ETHICS
GOOD & EVIL
EMOTION
MIND
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 thought-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 gives you the confidence and ability to form your own views.

*Philosophers in the Philosophy Department garden.*
DESIGN YOUR OWN DEGREE
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. In the first year you’ll combine modules from across two groups: one which focuses on issues concerning metaphysics, knowledge and logic, and the other on issues in ethics, politics and religion. In your second and third years you’ll continue to design your own pathway choosing freely from modules which enable you to tailor your degree to your own interests. Guidance is available from your academic personal advisor, but the choice is yours.

WIDE RANGE OF MODULES

We offer a large selection of modules for you to choose from. We teach across key areas such as metaphysics, ethics, philosophy of mind, political philosophy and formal logic. Our students learn about a wide range of historical figures including Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Nietzsche, Merleau-Ponty and Simone de Beauvoir. We also engage with a variety of approaches, including feminist epistemology and metaphysics, and experimental philosophy. Our first year writing module will help you acquire skills in writing philosophy essays, while our third year workplace learning module will enable you to use philosophy as part of a work placement. See a list of typical modules on offer on pp. 16-18.

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 18 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 34 universities in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA, as well as five Universities in Europe (more if you’re 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
Department of Philosophy.
RESEARCH-LED TEACHING

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 Romdenh-Romluc leading a seminar in phenomenology
James Dunstan, Philosophy Single Honours
Bo Zhang and Yiqing 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 an excellent way to gain experience of work in schools if you are considering a career in teaching, and in general a 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 33 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 sports 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. This is a tremendous opportunity to gain work experience, which can be valuable in your post-University career, as well as being 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 2016/17 (pictured right with Noam Chimpsky, PhilSoc mascot)
“Sheffield is a vibrant student city with a huge variety of night life, clubs and events.”

Ed De Francesco – Philosophy, Single Honours
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
The fourth largest city in England, Sheffield is centrally located in the UK, on the edge of the beautiful Peak District National Park, and about two hours by train from London. It has a friendly and relaxed atmosphere, so it is easy to feel at home here and find your way around. Although it is a major city, it has kept its sense of community, and is a safe and affordable place to live. The department is also directly engaged with city life, having links with local schools, the Cathedral, the arts cinema, and other organisations active in the community.

STUDENTS’ UNION
In 2018 the University of Sheffield’s Students’ Union was voted best in the UK for the tenth year in a row by the Times Higher Education Student Experience Survey. The Students’ Union 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 one 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 types of learning spaces, such as rooms for study groups.

ACCOMMODATION
Most of the University’s accommodation was purpose built in 2007, 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.

OUR CAMPUS AND HOW WE USE IT
While some of our teaching takes place in the department, most of it is timetabled to take place in purpose-built teaching spaces across the campus (see our campus map ssid.sheffield.ac.uk/campus-map/). The campus has many amenities, and is located at the heart of the city, giving you easy access to shops, cafés, bars and restaurants.
OUR PROGRAMMES

We offer a wide variety of philosophy programmes at Sheffield - there are Single and Dual 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 take a gap year before going on to university; 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.

BA 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 visit www.sheffield.ac.uk/dll/courses/foundation-year-degrees/full-time/philosophy-ba

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 7,000 international students at the University of Sheffield. Sheffield is a world-friendly university, and we believe that diversity encourages discussion. We provide a wide range of academic, welfare and social facilities to ensure that our international students quickly feel at home in Sheffield, including an international students society based in the department. We particularly welcome international applications. For more information for international applicants see the University Online Prospectus or email us at phi-ugadmissions@sheffield.ac.uk

TUITION FEES AND FUNDING

Information about tuition fees is available on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/registration/ tuitionfees

You can also use our Fees Look Up Tool: www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance/fees-calculator

You may be eligible for scholarships or bursaries. You can find out more about funding opportunities on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees-funding

“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
PHILOSOPHY BA
UCAS CODE V500

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Qualification</th>
<th>Requirement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A level</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A level + EPQ</td>
<td>ABB + B in EPQ</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>International Baccalaureate</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, A in A level</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Scottish Highers</td>
<td>AAAAB</td>
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<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 DURATION: THREE YEARS

COURSE STRUCTURE

In our single honours Philosophy degree, you will concentrate primarily on philosophy (although you have the option of including some non-philosophy modules in your course). In each year you choose modules totalling 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 the typical modules we offer on pages 16-18.

FIRST YEAR (LEVEL ONE)

You have to take a minimum of 60 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 typically 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 typically 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.
COMBINING PHILOSOPHY WITH OTHER SUBJECTS

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, 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 nine dual honours degrees with Philosophy. We list A Level entry requirements for our dual degrees below although other equivalent qualifications are also accepted. Please see the University Online Prospectus or contact us for more information phi-ugadmissions@sheffield.ac.uk

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>COURSE</th>
<th>UCAS CODE</th>
<th>A-LEVELS REQUIRED</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Economics and Philosophy BA</td>
<td>LV15</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English and Philosophy BA</td>
<td>QV35</td>
<td>AAB (typically including an Arts and Humanities subject)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History and Philosophy BA</td>
<td>VV15</td>
<td>AAB (typically including History or Classical Civilisation)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Linguistics and Philosophy BA</td>
<td>QV15</td>
<td>ABB (plus evidence of interest in language, linguistics and Philosophy, demonstrated through the personal statement)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mathematics and Philosophy BSc</td>
<td>VG51</td>
<td>AAB (including A in Maths)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Music and Philosophy BA</td>
<td>VW53</td>
<td>ABB (including Music and/or Music Technology)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy and Modern Languages and Cultures BA</td>
<td>RV60</td>
<td>ABB (typically including a modern foreign language)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Physics and Philosophy BSc</td>
<td>FV35</td>
<td>ABB (including Maths and Physics)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and Philosophy BA</td>
<td>LV25</td>
<td>AAB</td>
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</table>

Our Dual programmes are all three year courses, except for our Modern Languages Dual which is a four year programme where you spend your third year abroad.

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.

Philosophy, Religion and Ethics BA VV56 ABB

The Philosophy, Religion, and Ethics degree allows you to combine the study of Philosophy and Ethics with a multidisciplinary approach to Religion. You can find out more in our Philosophy, Religion and Ethics leaflet or on 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, a reading week for essay preparation, and an exam period.

#### SEPTEMBER - JANUARY

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>SEMESTER ONE</th>
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<tr>
<td>Intro week</td>
<td>Teaching (6 weeks)</td>
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#### FEBRUARY - JUNE

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

Undergraduate degrees at Sheffield are modular, which means that all the teaching and assessment for the module is completed within the semester in which it is run.

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 modules in your second and third years, which allows you to feel free to experiment a bit in your first year without worrying.

### TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT METHODS

You’ll learn through interactive lectures, seminars and one-to-one meetings with lecturers, and take part in presentations, debates and field work. You will be given extensive feedback on your work, which will generally be assessed through examinations, essays and longer projects while some modules use presentations and portfolios.

### CONTACT HOURS

You will typically have nine hours of lectures and seminars each week plus the opportunity to see staff individually in their open office hours, and some modules have one-to-one essay tutorials in the third year.
The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it’s up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we’ll consult and inform students in good time and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

LEVEL ONE OPTIONS

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 resonance, 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
This module will introduce you to some of the central movements and traditions in the history of Western philosophy from Plato onwards, and the key philosophical concepts and issues that they have brought to Western thought.

KNOWLEDGE, JUSTIFICATION AND DOUBT
An introduction to the basic questions of epistemology, which is the philosophical study of knowledge. Centrally, what is it to know something? Do we know anything? And how is it that we know what we do?

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

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.

PHILOSOPHY OF RELIGION
Philosophical questions over and above whether a god exists. Is life after death possible? Could eternal punishment in hell ever be justified? Could a just god act on petitionary prayer? Would divine foreknowledge rob us of free will?

PHILOSOPHY OF SEX
In everyday language ‘sex’ has a dual meaning. It can refer to an activity (‘having sex’) and to a set of categories (the female and the male sex). This module considers the moral, political and metaphysical issues raised by both sexual activity and sex categories, and explores the relationship between these two things.

PHILOSOPHY OF SCIENCE
The aim of this module is to introduce some of the philosophical issues that arise in science and through reflecting on science. Some central questions include: How should we represent scientific theories? What counts as evidence for these theories? How do scientific explanations work? How far can we trust science as revealing to us the truth about the underlying nature of reality?

REASON AND ARGUMENT
This module teaches you how to recognise and understand the various types of argument we all encounter and, most importantly, how to evaluate those arguments for yourself.

SELF AND SOCIETY
An introduction to central questions in political philosophy. For example: Do we need a state, and if so, must we obey its laws? What is freedom, and when are we free?

WRITING PHILOSOPHY
This module introduces students to the skills necessary to write philosophy, which you will continue to develop throughout your degree.
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
An introduction to some elementary concepts from set theory, and the use of ‘trees’ as a method for proving the validity of arguments formalised in propositional and first-order logic.

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 AND REVOLUTION
A module available at either level two or level three, which examines the intense philosophical debate that followed the upheaval of the French Revolution.

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION
The first half of the 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.

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 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
An introduction to a broad range of issues in the philosophy of art, including: What is art? Is there a link between artistic creativity and ’madness’? Is there anything wrong with appropriating art forms from another culture? How should we understand what it is for something to be a picture?

PLATO
The philosopher and mathematician A N 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?

RELIGION AND THE GOOD LIFE
Philosophical debates about the relationship between religion and the good life. For example, is a religious reality needed as a foundation for morality? Do religious traditions provide insights into a life well-lived?

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

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.
LEVEL THREE OPTIONS

ADVANCED LOGIC
Examines some philosophically important areas of formal logic, and considers some philosophical debates concerning foundational aspects of logic.

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.

FREE WILL AND RELIGION
This module focuses on philosophical issues concerning the relationship between free will and religion, and perennial questions about the nature of human agency and the traditional conception of God as omniscient.

GLOBAL JUSTICE
This module examines various issues of justice that arise at the global level, for example, how jurisdiction over territory might be justified, whether states have a right to exclude would-be immigrants, how to understand the wrong of colonialism.

METAPHYSICS
Some central metaphysical themes, ancient and modern: the existence of abstract objects, ontological commitment, the ontology of material objects and people, and the nature of time.

PHENOMENOLOGY
A text-based introduction to the work of thinkers within the Phenomenological Movement, such as Maurice Merleau-Ponty, Jean-Paul Sartre, Simone de Beauvoir, and Frantz Fanon.

PHILOSOPHICAL PROJECTS
Students pursue independent research under the direction of a member of staff. Topics offered in recent years have included Nietzsche on Morality; Pyrrhonian Scepticism: Evil of Death; Sexual Orientation; Structuralism in the Philosophy of Maths; Moral Luck; Expressivism in Meta-ethics; Sartre on Bad Faith; Zeno of Elea; Marx on History; Philosophy as Therapy; The Emotions.

PHILOSOPHY AND REVOLUTION
A module available at either level two or level three, which examines the intense philosophical debate that followed the upheaval of the French Revolution.

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 MEDICINE
This course focuses on the philosophical challenges of current medical science and practice. Working with concrete cases in medical practice and research drawn from current biomedical and technological shifts in medicine, and from history and sociology of science, we will explore medical knowledge and practice.

PHILOSOPHY OF PSYCHOLOGY
Issues in contemporary philosophy of psychology. What is the structure and organization of the human mind? What aspects of our minds are uniquely, 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 innately given?

PLATO’S SYMPOSIUM
A close study of this important text, which is one of the classic treatments of the nature of love.

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?

THE POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY OF CLIMATE CHANGE
Why is climate change a problem of global justice and how could the international community address the problem fairly?

THE RADICAL DEMAND IN LØGSTRUP’S ETHICS
K. E. Løgstrup was a Danish philosopher and theologian who developed an account of the ethical demands for care that people make on each other. This module examines his views.

WORKPLACE LEARNING
Students undertake a work placement of 35-70 hours with a local organisation. Drawing on concepts and theories studied in their other philosophy modules, they write coursework critically examining an issue of philosophical interest faced by the organisation.
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 the influential arguments in these texts.

- Plato *The Republic* (≈ 380 BCE)
- Aristotle *Nicomachean Ethics* (≈ 350 BCE)
- René Descartes *Meditations on First Philosophy* (1641)
- David Hume *Dialogues on Natural Religion* (1776)
- Mary Wollenstonecraft *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
- J. S. Mill *On Liberty* (1859)
- J. S. Mill *Utilitarianism* (1863)
- 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* 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 the subject area away.

- Albert Atkin *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* (W.W.Norton, 2013)
- 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* (Dover Publications, 2011)
- 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.
The Department of Philosophy takes part in two international exchange schemes. You can apply to spend either a semester or a year of your degree studying overseas. Study Abroad is an exchange scheme between the University of Sheffield and a wide range of overseas partner universities. We have study abroad programmes available with 34 universities in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, India, New Zealand, Singapore and the USA. You can apply to spend the second year studying in one of these countries as part of your three-year degree. Alternatively, you can go there for an additional year between your second-year in Sheffield and your final year of study, leading to a BA "with International Experience".

Erasmus+ is a European Commission exchange programme which allows students to spend between two and twelve months in another European country. 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. Although the effect of the recent referendum result on the UK’s eligibility in the Erasmus+ programme is as yet unclear, the department and the University are committed to enabling students at Sheffield to incorporate study in European and non-European countries as part of their degree.

Scholarships are also available for eligible students to attend an overseas summer school at one of our partner universities. More information is available on our website: www.sheffield.ac.uk/summerschools/globalscholars
“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
STUDENT SUPPORT

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.

DISABILITY AND DYSLEXIA SUPPORT

We’re committed to responding effectively and appropriately to individual support needs. We take all practicable steps to ensure that disabled students can participate in their studies without disadvantage, and can make full use of the University’s academic and support services. To discuss support, contact the Disability and Dyslexia Support Service

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

SEMINAR DISCUSSIONS

All our modules include seminar discussions, intended to give you the opportunity to discuss with your fellow students material presented in lectures, as well as your own ideas. It is important to have the chance to talk about your ideas with others. It can sometimes feel difficult trying to work through complicated ideas and issues by yourself in front of a book or computer screen. Seminars are the ideal context for sharing your puzzlement. If you find an issue difficult, the chances are that everyone else does too. Seminars give students the chance to support and enlighten one another.

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.

"The 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."

Wenhan Sun – Economics and Philosophy
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’ main interests in philosophy are in moral, political and legal philosophy. He also has interests in moral psychology and the philosophy of the emotions.

MEGAN BLOMFIELD. Megan is primarily interested in political philosophy. Her main focus is global justice and the environment, particularly the ethical problem of climate change.

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

ANNAMARIA CARUSI. Annamaria’s research is primarily in Philosophy of Science, focusing on the area of Medical Humanities – a field that draws on insights from the humanities, social sciences, and the arts to examine and inform the science and practice of medicine.

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

JOSH FORSTENZER. Josh’s main interests are in political and social philosophy, American Pragmatism, and Philosophy of Education.

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

MAX HAYWARD. Max mainly works in metaethics, normative ethics and moral psychology, but he also has interests in rationality, epistemology, and the philosophy of mind, and in David Hume, Adam Smith and the American Pragmatists.

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.

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

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.

Pictured top to bottom, left to right:
Professor Chris Bennett, Professor Jennifer Saul
(Picture credit: Andy Brown),
Dr. Komarine Romdenh-Romluc
(Picture credit: Andy Brown),
Professor Robert Stern, Dr Dominic Gregory,
Professor Jimmy Lenman
Department of Philosophy.

Amber McGuffie
Philosophy and Religion, graduation 2016.
CAREERS

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
• Law
• Marketing
• Insurance and risk assessment
• Sales
• Teaching
• Fundraising
• Management
• Consulting
• Film-making
• Public relations
• Accounting
• Banking
• Technical support
• Social services
• Self-employment

CAREERS SUPPORT

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.

In addition, you will also have access to two very helpful online portals: the Skills Resource Bank (www.sheffield.ac.uk/skills) will help you to ‘Join Up Your Skills’ by providing a range of online resources and face-to-face activities to enhance your professional, personal and academic skills; and ExperienceUS (www.sheffield.ac.uk/experience) is where you can find out about the range of opportunities available to you as a University of Sheffield student, which will enhance your time at the University, enabling you to make new friends, learn new skills and discover more about yourself.

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, while we offer a Workplace Learning module at level three.

PHILOSOPHY SKILLS

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

PHILOSOPHY CAN TAKE YOU FAR

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:

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