Programme Specification

BA Philosophy with Foundation   **UCAS Code: V501**

For students entering Foundation year in September 2020   **UFPHILFY**

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content	
The programme aims to provide you with a comprehensive degree-level education in Philosophy, to encourage you to confront your deepest beliefs and assumptions in a characteristically philosophical way, to enhance your global engagement and multi-cultural awareness, to teach you the basic rudiments of philosophical argument, to learn about different conceptions of social and civic responsibility, to inform you about current debates in philosophy, to develop a sense of the significance of philosophical thinking in dealing with modern problems, to help you appreciate multiple perspectives and the values of diversity, to cultivate your skills in oral and written argument, and to encourage you to compare and contrast very different ways of doing philosophy. The programme of study is specifically designed to introduce you to progressive intellectual challenges and to consolidate your previous experience at each new level. Students who meet the progression requirements at the end of their foundation year will be able to transfer onto any BA Programme in the School of Humanities or the School of Literature and Languages, or joint programmes across the schools	
Foundation year:	The Foundation Year will offer a broad, immersive experience for students within the Arts and Humanities. Students be supported by a central skills module and a subject specific skills development module. These modules will provide students with the knowledge, experience and study skills needed to succeed in a BA Programme in the Arts and Humanities.
Part 1:	Introduces you to the core topics of philosophy and to the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, basic logic, and the psychology of reasoning. There is a particular emphasis on developing oral and written skills through small group discussion. You will undertake research to produce coursework essays and to learn how to critically appraise what you discover.
Part 2:	Provides you with a deeper awareness of current philosophers, of the skills of argument and presentation, and of the epistemology and methodology of Philosophy. There is a greater emphasis on developing skills of research and enquiry and to presenting arguments in public meetings in an effective way, anticipating and responding to questions, and using a range of means (speaking, summary-writing, essay-writing, presenting, designing slides).

Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to develop full mastery of the discipline of Philosophy across a broad range of different conceptions of what counts as 'Philosophy'. The emphasis is on developing independent learning, personal effectiveness and self-awareness as well as the ability to reflect effectively on your progress and strengths and on the goals you wish to achieve.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0RAS	Foundation in Academic Skills	20	0

Part 0 Modules:

Students must take one 20 credit subject specific skills module.

Students must take two 40 credit modules from the School of Literature and Languages and the School of Humanities.

International Students take IF0ACA (Academic Skills), in place of IF0RAS (Foundation in Academic Skills), as IF0ACA is specifically targeted to the needs of international students.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy and modules from elsewhere in the University.

Part 2 Modules:

Students must select 120 credits in optional modules, made up of 20 credit modules with their accompanying 10 credit modules, from the list available from the Department of Philosophy.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be selected from elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

In Part 3, students will take one of two pathways:

On the first pathway, students will take a 40 credit Dissertation module, with the remaining credits taken from modules available in the Department of Philosophy and up to 20 credits selected from modules available across the University

On the second pathway, students will take a 20 credit Independent Learning module with the remaining credits taken from modules available in the Department of Philosophy and up to 20 credits selected from modules available across the University.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library and through the Department of Philosophy. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimate was calculated in 2019.

Placement opportunities

Placements:
You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:
You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through seminars, lectures. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 192 hours, Part 2 - 180 hours, Part 3 - 132 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a variety of means, including written coursework of different types, oral presentations and class tests.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Foundation Year:

 (i)   an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0; with

(ii)   no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35% and

(iii)   at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

In order to progress from Part 0 to Part 1, a student must achieve a threshold performance and;

iv)   at least 40% in the Academic Skill module and any specified 20 credit subject specific skills module.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Foundation Year qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 1
(i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
(ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

(iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in the compulsory module in Philosophy at Part 1 (PP1RA) and in 20 additional credits from Philosophy modules taken in Part 1.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2
To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

(i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
(ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
(iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees
The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class

| 35% - 39% | Below Honours Standard |
| 0% - 34% | Fail |

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:
Part 2: one-third
Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:
Part 2: one-third
Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Philosophy with Foundation for students entering Foundation year in session 2020/21
3 July 2020