

# PHILOSOPHY



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

Undergraduate Studies

# Welcome



A degree course in philosophy at Royal Holloway is an opportunity to explore 'big questions' about the nature of knowledge, existence, truth, beauty, justice, and goodness. In the process it will also equip you with essential skills in critical and logical thinking that are vital for

whatever you might choose to do afterwards.

Academics in the Philosophy programme work on a wide range of topics and engage with contemporary problems in society, from thinking about the nature of mental health, the impact of AI, and what counts as offensive language, to how ancient philosophies such as Stoicism and Confucianism can contribute to living a good life. Whether you are interested in metaphysics and philosophy of language, Existentialism and Phenomenology, or philosophy of medicine and digital ethics, our programme has something for you.

## Dr Kaat Smets

Head of Department



**98%** of students say staff are good at explaining things

(National Student Survey, 2024)

## Contact details

### Course enquiries

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### Connect with us

 [@rhulpirp](https://www.instagram.com/rhulpirp)

[royalholloway.ac.uk/philosophy](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/philosophy)

# Philosophy at Royal Holloway

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

**Wittgenstein**

At Royal Holloway you'll have the opportunity to study topics such as:

- Ancient Greek philosophy
- Chinese philosophy
- Medieval philosophy
- Early modern philosophy
- Problems of knowledge
- Philosophy of mind and world
- Issues in ethics
- Logic and critical thinking
- Philosophy of language
- Aesthetics and philosophy of art
- Existentialism and phenomenology
- Radical political theory
- Philosophy of nature
- Kant and German idealism
- Recent French philosophy
- Philosophy of medicine, psychiatry, and psychology
- Philosophy of religion



“I love teaching philosophy because I get to introduce people to different ways of thinking, about all different sort of things. Philosophy is so broad and all-encompassing that anyone who thinks can be a philosopher, and one can philosophise about anything!”

**Dr Suki Finn**  
Lecturer

## Choosing your degree (For details of current module options and our entry requirements, please see our website.)

If you are looking to fully immerse yourself in philosophy at Royal Holloway then the single honours BA Philosophy 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.

Joint courses (50% Philosophy and 50% in another area) are available with a wide range of subjects. The philosophy component of these degrees consist of core first year foundation modules, with increasing flexibility of choice in the second and third years. You will write a final year dissertation based on independent research in either philosophy or in your other subject area.

The minor degree courses in philosophy consist of 25% Philosophy and 75% of your other subject. We also offer BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) which allows you to combine all three disciplines.

DEGREES	UCAS code
BA Philosophy	V500
BA Philosophy (with an Integrated Foundation Year)	V50F
<b>JOINT DEGREES</b>	
BA Ancient History & Philosophy	VV15
BA Classics & Philosophy	QV85
BA Drama & Philosophy	WV45
BA History & Philosophy	VV51
BA Politics and International Relations & Philosophy	LV25
BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE)	L0V0
BA Sociology & Philosophy	LV35
<b>PHILOSOPHY AS A MAJOR SUBJECT</b>	
BA Philosophy with International Relations	V5L9
BA Philosophy with Politics	V5L2

<b>PHILOSOPHY AS A MINOR SUBJECT</b>	
BA Ancient History with Philosophy	V1V5
BA Classical Studies with Philosophy	Q9V5
BA Drama with Philosophy	W4V5
BA English with Philosophy	Q3V5
BSc Mathematics with Philosophy	G1V5
BA Modern Languages with Philosophy	R9V5
BA Music with Philosophy	W3V5
BA Politics with Philosophy	L2V5
BSc Physics with Philosophy	F3V5
LLB Law with Philosophy	M1V5



# Studying here

## Teaching and assessment

Teaching varies between modules but is carried out principally by means of lectures and seminars. Larger modules normally consist of one lecture and one parallel tutorial seminar per week. Smaller modules are run in single two-hour slots per week, and consist of a lecture and seminar, a two-hour seminar or some other two-hour format. Most modules contain an element of assessed coursework, which contributes to the final mark awarded. In some cases coursework does not formally count towards assessment, but submission is nevertheless required. Coursework can consist of e.g. essays and presentations.

## Facilities

Royal Holloway's modern library provides all the facilities expected of a modern university library in an excellent environment: comfortable reader spaces, easy access to books and journals, and the very latest technology. Students also have access to libraries in central London, and have borrowing privileges and full remote access to all the electronic resources available from Senate House Library, which houses some 14 million items. The Computer Centre has a wide range of computing facilities, and is open 24-hours a day. There are numerous computer rooms across the campus.

**Study in small teaching and seminar groups to get the most out of your studies**



# Student life

## Welfare and support

All undergraduate students have a personal tutor who provides advice and support. They help you choose your modules and offer academic and personal support during your degree, referring you to the wider range of university welfare services if necessary. Our academic staff as a whole operate an open door policy and students are welcome to see any of the academic or administrative staff who are available.

## Philosophy Society

There is a wide variety of social, intellectual and sporting clubs and societies on campus, including the Royal Holloway Philosophy Society (PhilSoc) run by philosophy students. PhilSoc aims to provide students with an outlet to pursue philosophical interests and is open to students across campus, not just those studying philosophy degrees. They offer guest lectures, a philosophy reading group, workshops and student-led talks on philosophical topics.



Staff and students on a trip to Athens



“The department has been incredibly helpful, they’re always available for help on assignments, assessments and general advice.

It’s been brilliant belonging in a community of people with similar interests as you.”

**Hassan, BA Philosophy**



## Your future career

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 include:

- 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
- independent logical and critical thinking
- awareness of the historical and social development of thought, leading to theoretical innovation.

Volunteering is one of the best extra-curricular activities you can take part in at University, whether you want to develop your own skills, try out future career paths, meet like-minded people or make a genuine difference in the local community.

We work in partnership with the university's dedicated Careers Service to help you enhance your employability and prepare for the choices ahead.

**2nd** in the UK for  
**graduate prospects**

(Complete University Guide, 2025)



This brochure was produced in May 2025 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



## ROYAL HOLLOWAY, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

### Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at  
**[Roya1holloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)**

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