Programme Specification

1. Awarding body: University of London
2. Teaching Institution: Birkbeck College
3. Programme Title(s): PG Certificate Philosophy
4. Programme Code(s): TPCPLPHY_C
5. UCAS code: N/A
6. Home Department: Philosophy
7. Exit Award(s): N/A
8. Duration of Study (number of years): 1 year PT
9. Mode of Study: FT PT X DL
10. Level of Award (FHEQ): 7
11. Other teaching depts or institution: N/A
12. Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body (PSRB) details: N/A
13. QAA Benchmark Group: N/A

14. Programme Rationale & Aims
   This programme provides students with a postgraduate-level introduction to central areas of philosophy. Students may, if they wish, apply to upgrade to the full MA prior to completion. Teaching is research-led, delivered by core staff.

15. Entry Criteria
   At least a second-class honours degree (2:2), or equivalent, not necessarily 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;
24. A developed capacity for independent thought.

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**17 Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

**Learning and Teaching** on the Postgraduate Certificate consists in a combination of:
- Lectures and Seminars
- Individual Supervision
- Class Discussion and Student Presentations
- Independent Reading
- Essay Writing

**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 lectures, each followed by a
Year of entry: 2020/21

Seminar. It meets twice a week in the Autumn Term. Assessment is by an essay (worth 50% of the module mark) and a take-home, short-answer exam (worth 50%). Students can write a formative (practice) essay, on which they receive written feedback, in preparation for the assessed essay.

Each of our optional modules consists of ten lectures, each followed by a seminar, with set readings to be completed before each session. All optional modules are assessed by submitted essays.

Programme Description

Conversion route:
In Term 1, students on the conversion route take the 30 credit *Introduction to Philosophy.* The exam is due the week after term ends; the essay is due at the start of Term 2.

Across Terms 2 and 3, students take any two of our 15-credit level 7 specialist option modules.

Standard route (for students with a first degree in Philosophy only):
Students take any 4 15-credit optional modules spread across Terms 1 – 3, with no more than 45 credits in any one term.

The following is a representative list of optional modules (please note that not all modules are taught every year, and that the list is subject to change):

- Ancient Philosophy
- Aristotle’s Biology
- Art and Value
- Biology of Evil
- Early Modern Philosophy of Mind
- Epistemology
- Evolution and Philosophy
- Ethics
- Idea of Freedom
- Kant and German Idealism
- Metaethics
- Metaphysics
- Philosophy of Mind
- Morality, Nature and Evolution
- Modern Philosophy
- Moral Responsibility
- Nietzsche
- Philosophy, Business and Society
- Philosophy and Gender
- Rationality: Formal and Theoretical Approaches
- Political Philosophy
- Power of Art: Historical Themes
- Philosophy of Science
- Social Epistemology
- Spinoza
Year of entry: 2020/21

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<th>Programme Structure</th>
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**Part-Time programme – ‘conversion’ route**

**Year 1**

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<th>Module Title</th>
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**Part Time programme- ‘Standard’ Route**

**Year 1**

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**Status**

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme Director</th>
<th>Sarah Patterson</th>
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<td>Start Date (term/year)</td>
<td>Autumn 2012</td>
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<td>Date approved by TQEC</td>
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<td>Date approved by Academic Board</td>
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<td>Date(s) updated/amended</td>
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