

# Philosophy

## Essentials

### Taught programmes

#### MA degree

Philosophy

#### Postgraduate diploma

Philosophy

### Research programmes

MPhil, PhD Philosophy

### Related programmes

MA in Literature and Philosophy (p93)

MA in Social and Political Thought (p147)

### Admissions requirements

For information on overseas qualifications that meet the admissions requirements, refer to pages 156-157

#### MA

A first- or upper second-class undergraduate honours degree in philosophy, but related disciplines may also be considered

#### MPhil and PhD

A Masters degree in philosophy or a related discipline

### English language requirements

IELTS 6.5, with not less than 6.5 in Writing and 6.0 in the other sections. Internet TOEFL with 92 overall, with 21 in Listening, 22 in Reading, 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For more information and alternative English language requirements, refer to page 156

### Fees

Refer to pages 158-159 for information on fees

### Further information

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• Philosophy at Sussex was ranked in the top 20 in the UK in *The Times Good University Guide 2012*, *The Complete University Guide 2011-12* and *The Guardian University Guide 2012*, and also achieved a strong result in the 2008 Research Assessment exercise (RAE), placing it 18th in the subject nationally. It is one of only nine philosophy departments in the UK to have 100 per cent of its research activity rated as world leading, internationally excellent or internationally recognised.

• The Department is notable for encouraging a wide range of approaches to philosophical issues, allowing you to specialise in either the analytic or continental traditions, or to combine both.

• Our faculty have a wide variety of research interests, with strengths in various traditions of European and analytic philosophy including aesthetics, philosophy of language, philosophy of mind, Kant, Hegel, German Idealism, Marx, critical theory, phenomenology, ancient philosophy, Indian philosophy, and social and political philosophy.

Research supervision for MPhil and PhD degrees can be offered in a variety of areas in aesthetics, analytic and continental philosophy, and social and political philosophy

## Taught programmes

### MA in Literature and Philosophy 1 year full time/2 years part time

This programme is taught jointly by Philosophy and English faculty. Refer to page 93 for details.

### MA in Philosophy 1 year full time/2 years part time

This MA offers an advanced general grounding in philosophy, which forms a good basis for further research. It includes courses in both the analytic and continental traditions of philosophy, reflecting the wide range of interests within the Department of Philosophy. You may decide to concentrate on just one of these traditions, or to take courses from both of them.

If you have a particular philosophical interest, you can choose one of our three designated MA pathways:

- analytic philosophy pathway
- continental philosophy pathway
- aesthetics pathway.

### Career opportunities

Our graduates have gone on to careers in arts administration and management, business, charities, the Civil Service, HR and recruitment, investment and banking, IT, journalism, law, local government, management consultancy, the media, NGOs, NHS management, publishing, sales and advertising, social services, teaching, and university lecturing.

### Programme structure

Autumn term: *either* Phenomenology or Philosophical Topics, plus one of Analytic Aesthetics • Kant • Mind and Reality.

Spring term: Philosophy Reading Seminar, plus two of Continental Aesthetics • Ethics • Hegel • Language and Truth • Philosophy Special Subject • Political and Legal Philosophy • Texts in the History of Philosophy • approved alternative option (refer to the list below).

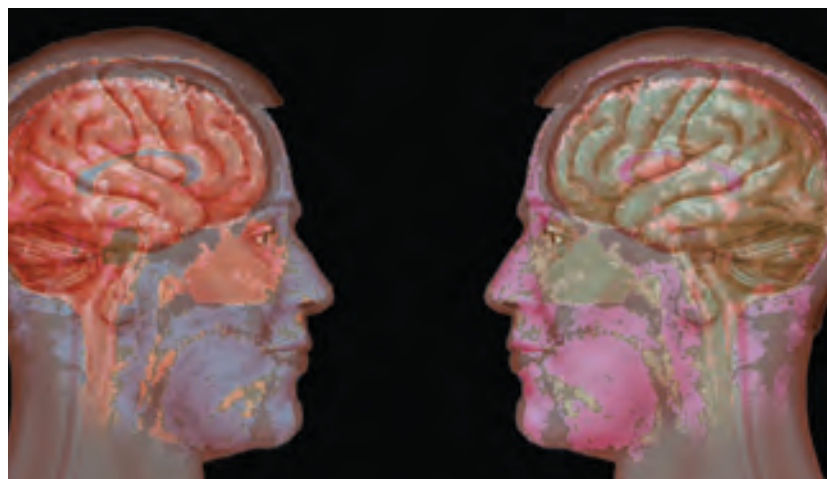
The Philosophy Special Subject course allows you to work at an advanced level on a topic close to a tutor's research interests. Topics likely to be on offer include Adorno • epistemology • Hegel • Heidegger • Husserl • Kant • Marx • metaphysics • philosophical logic • philosophy of language • philosophy of mind • Wittgenstein.

One of the spring-term options may be replaced by an approved course from another MA programme, eg Derrida (MA in Literature and Philosophy) • Emotion and Consciousness (MA in Cognitive Science) • Gender and Representation (MA in Media and Cultural Studies) • Marx and Hegel (MA in Social and Political Thought) • Photography and 20th-Century Visual Culture (MA in Art History) • Power and Religion: Nietzsche, Foucault, Kafka (MA in Literature and Philosophy) • The Frankfurt School and Critical Theory (MA in Social and Political Thought).

Summer term: you take the Dissertation Training Workshop and undertake supervised work on the MA dissertation.

### Assessment

Taught courses are assessed by term papers of 5,000 words. At the end of the year you also submit a dissertation of up to 15,000 words.



**MA in Social and Political Thought**  
**1 year full time/2 years part time**

This programme is taught jointly by Philosophy, Sociology and Politics faculty. Refer to page 147 for details.

**Postgraduate Diploma in Philosophy**  
**2 terms (autumn and spring) full time/**  
**4 terms (autumn and spring) part time**

The Postgraduate Diploma in Philosophy is aimed at students with some background in philosophy who wish to pursue their interests without writing a dissertation. Students performing exceptionally well on the courses will be offered the opportunity to transfer directly into the MA in Philosophy at the start of the summer term.

**Programme structure**

Students take the same number of courses from the same range as the MA students (refer to the list of options on page 133), but there is no dissertation component.

**Assessment**

Each of the courses taken (four in total) will be examined by a 5,000-word term paper.

**Research programmes**

The unique make-up of our Department allows for the supervision of a wide range of MPhil and PhD dissertation topics from within both the Anglo-American analytic tradition and the post-Kantian continental tradition, as well as on historical figures. Possible supervision topics include Adorno, aesthetics, Aristotle, content, counterfactuals, Davidson, descriptions, ethical theory, externalism, fiction, film, forgiveness, Frege, German Idealism, Habermas, Hegel, Heidegger, Husserl, identity, imagination, Indian philosophy, justification, Kant, knowledge, Kripke, Levinas, Lewis, literature and philosophy, McDowell, Marx, mental causation, Merleau-Ponty, music, Nietzsche, ontology, perception, phenomenology and deconstruction, photography, Plato, poetry, possible worlds, Quine, realism and anti-realism, reference, representation, Russell, Sartre, self-knowledge, singular thought, transcendental arguments, truth, and Wittgenstein.

**Recent thesis topics**

*Adorno and Kant*  
*Consciousness and intrinsic physical properties*  
*Contingent identity*  
*Emotion, cognition and dynamics*  
*Ethics and politics in Plato*  
*Freedom and self-consciousness*  
*Hegel's theory of subjectivity*  
*Intentionality, error and misrepresentation*  
*Language and meaning in Heidegger*  
*Marx's philosophy of law*  
*Merleau-Ponty and the sensible*  
*Nietzsche and art*  
*Perfectionism and liberalism*  
*Russell's theory of descriptions*  
*The nature of the self*  
*Theology in Aristotle's Metaphysics*  
*Truth and realism*  
*Wittgenstein's theory of the proposition*

**Career opportunities**

Our graduates have gone on to careers in teaching and tutoring in Higher Education.

**Academic activities**

Graduate students attend regular reading and work-in-progress seminars, giving them the opportunity to discuss their own ideas and work with peers and faculty. There is also a weekly Philosophy Society meeting, showcasing current research both by Sussex philosophers and by internationally recognised philosophers from around the world.

**Faculty research interests**

Research interests are briefly described below. For more detailed information, visit [www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy](http://www.sussex.ac.uk/philosophy)

**Lucy Allais** Kant; transcendental idealism; forgiveness. Author of 'Kant, Non-Conceptual Content and the Representation of Space' in *Journal of the History of Philosophy* (2009).

**Professor Margaret Boden** Philosophy of psychology; artificial intelligence.

**Andrew Chitty** Political and legal philosophy; Hegel; German Idealism; Marx. Co-editor (with M McIvor) of *Karl Marx and Contemporary Philosophy* (2009).

**Ron Chrisley** Philosophy of cognitive science; artificial intelligence; mind; consciousness; representation and computation; philosophical logic.

**Paul Davies** Kant; phenomenology; aesthetics; philosophy and literature; 19th- and 20th-century European philosophy. Author of 'A Poem and its Context' in *Textual Practice* (2008).

**Katerina Deligiorgi** Kant; Hegel; moral philosophy; ethics and literature; contemporary aesthetics. Author of 'The Ethics of Getting Things Wrong' in *Hegel and Action* (2009).



The German philosopher Immanuel Kant (1724-1804)

**Gordon Finlayson** German Idealism; 20th-century German philosophy; the Frankfurt School; Adorno; Horkheimer; Habermas.

**Professor Jonardon Ganeri** Indian Philosophy; metaphysics; philosophy of language.

**Professor Michael Morris** Philosophy of language; metaphysics; aesthetics; Wittgenstein; Plato. Author of *Routledge Guidebook to Wittgenstein and the Tractatus* (2009).

**Murali Ramachandran** Philosophical logic; metaphysics; philosophy of language; epistemology. Author of 'Descriptions with an Attitude Problem' in *Philosophical Quarterly* (2009).

**Sarah Sawyer** Epistemology; philosophy of mind; metaphysics; philosophy of language. Editor of *New Waves in Philosophy of Language* (2009).

**Tanja Staehler** Contemporary European philosophy; German Idealism; Plato; continental aesthetics. Author of *Plato and Levinas. The Ambiguous Out-Side of Ethics* (2009).

**Kathleen Stock** The nature of imagination; philosophy of fiction, music and film; aesthetics. Author of 'Fantasy, Imagination and Film' in *British Journal of Aesthetics* (2009).