Philosophical Studies: Knowledge and Human Interests

BA Honours

Top 1% of world universities
QS World University Rankings 2014-15

UCAS code V000
3 Years

www.ncl.ac.uk/ug/V000
Printed from the web page above on 26/08/2015
Philosophical Studies: Knowledge and Human Interests
BA Honours
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This degree explores philosophical questions like the nature of existence, mind and body, knowledge, goodness and beauty.

Newcastle is a top 10 UK university for philosophy, providing a thorough grounding in the main branches of philosophy, in both the continental and analytic traditions, as well as non-Western thought.

- Explore the relationship between philosophy and other areas of human endeavour, such as art, religion, and the natural and social sciences
- Choose from our wide range of stimulating modules including: ethics, the nature of freedom, the just society, creativity and taste
- Study philosophers such as Plato, Descartes, Hume, Nietzsche, Sartre and de Beauvoir

A degree in philosophy will open your mind to new ways of thinking. You learn how to question, analyse and balance multiple (and often opposing) points of view. These are skills that are much in demand in a wide range of careers.

Quality and ranking

Philosophy at Newcastle is ranked in the top 10 universities in the UK in The Times/Sunday Times University Guide 2014.

We perform consistently highly in the National Student Survey, having achieved a 93% overall satisfaction score in the 2013 National Student Survey.

Philosophical traditions

You receive a thorough grounding in philosophical traditions. You start with the study of Plato and Aristotle and their views of the cosmos. You also cover early Christian thinkers such as St Augustine.

Your exploration of European philosophical traditions continues with the Age of Reason and the study of:
- Descartes
- Galileo
- Newton

We then move on to the Enlightenment, the movement towards the liberation of humans by the application of independent thought, studying:
- Locke
- Voltaire
- Rousseau
- Goethe

In second and third year, your studies move forward in history to focus on contemporary thinkers such as:
- Kant
- Nietzsche
- Freud
- Heidegger
- Adorno
- Foucault

Fantastic flexibility

You will benefit from fantastic flexibility to draw on the University’s expertise in other subject areas.

A third of your modules are optional at each Stage.

We make the most of our links with other subjects, drawing on the University’s expertise in areas such as:
- classics
- history
- politics
- sociology
- art
- history
- modern languages

This not only adds to the richness of the debate but also provides a flexible degree where you are encouraged to relate your own philosophical ideas to areas of particular interest.

Project work and skill development

Project work is an important part of the degree and you will undertake a project at each Stage.

This allows you to study a particular topic in more depth, and bring your studies and other interests into dialogue.

Students in the past have written about:
- modern art and authenticity
- science fiction films
- the nature of reality
- animal rights

In the course of researching project and essay material, we encourage you to build up a range of skills that will be useful in your future, such as:
• the ability to research, analyse and present complex information
• data collection and processing techniques, including database handling
• the ability to develop robust arguments, and to articulate your point of view
• personal development and management

Your project report will be a document full of pictorial and contextual evidence of the skills and knowledge that you have acquired during your degree.

Study abroad

UK and EU students have the opportunity to broaden their academic experience by taking part in a study exchange abroad.

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods
• Learning in Philosophical Studies is an active process, centring on your own reading and inspired by lectures and discussion in seminars and tutorials
• Project work is an important part of the degree and you will undertake a project at each Stage. This allows you to study in more depth a particular topic relevant to the ideas being studied.

Assessment methods
• Your work in each module is assessed through coursework and you are expected to produce around five pieces of written work each term

Find out more
• Teaching and assessment methods may vary from module to module. More information about each module can be found in the Modules section
• Visit our Teaching and Learning pages to read about the outstanding learning experience available to all students at Newcastle University

Modules

Our degrees are divided into Stages. Each Stage lasts for an academic year and you need to complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each Stage.

Please be aware that programme modules do change and therefore may differ for your year of entry.

Stage 1

Compulsory modules
PHI1002 Philosophy and Religion
PHI1003 Critical Reasoning
PHI1004 Stage 1 Project
PHI1010 European Philosophical Traditions I: Knowledge, Reality, Truth
PHI1011 European Philosophical Traditions II: Moral Philosophy and Human Nature

Optional modules
You can take 40 credits from anywhere in the University, but the following optional modules are recommended:
CAC1015 How Should I Live? An Introduction to Ancient Moral Philosophy
PHI1005 Existentialism and the Self
Other optional modules may also be available.

Stage 2

Compulsory modules
PHI2001 Knowledge and Human Interests
PHI2002 Cultural Contradictions of Scientific Rationality
PHI2003 Ethics and the Modern World
PHI2004 Stage 2 Project

Optional modules
You can take 40 credits from anywhere in the University, but the following optional modules are recommended:
NCL2007 Career Development Module for Second-year Students
PHI2005 Consciousness, Art and Technology
PHI2006 Philosophy, Culture and Society

Stage 3

Compulsory modules
PHI3001 Legitimacy and Reason
PHI3002 Postmodern Political Thought, Domination and Resistance
PHI3003 Meaning, Truth and Language
PHI3004 Projects (Stage 3)

Optional modules
You can take 40 credits from anywhere in the University, but the following optional modules are recommended:
NCL3007 Career Development for Final-year Students
NCL3008 Advanced Career Development
PHI3005 Knowledge, Power and Desire
Entry Requirements

All candidates are considered on an individual basis. If your qualifications are not listed here, please see our additional entry requirements web pages to find out which other qualifications are considered.

**A Levels**
AAB-ABB. General Studies included.

**Scottish Qualifications**
AAABB-AABBB at Higher Grade. Combinations of Highers and Advanced Highers accepted.

Scottish qualifications can be taken in more than one sitting.

**International Baccalaureate**
A minimum of 34-35 points with three subjects at Higher level grade 5 or above.

**Irish Leaving Certificate**
A1A1A1B1B-A1A1B1B1B at Higher Level.

**Access Qualifications**
At least 30 level 3 credits at Distinction and 15 level 3 credits at Merit.

**BTEC Level 3 Extended Diploma (formerly BTEC National Diploma)**
Applicants will be considered on an individual basis.

**Cambridge Pre-U**
D3,D3,M2-D3,M2,M2 in Principal Subjects.

**PARTNERS - A Levels**
BBB. General Studies accepted.

The PARTNERS Programme is Newcastle University’s supported entry route for students from identified schools and colleges. Find out more about the PARTNERS Programme.

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**English Language Requirements**
Applicants whose first language is not English require a minimum score of IELTS 6.5 or equivalent.

If you need help to meet our English Language requirements, we can provide support with extra tuition. Read more about UK visas and immigration requirements.

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**Undergraduate Admissions Policy**

- Newcastle University Undergraduate Admissions Policy 2015 Entry (PDF: 109 KB)

See further Newcastle University Admissions Policies.

**Philosophical Studies careers**

Although Philosophical Studies is generally considered to be a non-vocational degree, employers will value the specific skills that the study of philosophy develops and how you link these to the requirements of jobs.

The study of philosophy helps you to develop the ability to analyse and construct sound arguments, think logically and critically about ideas and issues, communicate clearly and persuasively, and generate solutions to problems.

You also gain crucial employability skills sought by graduate employers, including independent study and self-motivation, the ability to prioritise work and meet deadlines, flexibility, creativity, the ability to identify, absorb and sift complex information, teamwork, and applications of information technology.

Throughout the course you will be encouraged to develop a personal portfolio of knowledge and skills in a field best matching your tastes and abilities. This will provide you with an opportunity to get acquainted with the work environment in an area of employment of interest to you.

Philosophical Studies graduates are found working with almost every type of employer in the public, private and not-for-profit sectors. Typical employers include the National Health Service, Civil Service, law firms, charities, publishing and advertising. Some graduates will continue to Master’s-level studies. Popular choices include law, journalism and media.

Find out more about the career options for Philosophy from Prospects: The UK’s Official Careers Website.

**Careers and employability at Newcastle**

Newcastle University consistently has one of the best records for graduate employment in the UK.

- 93.7% of our 2013 UK/EU graduates progressed to employment or further study within six months of graduating.
- More than three quarters (77%) of our graduates who entered employment achieved a graduate-level position.

We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through an initiative called ncl+ which enables you to develop personal, employability and enterprise skills and to give you the edge in the employment market after you graduate.

Our award-winning Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers.

The School liaises closely with the University’s Careers Service to support you throughout your studies. Through
the excellent links forged with regional and national employers, many companies visit the campus to give presentations, attend job fairs and carry out interviews. Some employers are also actively involved in work-related course projects and modules.

Finance

**Tuition Fees (UK and EU students)**

- **2016 entry:** £9,000 per year
- **2015 entry:** £9,000 per year

See more information on all aspects of student finance relating to Newcastle University.

Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year in line with inflation and subject to government regulations.

**Tuition Fees (International students)**

- **2016 entry:** £13,315 per year
- **2015 entry:** £12,680 per year

You will be charged tuition fees for each year of your degree programme (unless you are on a shorter exchange programme).

If you spend a year on placement or studying abroad as part of your degree you may pay a reduced fee for that year.

Please note that the tuition fee amount you will pay may increase slightly year on year as a result of inflation.

See more information relating to all aspects of student finance at Newcastle University.

**Scholarships and Financial Support (International students)**

You may be eligible for an International Undergraduate Merit Scholarship (IUMS) or an International Family Discount (IFD).

**Scholarships and Financial Support (UK and EU students)**

You may be eligible for one of a range of Newcastle University Scholarships in addition to government grants and support.

Newcastle University Scholarships

Non-repayable grants