.

PHILONOUS JOURNAL

PhilonoUS is an undergraduate philosophy journal, managed and edited by Sheffield Philosophy undergraduates, in which undergraduate philosophers from across the world can publish and share their work. The journal was launched by a team of undergraduates in the department in June 2016, and provides an exciting opportunity for undergraduate philosophers to share their ideas.

SURE SCHEME

The Sheffield University Research Experience scheme allows students to apply for funding to complete an independent research project during the summer vacation of their second year. This provides invaluable experience of self-directed research into a chosen topic. Recent project topics include ‘Tackling Climate Change’, ‘Computer Games and Philosophy’ and ‘Plato’s Use of Dialogues’.

PHILOSOPHICAL PROJECTS

You have the option in your final year of choosing up to two Philosophical Projects modules. These are structured around group discussions with other students, and individual meetings with a research supervisor, culminating in an extended essay on a topic chosen from a wide range of suggested options.

“What I like about the department is that they actually want you to do well. You feel supported by the staff and lecturers.”

Jazmine Linker – Philosophy, Single honours

Pictured top to bottom:
Dr. Komarine Bomdenh-Romluc leading a seminar in phenomenology
James Dunstan, Philosophy Single Honours
Bo Zha and Ying Liu
GET INVOLVED

PHILOSOPHY IN THE CITY (PINC)
PinC is an award-winning outreach programme designed, initiated, and run by student volunteers from the Philosophy Department. The programme brings philosophy to some schools in Sheffield, as well as other places (such as a teenage homeless shelter). PinC also organises and participates in conferences and other events throughout the year. Volunteering for PinC is a great way to get experience of work in schools if you are considering a career in teaching, and in general great experience for public speaking and presentation.

PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY (PHILSOC)
Our student-organised PhilSoc is lively and welcoming. They arrange social events during the year (including an annual weekend abroad), as well as putting on student focused talks and discussions, and fielding a couple of sports teams.

THE UNDERGRADUATE CONFERENCE
This is an annual student-directed undergraduate philosophy conference, with papers presented by undergraduates from within and outside of Sheffield, and keynote addresses from leading philosophers. The opportunity to be involved in this conference dovetails nicely with the chance to edit and contribute to the undergraduate philosophy journal PhilonoUS. Your ideas matter, and the more ways you have to share them the better.

READING WEEKEND
This event, which has been running for the past 32 years, is a chance for staff and students to spend a weekend together in the Peak District, and to join together in listening to student papers, walking in the countryside, and socialising more generally.

SPORT SHEFFIELD
The University offers a fantastic range of sport facilities including 45 acres of grass playing fields, five synthetic floodlit pitches, a fitness centre, a swimming pool with sauna steam rooms, four squash courts and a bouldering wall. There’s lots of opportunity at Sheffield to start or continue with any sport alongside your academic work.

CAMPUS PLACEMENTS
CampUS placements are designed to enable students at the end of years one and two to undertake a 100 hour paid placement supporting one of a range of projects being implemented by an academic or professional services department within the University. A tremendous opportunity to gain work experience which can be valuable in your post-University career. And a great way to get to know the University better.

“I initially got involved with the Philosophy Society as a way to meet people at university. The society is a great way to get to know other students from both the undergraduate and postgraduate communities. Through PhilSoc I have met the best friends, had the most fun and received the most amazing support. I feel incredibly lucky to be the president of a society with such a dedicated committee and such outgoing, friendly members.”
Maya Tucker - Philosophy, PhilSoc president
(pictured right with Noam Chimpsky, PhilSoc mascot)
SHEFFIELD
STUDENT LIFE

A STUDENT CITY
The city of Sheffield is proud of its student population. With two universities in Sheffield, there are over 40,000 undergraduate students in the city. Sheffield provides the atmosphere and the facilities to enrich your student life.

CULTURE AND COMMUNITY
Sheffield has an excellent pair of theatres, and a wide range of live music locations, art galleries, cinemas and sports venues. The city is also well known for its community shops and projects, which provide an excellent way to become involved in the life of the city as well as the University.

FESTIVALS
Sheffield is home to the annual Tramlines music festival, which takes place across the city for a week in July. The city also hosts DocFest, an internationally renowned documentary film festival which runs annually for a week in June. There are other city-wide events throughout the year.

A GREAT CITY TO LIVE IN
Sheffield was recently rated amongst the five least expensive cities for students in the UK, and as having the lowest crime rate of any major city in England. Sheffield is a safe and friendly city to live in.

STUDENTS UNION
In 2016 the University of Sheffield’s Students’ Union was voted the best in the UK for the eighth year in a row by the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey – and it continues to develop and expand. There are hundreds of student societies. You’re sure to find others who share your interests.

LIBRARIES
Sheffield has three university-wide libraries, including the Information Commons and in the recently built Diamond Building, which are well stocked with the print and digital resources to enable you to get the best from your degree. They also include a range of different devoted student study spaces, such as rooms to book for study groups.

ACCOMMODATION
Most of the University’s accommodation is new (2007–2009) and purpose built, with 82% of rooms en suite. The student residences are walking distance from campus. And Sheffield has a great stock of private housing for students who prefer to live outside University accommodation in their second and third years. Sheffield is one of the greenest cities in the UK – it’s extremely likely that wherever you live as a student in Sheffield you’ll have a tree in view.

“Sheffield is a vibrant student city with a huge variety of night life, clubs and events.”
Ed De Francesco – Philosophy, Single Honours
In the business consulting world a philosophy undergraduate and masters degree is valued highly as it evidences an ability to think critically.”

Amy Watson, Senior Analyst, CEB London, BA and MA Philosophy

We offer a wide variety of philosophy programmes at Sheffield - there are Single, Dual and Triple honours degree options.

In addition, we do all we can to offer our programmes to a wide range of applicants. Some of you reading this brochure will be starting a university degree immediately on leaving secondary education; some will be looking to start, or return to, university education after pursuing other interests and commitments, maybe for a few years or maybe for many. There are different routes into studying philosophy at Sheffield, and we welcome applications through them all.

The information we provide on entry requirements is initially framed in terms of A level grades, but is supplemented with information on equivalent qualifications (BTEC, Scottish Highers, Access to HE).

PHILOSOPHY WITH FOUNDATION YEAR

It may be that you decide to approach studying Philosophy at university more gradually. Sheffield offers a Philosophy with Foundation Year degree (UCAS code V501). This four year degree, designed for those with non-standard entry qualifications, starts with a year carefully designed to build your confidence in your abilities, and to develop essential academic and study skills. If this sounds interesting please contact Sheffield’s Department for Lifelong Learning (dll@sheffield.ac.uk) or consult the University’s Online Prospectus.

MATURE APPLICANTS

We welcome applications from mature students of any age. Philosophy is a subject which flourishes in an environment with a continuous age profile. Each year we have a significant group of mature students who make a great contribution to the Philosophy Department, and we have a specified Tutor For Mature Students.

INTERNATIONAL APPLICANTS

There are more than 5,000 international students at the University of Sheffield. Sheffield is a world-friendly university. We provide a wide range of academic, welfare and social facilities to ensure that our international students quickly feel at home in Sheffield. We in the Philosophy Department particularly welcome international applications. Diversity encourages discussion. For more information for international applicants see the University Online Prospectus.

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BA PHILOSOPHY

UCAS CODE V500

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>A level</th>
<th>AAB</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A level + EPQ</td>
<td>ABB + B in EPQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate</td>
<td>35 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC</td>
<td>DDD in relevant subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC/A level mix</td>
<td>DD in BTEC, A in A level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Highers</td>
<td>AAAAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Higher Education</td>
<td>Access to HE Diploma; 60 credits overall with Distinctions in 30 level 3 credits and Merits in 15 level 3 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE STRUCTURE

A three year single honours degree in which you concentrate primarily on philosophy (although you have the option of including some non-philosophy modules in your degree). In each year you choose modules totaling 120 credits. At level one we offer both 10 and 20 credit modules, while all level two and three modules count as 20 credits each. There are details of all our current modules elsewhere in this brochure.

FIRST YEAR (LEVEL ONE)

You have to take a minimum of 40 credits in philosophy at level one to proceed to level two. You can if you wish take all 120 level one credits in philosophy, but you also have the opportunity to try out a new subject, or to go further into a subject you’ve already studied. Assessment is by a combination of essays and exams. Level one marks don’t contribute to your final degree classification, which gives you space early in your degree to try out new ways of writing and thinking.

SECOND YEAR (LEVEL TWO)

You choose six 20 credit modules, taking three in the Autumn semester and three in Spring. Level two modules tend to be relatively broad in scope, preparing you to develop your particular interests in the more narrowly focused level three modules. Level two modules are taught through weekly lectures and small group seminars. Assessment is by two essays and one exam (per module). Level two modules contribute to your final degree classification.

THIRD YEAR (LEVEL THREE)

Once again you choose six 20 credit modules, taking three in Autumn and three in Spring. Level three modules are taught through weekly lectures and small group seminars. You have considerable choice about mode of assessment at level three. The norm is that a level three module is assessed by a single (longer) essay and exam, but you can if you wish replace that essay/exam structure with a single extended essay. There is no compulsory level three dissertation. Your level three modules contribute towards your final degree classification and are double-weighted, each counting twice as much as a level two module.
BA PHILOSOPHY & RELIGION
UCAS CODE VV56

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A level</td>
<td>ABB</td>
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<tr>
<td>A level + EPQ</td>
<td>BBB + B in EPQ</td>
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<tr>
<td>International Bacalaureate</td>
<td>34 points</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC</td>
<td>DDD in relevant subjects</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>BTEC/A level mix</td>
<td>DD in BTEC, B in A level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Highers</td>
<td>AAABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Access to Higher Education</td>
<td>Access to HE Diploma: 60 credits overall with Distinctions in 30 level 3 credits and Merits in 15 level 3 credits</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

COURSE STRUCTURE

This is an interdisciplinary degree, combining Philosophy modules with module choices in Religion. The Religion modules cover a variety of perspectives and approaches drawn from work in Biblical Studies, Cultural Studies, History, Social Sciences and Theology. There is substantial teaching input into the degree from colleagues in the Sheffield Institute for Interdisciplinary Biblical Studies, based in the departments of History and English.

As in our BA Philosophy you will typically take 120 credits each year of modules chosen from Philosophy and Religion. In the first year, you have to take a minimum of 40 credits in Philosophy; depending on the credit requirements of your second subject, you may have the opportunity to take optional modules outside of these subjects.

There are no core Religion modules at level two. All level three students must write a dissertation on a research topic of their own choice. There are no compulsory Philosophy modules at any level, giving you the flexibility to build your Philosophy choices around the Religion side of your degree.

You will have the option of studying either or both of Greek and Hebrew as part of this degree, and you can adjust the balance between modules in order to reflect your own strengths and interests, opting to take more modules in Philosophy or in Religion, or an equal number in each.

“I loved both Philosophy and Religion independently as subjects as much as each other, and couldn’t choose just one. Reflecting on my degree I can now see that studying both disciplines allows one to make connections and understand things that others may not.”
Emma Stead, Philosophy and Religion

DUAL AND COMBINED HONOURS DEGREES WITH PHILOSOPHY

There are a variety of different ways of combining your degree in the Philosophy department with a degree in another department. We have a wide range of dual honours degrees with other subjects, as well as the chance to combine Philosophy with two other subjects for a triple honours degree. Philosophy works well with other subjects, and in fact there are usually slightly more dual than single honours students in our department.

DUAL DEGREES

There are twelve dual honours degrees with Philosophy:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject Combination</th>
<th>UCAS Code</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Philosophy</td>
<td>LV15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Philosophy</td>
<td>QV35</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French and Philosophy</td>
<td>RV15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German and Philosophy</td>
<td>RV25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Hispanic Studies</td>
<td>RV45</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Philosophy</td>
<td>VV15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Linguistics and Philosophy</td>
<td>GV15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Philosophy</td>
<td>GV51</td>
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<tr>
<td>Music and Philosophy</td>
<td>VW56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physics and Philosophy</td>
<td>FV35</td>
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<tr>
<td>Politics and Philosophy</td>
<td>LV25</td>
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<tr>
<td>Russian and Philosophy</td>
<td>RV75</td>
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Dual degree students take 120 credits each year, typically a combination of modules in Philosophy and their dual subject. In the first year, you have to take a minimum of 40 credits in Philosophy; depending on the credit requirements of your second subject, you may have the opportunity to take optional modules outside of these subjects. Your second and third years will typically be devoted only to modules in your chosen two subjects.

While dual honours students have free choice over their Philosophy modules, it will often be the case that a dual department requires core modules of their own. If you are thinking about a dual Philosophy degree it’s important to check on what may be required and what is offered by the other department.

Different dual degrees have different entry requirements. The A level offer ranges between AAB and ABB. Some dual degrees have A level subject requirements, and some may have subject-grade requirements. You will be able to check the particular requirements for the combination you’re interested in via the University’s Online Prospectus.

COMBINED HONOURS – TRIPLE

The Triple degree gives you the chance of combining three subjects into a single degree. If you are interested in the choice and breadth afforded by a triple honours degree you can explore the details through the University’s Online Prospectus.
SHAPE OF YOUR YEAR

The academic year at Sheffield is divided into two semesters, each fifteen weeks long. Your first year starts with an Intro Week, when you register, settle in to your accommodation, choose modules and are welcomed by your Department. Each semester contains time for teaching, some time off, and an assessment period.

SEPTMBER - JANUARY

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SEMESTER ONE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Intro week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching (6 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reading week</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching (5 weeks)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Christmas break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam period</td>
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FEBRUARY - JUNE

<table>
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<tr>
<th>SEMESTER TWO</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Easter Break</td>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching</td>
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<tr>
<td>Exam period</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Undergraduate degrees at Sheffield are modular. Each module is a self-contained course for which you will usually submit essays and sit an exam.

In the first year we teach a broad range of full and half modules, all designed to be accessible to students who have not studied philosophy before but challenging to those who have.

Your degree result is calculated only from the marks you get in philosophy before but challenging to those who have.

Your degree result is calculated only from the marks you get in philosophy.

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LEVEL ONE OPTIONS

CLIMATE CHANGE. In this course we look at the obligations of citizens to act against climate change, the value of nature, and the comparative importance of environmental against other moral issues.

DEATH. Death raises many philosophical questions. What is death? What happens to us when we die? What attitude should we have towards death? Are we right to dislike death, or is it a good thing?

ELEMENTARY LOGIC. The basic ideas and techniques of formal logic.

FILM AND PHILOSOPHY. This module introduces central themes in philosophy through the medium of film. Many films have clear philosophical themes and resonances, and we choose a selection to cover a range of philosophical topics.

HISTORY OF ETHICS. An introduction to the history of Western ethical thought, examining key ideas in Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant, Bentham, Mill, Nietzsche, Rawls and Gilligan.

HISTORY OF PHILOSOPHICAL IDEAS. The course will introduce some central philosophical ideas and distinctions (such as normativity, rationality, a priori, necessity, causation). We will consider these ideas and learn about debates in the history of philosophy in which they played a central role.

KEY ARGUMENTS. An inquiry-based module aimed at helping you isolate and assess a key argument from a text.

KNOWLEDGE, JUSTIFICATION AND DOUBT. An introduction to the basic questions of epistemology, which is the philosophical study of knowledge.

CRYSTAL CLEAR ARGUMENTS: Logic: An introduction to the basics of logical reasoning and the structure of argument.

MIND BRAIN AND PERSONAL IDENTITY. Philosophical issues concerning the mind-body relation, the question of free will, the nature of personal identity, animal minds and machine minds.

MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH. Ethical questions concerning topics such as suicide, abortion, euthanasia, animal rights and famine relief.

PHILOSOPHY OF MIND. Further questions concerning the mind. How can humans have conscious experiences? Are other animals conscious of their experiences? How can brain processes succeed in representing the world?

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE. Why is science a paradigm of rational enquiry? Different answers to this question are compared (Popper, Kuhn, Lakatos). What questions should we think about our current best scientific theories – that they are true, or that they merely fit the current available data?

PHILOSOPHY OF THE ARTS. What is art? Why is it important to us? Does representation vary from one art form to another (e.g. pictures and poetry)? What is the level of abstraction? Are our judgments about art subjective? Can there be rational argument about artworks?

PLATO. The philosopher and mathematician A.W. Whitehead once characterized western thought as “a series of footnotes to Plato”. An introduction to Plato through mid/late dialogues such as Meno, The Republic or Theaetetus.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY. Some central problems of political philosophy. Does justice in distribution demand equality? Is equality compatible with liberty? Why is democracy the best form of political constitution? What is the justification for punishment?

REFERENCE and Truth. Some central issues in the Philosophy of Language. How does a proper name like “Barack Obama” refer to a certain person? Is meaning just a matter of reference? What about expressions like “Santa Claus” that don’t refer to anything?

LEVEL TWO OPTIONS

ETHICS. A comparative examination of some of the major moral theories: Utilitarianism, Kantian deontology, and Aristotelian virtue ethics.

FEMINISM. A module available at either level two or level three. An examination of a wide variety of areas not traditionally considered to be of political relevance, which feminists have argued are in fact crucial to politics: family structure, feminine appearance, sexual behaviour, science, culture and language.

FORMAL LOGIC. Rivals to classical logic (intuitionist logic) and extensions of classical logic (modal logic); possible world semantics; basic metalogical results for the various systems studied.

METAPHYSICS. An introduction to a variety of metaphysical issues, focused on questions concerning the metaphysics of properties. What is it for something to be, for example, red? How can we explain two distinct things being of the same type, e.g. both being red?

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION. The first half of this course addresses such questions as: What is the aim of education? What is indoctrination? Should we teach philosophy to school children? The second half prepares students to teach their own classes to pupils from a local secondary school.

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continued ➤
RELIGION AND THE GOOD LIFE. An introduction to central aspects of contemporary philosophical debates concerning the relationship of the divine to the human good life.

THE EMPIRICISTS. An introduction to the principal early-modern empiricists: Locke, Berkeley and Hume.

THE RATIONALISTS. An introduction to the principal early-modern rationalists: Descartes, Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant.

THEORY OF KNOWLEDGE. A broad introduction to the main aspects of epistemology covering scepticism, the nature of knowledge, the structure of knowledge and our sources of knowledge.

TOPICS IN ANCIENT PHILOSOPHY. An examination of the contrast which Plato creates between philosophical discussion and rhetorical manipulation. Texts include Gorgias’ Encomium of Helen, early Platonic dialogues (Laches, Crito) and Plato’s Gorgias.

LEVEL THREE OPTIONS

ARISTOTLE. Some major themes in Aristotle’s metaphysics: form, matter, cause, nature, substance, actuality and potentiality. Students will engage critically with Aristotelian texts and appreciate Aristotle’s continuing contribution to contemporary metaphysical debate.

EPISTEMOLOGY. An advanced account of the current state of epistemology through a consideration of some of the key papers in the last couple of decades. Topics covered include, but are not limited to: the new rationalism, disjunctivism, virtue epistemology, contextualism and disagreement.

FEMINISM. A module available at either level two or level three. An examination of a wide variety of areas not traditionally considered to be of political relevance, which feminists have argued are in fact crucial to politics: family structure, feminine appearance, sexual behaviour, science, culture and language.

FICTION AND TRUTH. This module considers some philosophical puzzles raised by fiction. How can there be truths about things which don’t exist? Can there be truths about things which aren’t true? How can we know how to act in a fictional situation? How does acting in a fictional situation differ from acting in a non-fictional situation? How does fiction differ from other types of social regulation? How should we think about the nature of fiction?

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW. An examination to the main aspects of epistemology covering scepticism, the nature of knowledge, the structure of knowledge and our sources of knowledge.

PHILOSOPHY OF LAW. What is law, and how does it differ from other types of social regulation? How should we understand the authority of law, and our duty to obey? How does law relate to morality and rights?

PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY. An introduction to central aspects of contemporary philosophy of psychology. What is the structure and organization of the human mind? What aspects of our minds are unique, or distinctively human? What is the cognitive basis for such capacities as our capacity for language, science, altruism, cooperation, morality, and art? To what extent are these capacities learned as opposed to innate given?

PLEASURE, PAIN AND EMOTIONS. A module on the nature of affective states: pleasures, pains and emotions. What do all and only affective states have in common? Why are pains and joys affective states while hearings and seeings aren’t? In virtue of what is it that some affective states feel good and others bad?

PRACTICAL REASON. We justify many of our actions in terms of reasons. What are reasons? What methods do we have for telling what reasons we have? How reliable are these methods? Is it the case that all reasons are equal?

Theorists of Rights. A module on the analysis and justification of our assertions of rights (e.g. to education, privacy and life). The module aims to clarify which rights we have and why. Leading contemporary theories of rights are discussed, along with significant historical and critical works.

We don’t require students to do any reading before they arrive at Sheffield (just as we don’t require students to have studied philosophy at a level). But it may be that you’d like to read some philosophy, either to find out more about philosophy, or because you’re already aiming to study philosophy at Sheffield and you’d like to prepare yourself for your time as a student. There are different ways to start reading in philosophy. None is better or worse than the other. Everything here depends on your tastes and preferences. Try several things until you find something which suits you and which you enjoy.

PHILOSOPHICAL CLASSICS

One possibility is to start with some of the great philosophical works from the past. These books are the real stuff, but will be very hard in places. So don’t be surprised or discouraged if you find them puzzling and difficult to understand. Academic philosophers are still debating how to understand influential arguments in these texts.

- Plato: The Republic (c. 380 BCE)
- Aristotle: Nicomachean Ethics (c. 320 BCE)
- René Descartes: Meditations on First Philosophy (1641)
- David Hume: Dialogues on Natural Religion (1776)
- Mary Wollstonecraft: A Vindication of the Rights of Woman (1792)
- J. S. Mill: On Liberty (1859)
- Utilitarianism (1865)
- Bertrand Russell: The Problems of Philosophy (1912)

The Plato, Aristotle and Descartes books come in many good, but different, translations (Plato’s Republic and Aristotle’s Nicomachean Ethics were written in Greek. Descartes’ Meditations are in Latin).

CONTEMPORARY INTRODUCTIONS TO PHILOSOPHY

There are a number of very good recent books, explicitly aimed at giving an accessible introduction to philosophy as a whole. Four excellent introductions are:

- Brenda Almond Exploring Philosophy: The Philosophical Quest (Blackwell, 1994)
- Karen Warren: An Unconventional History of Western Philosophy: Conversations Between Men and Women Philosophers (Rowan and Littlefield, 2009)

CONTEMPORARY INTRODUCTIONS TO PARTICULAR TOPICS

It might be that you have already developed an interest in a particular area of philosophy which you would like to pursue. The list below includes volumes on Ancient Philosophy, Ethics, Feminism, Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Science and Political Philosophy – the titles will give you the subject area.

- Albert Akín: The Philosophy of Race (Routledge, 2012)
- Helen Beebee: Free Will: An Introduction (Palgrave, 2013)
- Christopher Bennett: What Is This Thing Called Ethics? (Routledge, 2010)
- Patricia Churchland: Touching A Nerve: Our Brains, Our Selves (WW Norton, 2010)
- Samir Okasha: Philosophy of Science: A Very Short Introduction (Oxford University Press, 2002)
- Raymond Smullyan: What is the Name of this Book? The Riddle of Dracula and Other Logical Puzzles (Oxford University Press, 2013)
- Jonathan Wolff: An Introduction to Political Philosophy (Oxford University Press, 2006)

A USEFUL ONLINE RESOURCE

A final way to pursue an interest in specific areas of the subject is via the online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy plato.stanford.edu. The articles here are written by professional philosophers. There is rigorous academic editing. Any philosopher would be proud to publish in the Stanford Encyclopedia. There is an extremely good search function, each article concludes with a bibliography, and links to related articles in the Encyclopedia. And it is entirely open access. A tremendous resource, which is great for exploring your own interests.
Study Abroad is an exchange scheme between the University of Sheffield and a wide range of overseas partner universities. You can apply to spend either a semester or a year of your degree studying overseas. We have study abroad programmes available with 27 universities in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, Singapore and the United States.

ERASMUS is a European Commission exchange programme which allows students to spend between two and twelve months in another European country. The University of Sheffield has around 300 ERASMUS exchange agreements with over 180 universities across Europe. The Philosophy Department currently has ERASMUS partnerships with universities in Denmark, Germany, Greece, Italy and Spain. And if you’re studying a dual honours degree, your dual department may have partnerships elsewhere in addition. This programme will continue to run in the immediate future, and the effect of the recent referendum result is as yet unclear. Whatever the circumstances, we retain our commitment to enabling students at Sheffield to incorporate study in European and non-European countries as part of their degree.

“I decided to study abroad because I felt I needed a change; I wanted to do something different and exciting. Doing ERASMUS was a great learning experience; I gained an understanding of Turkish culture, language, food, religion and politics. Studying abroad also builds your confidence and demonstrates qualities such as adaptability, flexibility and independence. These skills are really transferable and desirable to employers.”

Beatrix Pitel, Politics and Philosophy, visited Bilkent University Turkey
We provide a welcoming and supportive environment in which to pursue your studies. There are a number of systems, in the Philosophy Department as well as in the wider University, designed to help our students get the most out of their time in Sheffield.

PERSONAL ADVISORS
We offer a personal advisor system for all of our undergraduate students. Single honours Philosophy students will have a member of staff from Philosophy, whereas Dual honours students will have one advisor from each of their dual departments. You usually see your personal advisor to discuss your choice of modules each semester, to receive a detailed breakdown of your marks for each module when they become available and to talk about how your academic work is going more generally. But your personal advisor is not only there to deal with academic issues. You should think of your advisor as your first point of contact in the Department in case of personal difficulties or crisis, and as a potential advocate on your behalf if problems arise for you within the University.

MENTORING
Starting at university can seem daunting. Life is suddenly different, both academically and socially. We offer first year students the option of having a Philosophy Mentor, a student from the second or third year who can offer advice and support as required in order to help you get the most out of your first year as a university student.

UNIVERSITY SUPPORT
The Student Service Information Desk, located in the Students’ Union, co-ordinates a wide range of support services offered across the University, including social activities in the Christmas, Easter and Summer vacations for those who have remained in Sheffield, a counselling service, and a multi-faith chaplaincy.

DISABILITY AND DYSLEXIA SUPPORT
We are strongly committed to responding to any additional support required by our applicants. If you would like further information about the University’s facilities and support services then please contact the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service.

Telephone: 0114 222 1303
Email: disability.info@sheffield.ac.uk
Web: www.sheffield.ac.uk/ssid/disability

“\nThe lecturers are all very passionate about their areas of study and they feel like friends. We meet up each week in small groups to discuss certain topics in addition to lectures, which I found very helpful. Talking with people, and sometimes defending my position on certain issues really strengthened my understanding. I can also meet the lecturers in private to talk about academic and personal issues and they have always been there to help.\nWenhan Sun – Economics and Philosophy
TEACHING STAFF

LUCA BARLASSINA. Luca is interested in how the mind works. He maintains that a good way to discover how it does is by combining philosophy with cognitive science.

CHRISTOPHER BENNETT. Chris’s main interests in philosophy are in moral, political and legal philosophy. He also has interests in moral psychology and the philosophy of the emotions.

RYAN BYERLY. Ryan’s main areas of research are in Philosophy of Religion, Epistemology and Virtue Ethics.

TOM COCHRANE. Tom’s primary research activities are in Aesthetics, Philosophy of Mind, and Social Psychology. He is also interested in Metaphysics and Ethics.

NIALL CONNOLLY. Niall’s main areas of interest are Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language and Philosophical Logic.

JEREMY DUNHAM. Jeremy is interested in early modern and nineteenth-century philosophy, particularly in rationalism, idealism, and pragmatism.

PAUL FAULKNER. Paul is interested in Epistemology, particularly testimony, philosophical issues about trust, and the Philosophy of Science.

DOMINIC GREGORY. Dominic’s primary interests are in Philosophical Logic, Aesthetics, Philosophy of Mind, and Metaphysics.

ANGIE HOBBS. Angie’s interests are primarily in Ethics and in Ancient Greek Philosophy. She is Professor for the Public Understanding of Philosophy.

JULES HOLROYD. Jules’ research interests are in Ethics, Moral Psychology and Feminist Philosophy, and in particular questions to do with responsibility and blame.

ROSANNA KEEFE. Rosanna’s main philosophical interests lie within the Philosophy of Logic, Philosophy of Language and Metaphysics.

STEPHEN LAURENCE. Steve’s main research interests are in the Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, and Cognitive Science.

HOLLY LAWFORD-SMITH. Holly is primarily interested in political philosophy, especially issues to do with collective action and coordination; political decision-making; climate change and climate ethics; and the moral implications of benefiting from injustice.

JIMMY LENMAN. Jimmy is primarily interested in Ethics, especially Meta-ethics and Moral Psychology.

STEPHEN MAKIN. Steve’s interests are primarily in Ancient Philosophy, Metaphysics, and Philosophy of Religion.

ERIC OLSON. Eric’s research is primarily in Metaphysics and the Philosophy of Mind.

KOMARINE ROMDENH-ROMLUC. Komarine is interested in using ideas from the phenomenological tradition to address issues in contemporary Philosophy of Mind.

JENNIFER SAUL. Jenny’s primary interests are in Philosophy of Language, Feminism and Philosophy of Psychology.

YONATAN SHEMMER. Yonatan’s main interests are the Philosophy of Action, the Philosophy of Practical Reason and the contribution of these two fields to Ethics and to the theory of normativity in general.

MINNA SHKUL. Minna’s interests range from the social history of early Christianity to questions of social equality and diversity, concerning in particular feminism, gender and sexuality.

ROBERT STERN. Bob is interested in the History of Philosophy – particularly Hegel, Kant and Løgstrup – Epistemology, Metaphysics, Ethics and Political Philosophy.

ASHLEY TAYLOR. Ashley is a political philosopher, whose research focuses on issues concerning Political Obligation, Ethics of Activism, Philosophy of Feminism and Environmental Ethics.

Pictured top to bottom, left to right:
Dr Chris Bennett, Professor Jennifer Saul
(Dr Chris Bennett, Andy Brown),
Dr Komarine Romdenh-Romluc
(Picture credit: Andy Brown),
Professor Robert Stern, Dr Dominic Gregory,
Dr Holly Lawford-Smith
Studying philosophy offers excellent preparation for a career in a wide variety of different fields, in addition to being immensely enjoyable for its own sake. The skills you acquire in philosophy—analytical and critical thinking, precise and persuasive presentation, group work, clearly-structured writing—are highly valued by employers.

In a recent survey of Philosophy graduates two and five years after graduating, all were in employment, and in an interesting and varied range of careers. Many of our graduates also go on to further study, either in philosophy or in another subject, in Sheffield, or further afield.

Recent Philosophy graduates have entered careers in:

- Journalism
- Charity and NGO work
- Marketing
- Insurance and risk assessment
- Sales
- Teaching
- Fundraising
- Management
- Consulting
- Film-making
- Public relations
- Accounting
- Banking
- Technical support
- Social services
- Self-employment

We are committed to helping our students prepare for life beyond their degree. The Philosophy Department holds careers information days throughout the academic year, where you’ll have the opportunity to find out from our alumni about their experiences, and hear their advice. Our Departmental Careers Advisor will also be happy to meet with you to discuss your career plans and ambitions. We encourage you to make the most of the central University Careers Service, who can provide information, resources, advice, and who run a number of placement schemes.

As a student at the University of Sheffield, you can join the Sheffield Graduate Development Programme. This programme will provide you with a structured and supported process for reflecting on your own learning, performance and achievement. You’ll have the opportunity to better understand your strengths and weaknesses, and to identify what skills you can learn through studying for your degree, such as IT skills, or oral skills developed in seminar discussions and presentations.

There are also opportunities for vocational experience: you can include Employment Experience in your degree, apply for a CampUS placement or take a module that includes practical experience. For example, our level two module in the Philosophy of Education includes the opportunity to plan and deliver a philosophy lesson in school.

Philosophy graduates are good at:

- Thinking carefully and clearly
- Recognising different aspects of a problem
- Appreciating different perspectives
- Understanding complex problems
- Thinking creatively
- Seeing the bigger picture

There are many public figures who studied philosophy at University. For example:

- Ethan Coen, film-maker.
- Carol Ann Duffy, Poet Laureate.
- Philip Glass, composer.
- Matt Groening, animator.
- Iris Murdoch, author and writer.
- John E. Warnock, co-founder of Adobe.
For further information, if you have any questions, or if you would like to arrange to visit the department, please contact us:

Department of Philosophy,
45 Victoria Street,
Sheffield,
S3 7QB,
United Kingdom.

philosophy@sheffield.ac.uk
+44 (0) 114 222 0587
www.sheffield.ac.uk/philosophy