Programme Specification

1 Awarding body: University of London
2 Teaching Institution: Birkbeck College
3 Programme Title(s): PG Certificate in Philosophy
4 Programme Code(s): TPCPLPHY_C
5 UCAS code (if applicable): N/A
6 Home Department: Philosophy
7 Exit Award(s): PG Certificate in Philosophy
8 Duration of Study (number of years): 1 year PT
9 Mode of Study: FT PT X DL
10 Level of Award (FHEQ): Level: 7

11 Other teaching depts or institution (or not applicable): N/A
12 Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable): N/A
13 QAA Benchmark Group (or not applicable): N/A

14 Programme Rationale & Aims

This programme provides students with postgraduate-level training in central areas of Western philosophy. Students may, if they wish, apply to upgrade to either the PG Diploma or the full MA prior to completion. Teaching is research-led, delivered by core staff.

15 Entry Criteria

An upper second-class honours degree (or its equivalent) is expected. The degree need not be in philosophy (see below). Admission decisions are made on the basis of (a) academic references; (b) a writing sample; and (c) an interview (by telephone for overseas candidates).

16 Learning Outcomes

Subject Specific
Students will have:
1. A basic grasp of a variety of historical and current philosophical debates across more than one philosophical subject area;
2. A command of philosophical concepts and distinctions;
3. An ability to read closely and understand key philosophical texts;
4. An ability to formulate philosophical questions with precision and clarity;
5. An ability to summarise philosophical arguments and positions;
6. An ability to support and challenge philosophical views by constructing arguments and citing relevant considerations;
7. An awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of opposing views, and an ability to formulate the best arguments for those views;
8. Developed abilities in writing, reading and discussing philosophy.

**Intellectual**

*Students will have:*

9. The ability to assess the strengths and weaknesses of a thinker’s position;
10. The ability to formulate their thoughts concisely with clarity and precision;
11. The ability to form, analyse and criticize arguments cogently.

**Practical**

*Students will have:*

12. The ability to draw information from the presentation of complex material;
13. The ability to summarise key points from presented material;
14. The ability to analyse complex thought and argument;
15. The ability to draw information together in what they write;
16. The ability to articulate and evaluate the specific questions underlying a more general question;
17. The ability to present well-structured thought orally;
18. The ability to construct cogent arguments in the course of discussion;
19. The ability to use libraries and, where they have facilities, electronic sources of information;
20. The ability to assess the validity of arguments.

**Personal and Social**

*Students will have:*

21. The ability to form their own philosophical views, argue for those views, and be prepared to defend or amend them in the light of criticism;
22. The ability to read philosophy independently;
23. The ability to formulate one’s thoughts clearly and concisely;

A developed capacity for independent thought

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### Learning, teaching and assessment methods

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Learning and Teaching</th>
<th>on the Postgraduate Certificate consists in a combination of:</th>
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<tr>
<td>Lectures and Seminars</td>
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<td>Class Discussion and Student Presentations</td>
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<td>Independent Reading</td>
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<td>Essay Writing</td>
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**Assessment** is predominantly by submitted essays on set topics (though see below for exceptions.) The marking scheme for each module, and for the MA as a whole, is: Fail (49 and below); Pass (50-59); Merit (60-69); Distinction (70 and above).

**More specifically:**

— *Introduction to Philosophy*, which is a compulsory module for MA students who do not have a first degree in philosophy, consists in twenty one-hour lectures and twenty one-hour seminars. It meets twice a week in the Autumn Term. Students must write four short formative essays, on which they receive written feedback. Assessment is by a written exam in the Summer Term.

— Each of our *optional* modules consists in ten one-hour lectures and ten one-hour seminars, with set readings to be completed before each session. All optional modules are assessed by submitted essays.
### Programme Description

In Term 1, students take either *Introduction to Philosophy* or any two of our specialist option modules.

In Term 2, students take any two of our specialist option modules.

In Term 3, students sit the exam for *Introduction to Philosophy* (if applicable) and submit assessed essays for their optional modules.

The optional modules offered vary from year to year. What follows is merely an indicative list:

- Social Epistemology
- Propositions and Other Intentional Objects
- Ancient Philosophy
- Art and Value
- Berkeley and Leibniz
- Epistemology
- Ethics
- Evolution and Philosophy
- Fiction and Language
- Metaethics: the foundations of morality and ethical thought
- Metaphysics
- Modern Philosophy
- Morality, Nature, and Evolution
- Philosophical Logic
- Philosophy and Gender
- Philosophy, Business and Society
- Philosophy of Mind
- Philosophy of Science
- Political Philosophy
- The Idea of Freedom
- The Philosophy of Kant
- The Philosophy of Nietzsche
- The Philosophy of Spinoza
- The power of Art: Historical Themes
- Aristotle’s Biology and Ethics

### Programme Structure

#### Part Time programme

**'Standard' Route**

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<tr>
<th>Year 1</th>
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<td><strong>Level</strong></td>
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**'Conversion' Route**

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<th>Year 1</th>
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<td><strong>Level</strong></td>
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### Regulations

- **Admissions**
  This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf)

- **Credit Transfer**
  Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf)

- **Programme Regulations**
  This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations)

- **Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable)**
  N/A

### Student Attendance Framework – in brief


**Principle**
Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.

**Attendance expectation**
Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.

**E-Registers**
All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.

### Student Support and Guidance

All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/facilities)

### Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards

The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner’s reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input. For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website [http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality](http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality).

### Programme Details

- **Programme Director**
  Dr. Michael Garnett

- **Start Date** (term/year)
  Autumn 2012

- **Date approved by TQEC**
  Summer 2012

- **Date approved by Academic Board**
  Spring 2012

- **Date(s) updated/amended**
  June 2018 (for Autumn 2018)