

Programme Specification

BA Philosophy and English Literature

For students entering Part 1 in September 2021

UCAS Code: VQ53

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

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| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 3 years |
| Length of Programme with placement/year abroad | BA Philosophy and English Literature with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Philosophy and English Literature with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only) |

Programme information and content

In Philosophy: 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.

In English Literature: the programme aims to provide you with subject-specific knowledge and more general skills, including knowledge of a variety of different kinds of literary texts, from a range of periods, as well as perspectives on different methods of creative and critical analysis. The course also aims to foster an independent approach to formulating problems and arguments, using the close reading and analytical skills that are fundamental to the discipline.

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| Part 1: | <p>In Philosophy: 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.</p> <p>In English Literature: the programme will provide debate about approaches to the study of literature, through critical and research exercises and close study of selected texts from a number of different periods.</p> |
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| Part 2: | <p>In Philosophy: 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).</p> <p>In English Literature: provides you with a greater breadth of coverage, and studies texts within historical periods and generic traditions.</p> |
| Part 3: | <p>In Philosophy: 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. The dissertation module and the independent learning module provide opportunities to develop independent research skills, time management and organisation of ideas.</p> <p>In English Literature: you will undertake more specialized and independent literary study, choosing your modules from a wide range of options. The dissertation module develops your skills in research, planning and writing.</p> |

Module information

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

Part 1 Modules:

| Module | Name | Credits |
|--------|------------------------|---------|
| EN1GC | Genre and Context | 20 |
| EN1PE | Poetry in English | 20 |
| EN1RC | Research and Criticism | 20 |
| PP1RA | Reason and Argument | 20 |

Student must select at least 20 credits to a maximum of 40 credit in optional modules from the list available from the Department of Philosophy.

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

Part 2 Modules:

Students must select at least 60 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.

Students must select 60 credits in optional modules from the list available from the Department of English, with at least 20 credits drawn from a list of pre-1800 modules.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available 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:

Students must select EITHER a 40 credit dissertation in Philosophy or English OR the 20 credit Independent Learning module in Philosophy.

Students must select 40 credits in optional modules from the list available the Department of Philosophy.

Students must select 40 credits in optional modules from the list available in the Department of English.

Students selecting the 20 credit Independent Learning module in Philosophy must select a further 20 credit optional module in Philosophy or English.

Up to 20 credits of optional modules may be substituted for modules available elsewhere in the University, subject to the approval of the Programme Director.

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.

In Philosophy, 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.

In English Literature: for textbooks and similar learning resources, it is recommend that you budget between £150 to £250 a year.

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 and the Department of English Literature. 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 2020.

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:

In Philosophy: through seminars, lectures.

In English Literature: through seminars, lectures and individual consultations.

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 - 228 hours, Part 2 - 168 hours, Part 3 - 144 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 combination of written examinations and coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations.

In Philosophy: 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

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; and
- (iv) obtain a mark of at least 40% in the compulsory English Literature module EN1RC, and obtain a mark of at least 40% in either of the compulsory English literature modules EN1GC or EN1PE, at 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
- (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/workplacement 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/workplacement 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 and English Literature for students entering Part 1 in session 2021/22
13 March 2023

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