

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	<u>QAA Benchmark Group</u>	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
	<p>Subject Specific: <i>Students will have:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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;

	<p>8. Developed abilities in writing, reading and discussing philosophy.</p> <p>Intellectual: <i>Students will have:</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Practical: <i>Students will have:</i></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Personal and Social: <i>Students will have:</i></p> <p>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.</p>
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17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Learning and Teaching on the Postgraduate Certificate consists in a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lectures and Seminars • Individual Supervision • Class Discussion and Student Presentations • Independent Reading • Essay Writing <p>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).</p> <p>More specifically:</p> <p>— <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>, 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</p>
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	<p>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.</p> <p>— Each of our <i>optional</i> 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.</p>
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18	Programme Description
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	<p>Conversion route: In Term 1, students on the conversion route take the 30 credit <i>Introduction to Philosophy</i>. The exam is due the week after term ends; the essay is due at the start of Term 2.</p> <p>Across Terms 2 and 3, students take <i>any two</i> of our 15-credit level 7 specialist option modules.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>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):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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
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¹⁹	Programme Structure			
Part-Time programme – ‘conversion’ route				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status*
7	SSPL074S7	Introduction to Philosophy	30	Compulsory
7		Option 1	15	Optional
7		Option 2	15	Optional
Part Time programme- ‘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

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	Sarah Patterson
²¹	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	Autumn 2012
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Summer 2012
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Spring 2012
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	10 Feb 2020 (for 2020/21)