

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	MSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Diploma Politics, Philosophy and Economics PG Certificate Politics, Philosophy and Economics
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home school/other teaching departments	Birkbeck Business School (home), School of Social Sciences, School of Historical Studies
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	N/A
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMSPOPHE_C
HECoS Code	100491 100337 100450
Start date of programme	Autumn 2018
Date of programme approval	Summer 2018
Date of last programme amendment approval	October 2019
Valid for academic entry year	2025-26
Date of last revision to document	17/11/25

Admissions requirements

A second-class honours degree (2:2) or above in any subject; prior exposure to at least one of the three component subjects would be a distinct advantage, but it might be possible for able students to acquire the relevant knowledge as part of this programme.

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

This programme meets the latent demand in the UK for an interdisciplinary graduate programme in politics, philosophy and economics, subjects that naturally overlap and complement each other. There are very few such programmes in the UK, and none available through the part-time mode through evening instruction.

Aims:

- Students will receive a high-quality education in all three of the component subjects;
- Students will get a good understanding of the central principles of economics via the newly created core economics module;
- Students will get a good understanding of politics and philosophy through doing Masters-level modules in each of those subjects;
- Students will have the opportunity to specialise in any particular area from any of the three; subjects, via free choice of additional option modules and via free choice of dissertation topic.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year					
7	BUEM087S7	Economics: Theory, Policy and Institutions	30	Comp	T1-2
7		Option(s) from Politics	30	Option	
7		Option from Philosophy	30	Option	
6/7		Options from Politics, Philosophy or Economics totalling 30 credits	30	Option	
7	BUEM088D7	Dissertation MSc PPE	60	Core	
	SSPL216D7	Dissertation MSc PPE Philosophy			
	SSPO244D7	Dissertation MSc PPE Politics			
Part-time – 2 years					
Year 1					
7	BUEM087S7	Economics: Theory, Policy and Institutions	30	Comp	T1-2
7		Options from Politics or Philosophy totalling 30 credits	30	Option	
Year 2					
7		Options from Politics (if year 1 option was from Philosophy) or Philosophy (if year 1 option was from Politics) totalling 30 credits	30	Option	
6/7		Options from Politics, Philosophy or Economics totalling 30 credits	30	Option	

7	BUEM088D7	Dissertation MSc PPE	60	Core	
	SSPL216D7	Dissertation MSc PPE Philosophy			
	SSPO244D7	Dissertation MSc PPE Politics			
Indicative list of options (subject to timetabling and other constraints)					
Philosophy					
7	SSPL114S7	Nietzsche	30	Option	T1
7	SC03017S7	AI and Ethics of Technology	30	Option	T1
7	SC03020S7	Philosophy of AI: Minds, Machines, and Meaning	30	Option	T1
7	SSPL243S7	Philosophy of Mind and Cognition	30	Option	T2
7	SSPL264S7	Ethics of Life and Death	30	Option	T2
7	SC03018S7	History and Foundations of AI	30	Option	T2
7	SSPL255S7	Language and Metaphysics	30	Option	T2
7	SSPL276S7	Women and Philosophy	30	Option	T3
7	SSPL171S7	Ancient and Medieval Philosophy	30	Option	T3
7	SSPL267S7	Themes in 20th Century French and German Philosophy	30	Option	T3
Economics					
7	EMEC033H7	Industrial Economics I	15	Option	T3
7	EMEC055H7	Monetary Economics	15	Option	T3
7	EMEC055S7	Financial Markets, Banking and Regulation	30	Option	T2
Politics					
7	SSPO120S7	Emerging Powers in World Politics	30	Option	T3
7	SC05001S7	Governing Global Capitalism	30	Option	T2
7	POSO082S7	Global Politics, Governance and Security	30	Option	T1
7	POSO007S7	International Political Economy	30	Option	T1
7	POSO044S7	Nationalism, Religion, and Conflict	30	Option	T2
7	SC05003S7	Perspectives on Public Services and the Public Sector	30	Option	T2
7	SSPO267S7	Political Communications: Media, Campaigns, and Citizens	30	Option	T1
7	POSO022S7	Political Theory and Contemporary Politics	30	Option	T3
7	POSO020S7	Power and Politics in the UK	30	Option	T2
7	POSO025S7	Public Policy: Interests, Ideas, Institutions	30	Option	T1

Core: Module must be taken and passed by student

Compulsory: Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)

Option: Student can choose to take this module

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

Each course is divided into modules. You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

The primary method of teaching is through lectures and guided reading, to outline the core material in each module, as well as a range of supplementary material available over Moodle. Students will supplement lectures with considerable amount of time on self study.

Many modules would also have small-group seminars for interactive discussion and problem solving, which fosters enthusiasm in students, as well as enabling them to develop their own opinions and to learn from those of fellow students.

One-to-one dissertation supervisions, enabling detailed feedback on the student's choice of topic, as well as intensive training in academic writing as they improve successive drafts.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. The assessment for most of the modules on this course is typically through essays, or exams supplemented with coursework assignments.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

Students will receive a high-quality education in all three of the component subjects. They will get a good understanding of the central principles of economics via the newly created core economics module; and good understanding of politics and philosophy through doing Masters-level modules in each of those subjects. Students will have the opportunity to specialise in any particular area from any of the three subjects, via free choice of additional option modules and via free choice of dissertation topic.

To gain the MSc qualification the student will have demonstrated separately the skills specified in the learning outcomes for approved modules in the programme. These will ensure that they understand key principles and analytical constructs used in economics, philosophy and politics.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

Subject Specific

In Economics,

1. Understand the key concepts and skills of economics.
2. Use analytical tools to address economic issues, including those where politics and philosophy overlap with economics.
3. Understand the basic mathematical and statistical techniques required for studying Economics at the Masters level.
4. Discuss in depth some specialised areas of economics.
5. Assess policy questions using empirical evidence and data.

In Philosophy,

6. Develop the key philosophical techniques of argument and analysis.
7. Develop the ability to evaluate philosophical argument and explanation.
8. Form philosophical views, argued for those views, and be prepared to defend or amend them in the light of criticism.
9. Write, read and discuss philosophy through a wide variety of learning experiences.

In Politics,

10. Gain an advanced understanding of the politics of a geographical area (e.g. British, US or Middle Eastern politics); or of an issue area (e.g. environmental or population politics, or nationalism); and/or of a subset of political theories and approaches (public policy, political sociology, global governance etc).

11. Develop the ability to synthesise a variety of primary and secondary source materials to explain issues and develop and support arguments.
12. Develop the ability to evaluate competing interpretations of political events, institutions and actors.
13. Develop skills of critical thinking, enquiry, synthesis, analysis and evaluation that can be employed on other modules studied at this level and in a postgraduate dissertation.

Intellectual

14. Think in a structured manner about issues in politics, philosophy and economics, and in the social sciences more generally.
15. Summarize key points from presented material.
16. Articulate and evaluate the specific questions underlying a more general question.
17. Recognise the strengths and weaknesses in opposing views, and be prepared to formulate the best arguments for those views.

Personal and Social

18. Study independently, to learn from a wide range of sources including journal articles and the ability to transfer knowledge from one context to another.
19. Learn from a wide range of sources including journal articles.
20. Transfer knowledge from one context to another.
21. Demonstrate self-motivation, time-management and organisation.

Careers and further study

Our students go on to build successful careers with a variety of employers in a range of sectors, including government departments, the Bank of England, UK regulatory bodies, commercial banks and teaching, as well as continuing to PhD.

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website: <https://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services/careers-service>.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its [Common Award Scheme Regulations](#) and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

[Please check our website for more information about student support services.](#) This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is [available online](#).

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