

Philosophy



Ranked 6th

for Philosophy by *The Independent Complete University Guide 2012*.

Postgraduate study opportunities 2012/13

World-class taught and research degrees to PhD



90%
of our research was rated as being at least of international quality in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise.

Philosophy

Philosophy at Durham University offers a vibrant and friendly atmosphere for teaching and research. The Department and its associated research centres continue an intellectual tradition that dates back to medieval times. We are home to one of the largest philosophy postgraduate communities in the country, with around 50 postgraduate research students studying here at any one time, in addition to over 20 taught MA students per year.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department provides a welcoming, supportive, friendly and stimulating research environment for all our students, which stresses the diversity, openness and interdisciplinarity of our approaches to philosophy. Postgraduate students participate in reading groups, research seminars, working groups, Royal Institute of Philosophy Lectures, and conferences organised by the Department and its associated research centres. We also run a postgraduate philosophy society, Eidos, the journal *Philosophical Writings*, and frequently organise conferences.

Departmental research is organised in five clusters: Aesthetics, Applied Phenomenology, Ethics, History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine and Mind, Language and Metaphysics.

The diversity of our staff research expertise allows our taught and research postgraduate students considerable flexibility in the topics they work on.

Complementing the Department's academic strengths is our location: occupying two charming former townhouses and surrounded by cafés, pubs and restaurants and just a few minutes' walk from the scenic banks of the River Wear.

POSTGRADUATE DEGREES

The following areas are covered:

- PhD
- MLitt
- MA
- Grad Dip.

The Department provides our postgraduate students with comprehensive training, designed to support their research and professional development, which is integrated into its broader research environment. Students are assigned to a research cluster and a supervisory team. Our students participate in bi-annual research group workshops, where they give presentations on their ongoing research and receive detailed feedback and advice from academic staff with relevant expertise. They also present their work at conferences in the UK and abroad, with financial support from the Department.

This supportive environment ensures that our graduates are well placed for academic employment, and our placement record is correspondingly strong, with many of our PhD students going on to lectureships and postdoctoral fellowships in the UK and abroad.



MAIN AREAS OF RESEARCH

The following areas are covered:

- Aesthetics
- Applied Ethics
- Asian Philosophy
- Environmental Philosophy
- Ethics
- History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine
- History of Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Phenomenology and Continental Philosophy
- Philosophy of Language and Linguistics
- Philosophy of Mind and Action
- Philosophy of Psychology and Psychiatry.

RECENT THESIS TITLES

Recent thesis titles include:

- “The Role of Emotion in the Aesthetic Appreciation of Nature”
- “Epistemic Normativity”
- “Ernst Cassirer and the Gestalt Structural Space of Perception”
- “Spinoza and German Philosophy”
- “The Motivating Element of Moral Judgement”.

POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH FACILITIES

Durham University Library has excellent holdings of books and journals in philosophy, and the history of science and medicine, as well as access to a wide range of electronic resources. There are dedicated postgraduate rooms with IT facilities in the Department including a common room to foster informal interaction between staff and postgraduate students, and a substantial collection of books and journals in the departmental library.

The Faculty Postgraduate Centre, located nearby, provides generous space for private study and IT facilities. In addition, the Centre for the History of Medicine and Disease has a dedicated room (including IT facilities) for doctoral students in the Wolfson Research Institute. Each full-time research student is a member of one of the University’s colleges, which provide pastoral support and further IT facilities.

STAFF RESEARCH AREAS

These are reflected in the main areas of research listed above. The following are some examples:

- Seventeenth to nineteenth century forms of scientific argumentation
- Psycho-physical dualism
- Object relation theory, the work of Julia Kristeva
- The nature of properties
- The phenomenology of psychiatric disorders
- Wittgenstein
- Objectivism in aesthetics
- The Philosophy of Buddhism and Ancient India
- Ethical issues in the history of medicine
- Death
- The architecture and evolution of the language faculty
- History of Stem Cell Research.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR RESEARCH DEGREES

- MA: BA in Philosophy or suitably related discipline, upper second class or equivalent
- PhD, MLitt: MA in Philosophy or suitably related discipline.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 6.5 or equivalent.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications and further information on English language requirements, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR POSTGRADUATE RESEARCH STUDENTS

- Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- Durham Doctoral Studentships
- Departmental studentships and bursaries
- Royal Institute of Philosophy studentships and bursaries
- British Society for the Philosophy of Science studentships
- Opportunities for paid part-time tutoring in the Department.

The University also has a range of funding opportunities for postgraduate students. To find out what support you could be eligible to receive see our online funding database at www.durham.ac.uk/study/postgraduate/fees/search

TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

MA in Philosophy

This one-year programme (two years part-time) provides an ideal academic environment for those who would like to study the subject at a higher level in preparation for a PhD or as a basis for future employment. Significant numbers of former students go on to further study. The programme includes research training and allows you to write a substantial dissertation on a topic you wish to pursue at PhD level. Our staff members have expertise in a very wide range of areas, so there is considerable flexibility over choice of dissertation topic. Modules are taught via group seminars and one-to-one tutorials. There is also a weekly student-led work-in-progress seminar, which all MA students attend.

MA in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine (in conjunction with the School of Medicine and Health)

This one-year programme (two years part-time) is designed to give a deeper understanding of historical, philosophical and cultural issues in science and medicine from antiquity to the present day. Research training includes historical methods, philosophical analysis and socio-cultural models, providing an interdisciplinary environment for those interested in progressing to a PhD or those simply interested in HPSM studies.

Former students have gone on to attract major doctoral funding awards and jobs in the media, government and NGOs. The core teaching staff are attached to the Department of Philosophy, the Northern Centre for the History of Medicine (co-run with Newcastle University) and the School of Medicine and Health. Modules are taught via lectures, seminars, personal tutorials and workshops. The diversity of staff research interests allows you to focus your research on a wide variety of topics, including historical, philosophical and/or cultural aspects of biology, biomedical ethics, the body, the environment, gender, medical humanities, medicine, and the physical sciences.



Graduate Diploma in Philosophy

The Graduate Diploma in Philosophy is a one-year conversion course (two years part-time), designed for those who already have a degree and wish to pursue an interest in philosophy. No formal training in philosophy is required. The programme provides an ideal learning environment if you are interested in progressing to an MA in Philosophy, or simply want the opportunity to learn about philosophy.

TYPICAL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TAUGHT PROGRAMMES

MA in Philosophy

- Upper second class undergraduate degree in a subject with a substantial philosophy component.

MA in History and Philosophy of Science and Medicine

- Upper second class undergraduate degree.

Graduate Diploma in Philosophy

- An undergraduate degree, usually at least upper second class.

ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENTS

- IELTS of 7.0 or equivalent.

We welcome applications from holders of international qualifications. For advice on the equivalency of international qualifications, please contact our International Office on international.office@durham.ac.uk or visit our website at

www.durham.ac.uk/international

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TAUGHT POSTGRADUATE STUDENTS

- The Wellcome Trust, London (for students who commit themselves to a dissertation on a subject within the history of medicine)
- Durham University Philosophy Department Studentships
- Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC)
- ESRC/Medical Research Council (ESRC/MRC)
- Durham University Graduate School MA Studentships for International Students
- British Council
- Students may apply for departmental funding.

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CAREERS AND EMPLOYABILITY

For further information on career options and employability, including the results of the Destination of Leavers survey, student and employer testimonials and details of work experience and study abroad opportunities, please visit www.durham.ac.uk/philosophy/postgraduate/employability

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Amanda Taylor, PhD Philosophy.

Name:
Amanda Taylor

Home Country:
UK

Postgraduate Course:
PhD in Philosophy

As a Durham graduate, I was familiar with the Department and the courses on offer since my undergraduate study; and it became clear that Durham offered the best prospect of supervision and departmental support for my area.

I’ve been given the opportunity to get involved in co-organising a postgraduate conference, and helped to organise and run a British Academy workshop enabling me to get to know how running a conference works, as well as being a great way of meeting people who work in and around my field. I’ve also been strongly encouraged and supported to attend and present at conferences, which I really enjoy.

I’ve also loved the chance to lead tutorials and experience the teaching and outreach side of academic life which I have found is something I really enjoy; postgraduate teachers in the Department are well valued and supported.

Durham’s collegiate system makes it different from many other UK institutions. You meet people both through your department and college, meaning a balance of involvement in both academic and non-academic activities is much easier. I’ve really enjoyed college life; both as a pastoral tutor to undergraduates of my college and more generally through social events which are a great way to feel more at home in university life.

The PhD and the opportunities it has brought all serve to prepare me for working in academia. I’ve had the opportunity to be engaged in such a wide range of activities both in Durham and outside it, and moreover have had excellent support from both my supervisor and the Department.



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