Programme Specification

1	**Awarding body**	University of London
2	**Teaching Institution**	**Birkbeck College**
3	**Programme Title(s)**	**Postgraduate Diploma Philosophy**
4	**Programme Code(s)**	TPDPLPHY_C
5	**UCAS code**	N/A
6	**Home Department**	Philosophy
7	**Exit Award(s)**	Postgraduate Certificate
8	**Duration of Study (number of years)**	1 year FT / 2 years PT
9	**Mode of Study**	FT **X** 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**	

14	**Programme Rationale & Aims**

This programme provides students with postgraduate-level training in 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.

17	**Learning, teaching and assessment methods**

Learning and Teaching on the Postgraduate Diploma consists of 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 Diploma as a whole, is: Fail (49 and below); Pass (50-59); Merit (60-69); Distinction (70 and above).

More specifically:

— Each of our *optional* modules consists in ten lectures, each followed by a seminar, with set readings to be completed before each session. All optional modules are assessed by submitted essays. Optional modules are taught in all three terms.

— *Introduction to Philosophy*, which is a compulsory module for Diploma students who do not have a first degree in philosophy, consists in twenty lectures, each followed by a 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%). The exam is due the week after term ends; the essay is due at the start of Term 2. Students can write a formative (practice) essay during the term, on which they receive written feedback.

— *Introduction to Philosophical Argument*, which is also compulsory for Diploma students who do not have a first degree in philosophy, consists in ten lectures and ten classes. It meets once a week in the Spring Term. Assessment is by a written exam which takes place in class in the week after term ends.

— *Philosophy Proseminar*, which is a compulsory module for Diploma students who do have a first degree in philosophy, consists in ten intensive seminar sessions, each focused on a set reading. It meets fortnightly throughout the Autumn and Spring Terms. Assessment is by student presentations and participation.

18	**Programme Description**

There are two routes through the programme: a 'standard' route for students who already have an academic background in philosophy, and a 'conversion' route for students looking to transfer into the discipline.

'Standard' Route:

Full-Time Y1: Any 6 optional modules (each 15 credits, L7) across the three terms, with a maximum of 3 optional modules in Autumn and Spring terms, and a maximum of 2 optional modules in Summer term; plus the Philosophy Proseminar (30 credits, L6).

Part-Time Y1: Any 4 optional modules across the three terms, with a maximum of 3 in any one term.

Part-Time Y2: Any 2 optional modules across the three terms, plus the Philosophy Proseminar.

'Conversion' Route:

Full-Time Y1: Any 4 optional modules (each 15 credits, L7) across the three terms, with a maximum of 2 in any one term, plus Introduction to Philosophy (30 credits, L7) in Autumn Term and Introduction to Philosophical Argument (30 credits, L6) in Spring Term.

Part-Time Y1: Introduction to Philosophy in Autumn Term and Introduction to Philosophical Argument in Spring Term, plus 1 or 2 optional modules across the Spring and Summer Terms (toward a total of 4 in the two years).

Part-Time Y2: Any 2 or 3 optional modules across the three terms (to complete the total of four).

| 19 | **Programme Structure** |

Full-Time programme – 1 year

'Standard' Route

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		Option 1	15	Optional
7		Option 2	15	Optional
7		Option 3	15	Optional
7		Option 4	15	Optional
7		Option 5	15	Optional
7		Option 6	15	Optional
7	SSPL160S7	Philosophy Proseminar	30	Compulsory

'Conversion' Route

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPL074S7	Introduction to Philosophy	30	Compulsory
6	SSPL076S6	Introduction to Philosophical Argument	30	Compulsory
7		Option 1	15	Optional
7		Option 2	15	Optional
7		Option 3	15	Optional
7		Option 4	15	Optional

Part Time programme – 2 years

'Standard' Route

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		Option 1	15	Optional
7		Option 2	15	Optional
7		Option 3	15	Optional
7		Option 4	15	Optional

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7		Option 5	15	Optional
7		Option 6	15	Optional
7	SSPL160S7	Philosophy Proseminar	30	Compulsory

'Conversion' Route

Year 1

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPL074S7	Introduction to Philosophy	30	Compulsory
6	SSPL076S6	Introduction to Philosophical Argument	30	Compulsory
7		Option 1	15	Optional

Year 2				
Level	**Module Code**	**Module Title**	**Credits**	**Status***
7		Option 2	15	Optional
7		Option 3	15	Optional
7		Option 4	15	Optional

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

20	**Programme Director**	Dr Sarah Patterson
21	**Start Date** *(term/year)*	Autumn Term 2016
22	**Date approved by TQEC**	9 February 2016
23	**Date approved by Academic Board**	3 March 2016
24	**Date(s) updated/amended**	10 February 2020 (for 2020/21)