Philosophy
Undergraduate Studies
Royal Holloway is widely recognised on the world stage as one of the UK’s leading teaching and research universities. One of the larger colleges of the University of London, we are strong across the sciences, social sciences, arts and humanities. We were ranked 17th in the UK (118th in the world) by the Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2015, which described us as ‘truly world-class’.

As a cosmopolitan community, with students from 130 countries, we focus on the support and development of the individual. Our friendly and safe campus, west of central London, provides a unique environment for university study. We have been voted as one of the 16 most beautiful universities in the world (Daily Telegraph).
Philosophy at Royal Holloway offers you an exciting and unique opportunity to study one of the oldest and most fundamental forms of human enquiry. We have a distinctive programme that works across the division between analytic and continental philosophy and emphasises how contemporary problems of enormous practical and theoretical importance can often only be understood and therefore addressed satisfactorily through an understanding of how they have changed and developed through time. By helping you to fathom what the world and we – as part of that world – are like, our aim is to equip you with some of the skills and the understanding required to shape both in a better image.

**CONTACT DETAILS**

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**MORE INFORMATION**
This brochure is designed to complement Royal Holloway’s Undergraduate Prospectus and information on the department’s website at [royalholloway.ac.uk/philosophy](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/philosophy)
It is also available as a PDF at [royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere](http://royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere)
Our world is increasingly one of serious disagreements about the aims and values that should inform human life. Philosophical reflection has consequently become more and more essential to the assessment of human culture. The study of philosophy may on occasion seem esoteric and disconnected from everyday life, but it offers a form of rigorous critical inquiry into questions that are fundamental to our understanding of politics and ethics, of art and culture, of our relationship to our past and future, and of our connection to the natural world. This is why philosophical questioning is so important today, and why philosophy can equip you with the critical skills and reflective insights needed to live well.

GRADUATE VIEW

Craig Gent, BA Philosophy, Politics and International Relations

“For me philosophy is unique in that it is able to draw on so many disciplines, combining a rigour and application of logic and reasoning quite unlike any other subject. Education is about discovery and challenging perceptions; this is the essence of philosophy. Whether considering politics, ethics or our relationship to language, the study of philosophy is both enriching and genuinely enlightening.”
Why choose Philosophy at Royal Holloway?

“Philosophy is a battle against the bewitchment of intelligence by language” Wittgenstein

Royal Holloway is one of the few centres in the world that allows students to study across the divide between Anglo-American ‘analytic’ and European/Continental traditions in contemporary philosophy, and which takes seriously the extent to which philosophical problems – and thus the problems confronting society – can sometimes be understood only in relation to their own genealogies. In decision-making in practical ethics, for example, technological possibilities continue to challenge intuitions that go back generations, and new ways of thinking are often needed to make our view of ourselves coherent. We offer a warm and supportive environment in one of the UK’s top research institutions, and a beautiful campus environment in close proximity to London.

At Royal Holloway you will:

• be part of a course that goes beyond the narrow confines of work that remains within the analytic tradition or the European tradition alone, recognising that such divisions are rapidly becoming outmoded.
• explore the key issues, thinkers and texts most likely to determine the future development of philosophy and of our conception of ourselves and our place in nature
• be taught by academics who are internationally recognised authorities in their research areas and have published major books on key philosophical topics.
• collaborate with and enjoy the support of the Institute of Philosophy in the School of Advanced Study at London University. The Institute offers a very wide range of conferences, seminars and lectures.
• have the opportunity to do further research and, if you choose an academic career in philosophy, be able to apply for jobs in a greater variety of departments than if you had only studied either analytic or European philosophy.
• enjoy our spectacular location in the College’s beautiful and historic Founder’s Building.

What you can study

Single honours Philosophy

Joint degrees that connect Philosophy to the arts, humanities and social sciences

Combine Maths or Physics with Philosophy

PPE Politics, Philosophy & Economics

Graduate View

Claire West, BA Ancient History and Philosophy

“Studying Philosophy at Royal Holloway was one of the most challenging but rewarding experiences I have ever had. The range of modules available to Philosophy students ensures that you cannot fail to find something you really engage with.”
Degree programmes

• V500 Philosophy
• LoVo Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE)

Joint degrees
Subjects that can be combined 50/50 with Philosophy:
• LV25 Politics and International Relations & Philosophy
• QV35 English & Philosophy
• VV51 History & Philosophy
• WV35 Music & Philosophy
• VV15 Ancient History & Philosophy
• QV8M Classical Studies & Philosophy
• WV45 Drama & Philosophy
• QV85 Classics & Philosophy
• QV25 Comparative Literature and Culture & Philosophy
• RV15 French & Philosophy
• RV25 German & Philosophy
• RV35 Italian & Philosophy
• RV45 Spanish & Philosophy

Single honours Philosophy

If you are looking to fully immerse yourself in philosophy at university this is the course for you! The degree offers a thorough grounding in the Anglo-American, French and German philosophical traditions, as well as exploring the continuing relevance of philosophy’s origins in Greek thought. In addition to lectures and seminars, new students meet weekly in small tutorial groups with a member of the philosophy staff to discuss a piece of work they have been set and to evaluate the essays they have written. This helps develop the kind of critical and personal skills you’ll need both for higher-level academic work and for your future career.

Three-year undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway are organised in a course unit structure, with students taking four units per year, or 12 in total. Full unit courses are one year in duration, and half-units are one term in length. One unit is also considered equivalent to 15 ECTS credits or 30 credits in most UK universities that use a credit-based structure.

Year 1

Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (1/2 unit)
Introduction to Modern Philosophy (1/2 unit)
Epistemology and Metaphysics (1/2 unit)
Tutorial Special Study (1/2 unit)
Introduction to Political Philosophy (1/2 unit)
Introduction to Aesthetics and Morals (1/2 unit)
Introduction to Logic (1/2 unit)
Mind and Consciousness (1/2 unit)

Year 2

Students must take:
Introduction to European Philosophy 1: From Kant to Hegel (1/2 unit)
Mind and World (1/2 unit)
and choose options equal to the value of 3 units from the following:
Introduction to European Philosophy 2: The Critique of Idealism (1/2 unit)
Varieties of Scepticism (1 unit)
Philosophy of Psychology (1 unit)
Modern French Philosophy (1 unit)
Philosophy of Religion (1 unit)
Philosophy and the Arts (1/2 unit)
Practical Ethics (1/2 unit)
Body and Soul (in Ancient Philosophy) (1 unit)
The Good Life (in Ancient Philosophy) (1 unit)
Contemporary Political Theory (1 unit)
Modern Political Thought (1 unit)

Year 3

You will take a one-unit dissertation course and choose options equal to the value of 3 units from the following:
Modern European Philosophy 1: From Husserl to Heidegger (1/2 unit)
Modern European Philosophy 2: Critical Theory and Hermeneutics (1/2 unit)
Recovering Reality (1 unit)
Radical Political Theory (1 unit)
Varieties of Scepticism (1 unit)
Philosophy of Psychology (1 unit)
Modern French Philosophy (1 unit)
Philosophy of Religion (1 unit)
Philosophy and the Arts (1/2 unit)
Practical Ethics (1/2 unit)
Body and Soul (in Ancient Philosophy) (1 unit)
The Good Life (in Ancient Philosophy) (1 unit)
Joint degree programmes whose content is 50% in Philosophy and 50% in another area are available with 13 different subjects. The content and specific requirements of the non-philosophy component differ depending on your other department. The Philosophy component of the degree consists of compulsory first year foundation courses, with increasing flexibility of choice in the second and third years. You must write a final year dissertation based on independent research in either philosophy or in your other subject area. The Philosophy programme consists of:

### Year 1
- Introduction to Ancient Philosophy (1/2 unit)
- Introduction to Modern Philosophy (1/2 unit)
- Epistemology and Metaphysics (1/2 unit)
- and choose one from the following:
  - Introduction to Aesthetics and Morals (1/2 unit)
  - Introduction to Logic (1/2 unit)
  - Mind and Consciousness (1/2 unit)

### Year 2
- Students must take:
  - Introduction to European Philosophy I: From Kant to Hegel (1/2 unit)
  - Mind and World (1/2 unit)
- and choose options equal to the value of 1 unit from those available (see above)

### Year 3
- Students take a one-unit dissertation course in either philosophy or their partnering subject, and choose additional courses (see above) such that their final year is composed of two units of philosophy.

The Minor degree programmes in Philosophy consist of 25% Philosophy and 75% of your other subject. These combinations are available with 14 different subjects, including Film Studies, Mathematics and Physics.

### Year 1
- Epistemology and Metaphysics (1/2 unit)
- and choose one from the following:
  - Introduction to Aesthetics and Morals (1/2 unit)
  - Introduction to Logic (1/2 unit)
  - Mind and Consciousness (1/2 unit)

### Year 2
- Free choice of 1 unit from available courses (see above)

### Year 3
- Free choice of 1 unit from available courses (see above)

**BSc/BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE)**

This course offers the exciting opportunity to study three disciplines that are crucial for an understanding of the complex dynamics of today’s world. Students will study a common foundation in the first year, and an advanced seminar and dissertation unit in their final year that develops links across the three discipline – a distinctive feature of the course. You will have the flexibility to vary your degree in your second and third years in such a way as to graduate with one of three awards: BSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics; BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics; and BA Politics and Philosophy with Economics.

### Year 1
- Principles of Economics (1 unit)
- Quantitative Methods of Economics (1 unit)
- Introduction to Politics and Government (1 unit)
- Epistemology and Metaphysics (1/2 unit)
- and choose one from the following:
  - Introduction to Aesthetics and Morals (1/2 unit)
  - Introduction to Logic (1/2 unit)
  - Mind and Consciousness (1/2 unit)

### Year 2
- Students must take:
  - Microeconomics (1 unit)
  - Macroeconomics (1 unit)
  - Introduction to European Philosophy I: From Kant to Hegel (1/2 unit)
  - Mind and World (1/2 unit)
- and choose options equal to the value of 1 unit from those available in Politics and International Relations

### Year 3
- Students must take:
  - Advanced Seminar and Dissertation in Philosophy Politics and Economics (1 unit)
- Students then choose three units of available courses in at least two of the subject areas. Or in Economics, you must have taken both Microeconomics and Macroeconomics in your second year to be able to choose third year Economics courses. If you have taken only one of those courses in year 2, you may only choose the other in year 3.
Admissions and entry requirements

“Even the bravest of us only rarely has the courage for what he really knows...” Nietzsche

Our degrees are open to any students who have an interest in philosophical issues, whatever subjects they have previously studied. Our first year courses are specially designed to introduce students to the main issues in philosophy.

Courses in the second and third years provide opportunities to study ancient philosophy, modern and contemporary political thought, ethics, epistemology and scepticism, and major modern and contemporary Anglo-American and European thinkers.

No previous experience of Philosophy is necessary, just the desire to think rigorously and in detail about how we understand the world.

The standard offer for BA Philosophy is ABB (34 IB points). Standard offers for Joint degrees vary from AAB (35 IB points) and 340 UCAS tariff points to ABB (34 IB points) and 320 UCAS Tariff Points, depending on the degree programme. For Philosophy, Politics and Economics the standard offer is ABB with at least a B in A-Level Maths (if taken) or at least an A in GCSE Maths or B in AS Maths, or an IB score of 35 with at least 5 in SL Maths.

Further details of all acceptable qualifications can be found at royalholloway.ac.uk/international/yourcountry
There is a wide variety of social, intellectual and sporting clubs and societies on campus, including the Philosophy Society (PhilSoc) established by undergraduate philosophy students in late 2011. PhilSoc aims to provide students with an outlet to pursue philosophical interests, whether political, social, ethical or epistemological, and is open to students across campus, not just those studying philosophy degrees. Since its establishment the society has been hosting weekly discussions on a variety of philosophical and practical topics, and has taken part in events such as the British Undergraduate Philosophy Society annual conference, and ‘My Night with Philosophers’ held at the Institute Français du Royaume-Uni in central London.

Research and postgraduate opportunities
Our MA in Modern Philosophy offers advanced study in concepts and debates in both analytic and continental philosophy. We also offer an MA by Research in Philosophy that allows independent research into an area of philosophy, culminating in the writing of a substantial dissertation. Postgraduate research is a fundamental part of the discipline's research culture at Royal Holloway, and a PhD at Royal Holloway offers exciting opportunities to work across areas of philosophy and link it in dynamic ways to other disciplines.

Open Days, Applicant Visit Days and taster sessions
If you are interested in a degree incorporating Philosophy at Royal Holloway, please come along to our sessions at the next College Open Day (usually held in October and June) or one of the Applicant Visit Days held during the year for students holding an offer from Royal Holloway. We also run an annual Taster Day. Please see website for details, or contact the department.

For further details visit royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays or royalholloway.ac.uk/philosophy
For more information about the department, please contact:
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Undergraduate Programme Director:
Dr Neil Gascoigne
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Postgraduate Programme Director:
Professor Andrew Bowie
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Welfare and support
All undergraduate students have a personal tutor who provides advice and support, but our academic staff as a whole operate an open door policy and students may come to see any of the academic or administrative staff who are available. Both the Students’ Union and the College provide a wide range of welfare services, including a Counselling Centre and an NHS Health Centre. There is also a dedicated Careers and Employability Service.
Your future career

91% of our students are in work or further study six months after graduating*

Philosophy degrees are well-regarded by employers because they give you the capacity to think through issues and problems in a logical and consistent way, and to develop critical skills which can be applied in almost any area of employment, from computing to the arts. Our degrees also prepare you well for postgraduate study in many areas, not just in Philosophy.

Depending on the exact course combination you choose, you might go on to find work in fields as diverse as teaching, technology, law, finance or even the intelligence services.

The strengths a Philosophy degree will give you:
• an ability to absorb, sift and communicate complex ideas, both
  orally and in writing
• the capacity to work in groups and to communicate and defend
  standpoints
• the ability to communicate persuasively to an intended
  audience
• confident planning skills
• self-motivation, creativity and the ability to prioritise
• independent logical and critical thinking
• awareness of the historical and social development of thought,
  leading to theoretical innovation.

We work in partnership with the College’s dedicated Careers Service to help you enhance your employability and prepare for the choices ahead. Philosophy students are offered tailored opportunities across the year, as well as a part-time jobs fair, a wide variety of skills workshops, online sector-specific resources; plus a new series of relevant themed careers weeks including ‘Creative’, ‘Finance’ and ‘Not-for-Profit’. royalholloway.ac.uk/careers

When our graduates move into the world of work, we like to keep in touch wherever possible and are always delighted to hear how their chosen careers are progressing. royalholloway.ac.uk/alumni

*Unistats, 2014

Graduate View

Sam Matthews, BA Politics, International Relations and Philosophy (2013)

“Royal Holloway has been a fantastic place to study philosophy. One of the unique aspects of the department is that it enables you to work across the boundaries that exist in the philosophical world and so gives you the opportunity to work out what interests you the most. The teaching staff are really helpful and supportive, and there is also a great student community around the subject. Although philosophy can lead to many different careers, I found that it interested me so much that I hope to go on to teach the subject in the future, and I am currently studying for an MA.”
Professor Andrew Bowie, MA (Cambridge), PhD (UEA)
Andrew Bowie is a Professor of Philosophy and German. His research interests lie in modern German philosophy, the relationship of European to analytical philosophy, literature, and music (he is a jazz saxophonist). His many monographs include Aesthetics and Subjectivity: From Kant to Nietzsche (1990), Schelling and Modern European Philosophy (1993), Introduction to German Philosophy from Kant to Habermas (2003), Music, Philosophy and Modernity (2007), Philosophical Variations: Music as Philosophical Language (2010) and Adorno and the Ends of Contemporary Philosophy (2013).

Dr Michael Bacon, BSc (Econ.), MSc, PhD (LSE)
Michael Bacon is a Senior Lecturer in Political Theory. His research interests are in contemporary political theory, in particular political liberalism, pragmatism, and theories of democracy. He is author of Richard Rorty: Pragmatism and Political Liberalism (2007) and Pragmatism: An Introduction (2012).

Dr Neil Gascoigne, B.Eng. (Leeds), MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)
Neil Gascoigne is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy, and the Programme Director for Philosophy. His principal interests are in pragmatism, metaphilosophy, and epistemology, and he is the author of Scepticism (2003), Richard Rorty: Liberalism, Irony, and the Ends of Philosophy (2008), and (with Tim Thornton) Tacit Knowledge (2013). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/NeilGascoigne.

Professor Dan Rebellato, PhD (Royal Holloway)
Dan Rebellato is a Professor of Contemporary Theatre, and also a practicing playwright. He has interests in post-war British theatre, post-structuralist and critical philosophy. His academic works include 1956 and All That: The Making of Modern British Drama (1999), Theatre and Globalization (2009) and (with M. M. Delgado) Contemporary European Theatre Directors (2010). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/DanRebellato.

Dr Rebecca Roache, BA (Leeds), MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)
Rebecca Roache came to Royal Holloway in September 2014 from the University of Oxford where she was Research Fellow in the Faculty of Philosophy. She has broad philosophical interests, which include philosophy of mind, philosophy of psychiatry, applied ethics, and metaphysics (especially philosophy of time, personal identity, and free will). You can find out more about her and read some of her work at rebeccaroache.weebly.com.

Dr Jonathan Seglow, BA (Oxford), MSc (LSE), PhD (Manchester)
Jonathan Seglow is a Reader in Political Theory. His research interests are in contemporary liberal political philosophy. He has written on liberalism, multiculturalism, theories of recognition, altruism and the ethics of immigration restrictions. He is co-author (with Niall Scott) of Altruism (2007) and author of the forthcoming Defending Associative Duties.

Professor Anne Sheppard, MA, DPhil (Oxford)
Anne Sheppard is a Professor of Ancient Philosophy. Her research interests are in Greek philosophy, especially Neoplatonism, and in ancient literary criticism. She is the author of Aesthetics: An Introduction to the Philosophy of Art (1987) and The Poetics of Phantasia. Imagination in Ancient Aesthetics (2014), and co-editor of Greek and Roman Aesthetics (2010). She has published numerous other studies in Greek philosophy and aesthetics.

Dr Henry Somers-Hall, BA, MA, PhD (Warwick)
Henry Somers-Hall is a Senior Lecturer in Philosophy. His research interests are in nineteenth and twentieth century German and French philosophy, and in particular Kant, Hegel, Deleuze, Merleau-Ponty and Sartre. He is author of Hegel, Deleuze and the Critique of Representation: Dialectics of Negation and Difference (2012) and Deleuze’s Difference and Repetition (2013), and is co-editor and contributor to the Cambridge Companion to Deleuze (2012). You can find out more about him and read some of his work at royalholloway.academia.edu/HenrySomersHall.

Professor Nathan Widder, BA (Johns Hopkins), MSc (LSE), PhD (Essex)
Nathan Widder is a Professor of Political Theory. His research interests are in modern and contemporary Continental philosophy and the history of political thought. He is author of Genealogies of Difference (2002), Reflections on Time and Politics (2008), and Political Theory after Deleuze (2012).

The terms and conditions on which Royal Holloway, University of London makes offers of admission to its programmes of study, including those covered in this booklet, can be found in the Undergraduate Prospectus or Postgraduate Prospectus, copies of which are available on request from: royalholloway.ac.uk/studyhere

The information contained in this brochure is correct at the time of publication but is subject to change as part of the department's policy of continuous improvement and development.