

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	MRes Philosophy				
4	Programme Code(s)	TMRPLPHY_C				
5	UCAS code	N/A				
6	Home Department	Philosophy				
7	Exit Award(s)	N/A				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	2 year PT, 1 year FT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	Level 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
	<p>The MRes in Philosophy will provide students with a research-based training in philosophy at post-MA level, and will also serve as a foundation for starting an individual PhD project. The course is ideal for self-motivated and committed students who already have an excellent philosophy qualification and who wish to progress to pure research in some area of the subject.</p> <p>The course is aimed at providing a philosophical grounding and research skills for students wishing to proceed to undertake a PhD project. The also course allows students to complete a smaller but substantial supervised research project in a shorter time than that required for a PhD. The course provides opportunities for interaction with internationally renowned philosophers covering broad areas of the discipline.</p> <p>The programme is taken in 1 year (FT) or 2 years (PT).</p> <p>The programme consists of two core modules (30 credits) and a dissertation (120 credits).</p> <p>Core module 1, Theoretical Philosophy, is focused on a range of set readings (contemporary or historical) within one or more of Logic, Metaphysics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language, or the Philosophy of Science.</p> <p>Core module 2, Practical Philosophy, is focused on a range of set readings (contemporary or historical) within one or more of Moral Philosophy, Political Philosophy, or the Philosophy of Art and Aesthetics.</p> <p>Together, Core modules 1 and 2 develop individual research competence in two recognisably different aspects of the discipline.</p>

	The dissertation consists in a substantial piece of individual research, of 15 000-20 000 words.
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15	Entry Criteria
	<p>The entry requirement for the MRes will be a good (Upper Second Equivalent) MA in Philosophy or equivalent, or, in exceptional circumstances, an excellent (First Class) BA in Philosophy or equivalent.</p> <p>Students who do not meet these exact criteria may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual potential and commitment.</p>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Students completing the MRes in Philosophy will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Display mastery of a complex and specialised area of philosophical study and be able to engage with current debates about their subject matter; • Extend their analytical, evaluative, critical and reflective capacities by i) demonstrating critical awareness of the insights and limitations of current work in their field; ii) evaluating and effectively criticizing existing scholarship in their field; iii) being able to analyse or synthesize existing knowledge in an original manner; • Develop an effective understanding of the appropriate research methods in their field; • Communicate effectively relevant acquired knowledge and understanding in group discussions; • Develop transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning; producing oral and written presentations; planning and producing written assignments in accordance with scholarly standards; working independently and in groups; managing their time effectively; and using research tools relevant to their areas of study. <p>Achieving a Distinction on the MRes in Philosophy will normally be regarded as a sufficient condition for proceeding on to the PhD in Philosophy; achieving a clear Pass will be regarded as a Necessary condition.</p>

17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Core Modules 1 and 2 will be delivered through fortnightly seminars lasting two hours. The seminars will act as discussion forums to stimulate student engagement with set texts. Tutors will act as moderators. Dissertation supervision and supervision of individual essays for each module will each be in the form of one-to-one tutorials. Tutors will provide feedback where appropriate relating to communication, research, performance and knowledge.</p> <p>Students are expected to attend the Department’s dedicated Research Student (or ‘Thursday’) Seminar, which runs weekly during Terms 1-3 each year. They may also be permitted to audit (not for assessment) up to two MA module lectures relevant to their research topic.</p>

Year of entry: 2021/22

	<p>Core modules 1 and 2 are each assessed by a 5000 word essay on a pre-approved topic relating to the topics covered in the seminar. The relevant module tutor will offer feedback on drafts of written work. (Part time students will be assessed on one Core module in Year 1 and one Core module in Year 2)</p> <p>The dissertation is supervised on a one-to-one basis, and will be examined by two independent members of staff. (Part time students will work on their dissertation over two years, and will submit their dissertation at the end of Year 2.)</p> <p>Teaching, learning and assessment modes are regularly reviewed in light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports, and peer monitoring. Students will be supported by a programme director and a dedicated 'overall' supervisor who will also normally be their dissertation supervisor. Teaching will be further supported by a Student Handbook that will give details on programme structure and content, module tutors; and essential information about course organisation and assessment. Further materials, including set readings and writing guidelines, will be provided during the year.</p>
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18	Programme Description
	The programme consists of 3 components: two core modules of 30 credits each at Level 7 and a dissertation of up to 20 000 words worth 120 credits.

19	Programme Structure			
Full-Time programme – 1 year				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPL157S7	Core Module 1: Research in Theoretical Philosophy	30	Core
7	SSPL158S7	Core Module 2: Research in Practical Philosophy	30	Core
7	SSPL159Q7	MRes Dissertation in Philosophy	120	Core
Part-Time programme – 2 years				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPL157S7 Or SSPL158S7	Core Module 1: Research in Theoretical Philosophy, OR Core Module 2: Research in Practical Philosophy	30	Core
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPL157S7 Or SSPL158S7	Core Module 1: Research in Theoretical Philosophy, OR Core Module 2: Research in Practical Philosophy	30	Core
7	SSPL159Q7	MRes Dissertation in Philosophy	120	Core

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

Year of entry: 2021/22



20	Programme Director	Professor Jennifer Hornsby
21	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2016
22	Date approved by TQEC	9 February 2016
23	Date approved by Academic Board	3 March 2016
24	Date(s) updated/amended	March 2016