

## Programme Specification

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

14	<b>Programme Rationale &amp; Aims</b>
	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	<b>Entry Criteria</b>
	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	<b>Learning Outcomes</b>
	<p><b>Subject Specific:</b>  <i>Students will have:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. A basic grasp of a variety of historical and current philosophical debates across more than one philosophical subject area;</li> <li>2. A command of philosophical concepts and distinctions;</li> <li>3. An ability to read closely and understand key philosophical texts;</li> <li>4. An ability to formulate philosophical questions with precision and clarity;</li> <li>5. An ability to summarise philosophical arguments and positions;</li> <li>6. An ability to support and challenge philosophical views by constructing arguments and citing relevant considerations;</li> <li>7. An awareness of the strengths and weaknesses of opposing views, and an ability to formulate the best arguments for those views;</li> </ol>

	<p>8. Developed abilities in writing, reading and discussing philosophy.</p> <p><b>Intellectual:</b>  <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><b>Practical:</b>  <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><b>Personal and Social:</b>  <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>
17	<p><b>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</b></p> <p><b>Learning and Teaching</b> on the Postgraduate Certificate consists in a combination of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures and Seminars</li> <li>• Individual Supervision</li> <li>• Class Discussion and Student Presentations</li> <li>• Independent Reading</li> <li>• Essay Writing</li> </ul> <p><b>Assessment</b> 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>

	<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>
18	<p><b>Programme Description</b></p> <p><b>Conversion route:</b>          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><b>Standard route</b> (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"> <li>Ancient Philosophy</li> <li>Aristotle's Biology</li> <li>Art and Value</li> <li>Biology of Evil</li> <li>Early Modern Philosophy of Mind</li> <li>Epistemology</li> <li>Evolution and Philosophy</li> <li>Ethics</li> <li>Idea of Freedom</li> <li>Kant and German Idealism</li> <li>Metaethics</li> <li>Metaphysics</li> <li>Philosophy of Mind</li> <li>Morality, Nature and Evolution</li> <li>Modern Philosophy</li> <li>Moral Responsibility</li> <li>Nietzsche</li> <li>Philosophy, Business and Society</li> <li>Philosophy and Gender</li> <li>Rationality: Formal and Theoretical Approaches</li> <li>Political Philosophy</li> <li>Power of Art: Historical Themes</li> <li>Philosophy of Science</li> <li>Social Epistemology</li> <li>Spinoza</li> </ul>

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*

<sup>20</sup>	<b>Programme Director</b>	Sarah Patterson
<sup>21</sup>	<b>Start Date</b> ( <i>term/year</i> )	Autumn 2012
<sup>22</sup>	<b>Date approved by TQEC</b>	Summer 2012
<sup>23</sup>	<b>Date approved by Academic Board</b>	Spring 2012
<sup>24</sup>	<b>Date(s) updated/amended</b>	10 Feb 2020 (for 2020/21)