University of Sheffield

Programme Specification

This specification provides a summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if they take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

The content of our courses is reviewed annually to make sure it's up-to-date and relevant. Individual modules are occasionally updated or withdrawn. This is in response to discoveries through our world-leading research; funding changes; professional accreditation requirements; student or employer feedback; outcomes of reviews; and variations in staff or student numbers. In the event of any change we will inform students and take reasonable steps to minimise disruption.

Programme Details

1. Programme title	Philosophy		
2. Award type	Master of Arts		
3. Programme details	**FHEQ Level:** 7	**Mode of Study:** Full time Part time	**Duration:** 1 year 2 years
4. Faculty	Faculty of Arts and Humanities		
5. School	**Owning:** School of History, Philosophy and Digital Humanities		
6. Accrediting Professional or Statutory Body	None		
7. HECoS code *Select between one and three codes from the HECoS vocabulary.*	**Code:** 100337 **Percentage:** 100	**Code:** **Percentage:**	**Code:** **Percentage:**
Programme code (internal use)	HPHT039 (Full time) HPHT042 (Part time)		

9. Programme aims

The programme aims to:	
A1	Equip students with an understanding of a range of philosophical sources and philosophical problems in theory and practice, while encouraging deep and critical engagement with those philosophical sources and problems, commensurate with the ability to embark on a research project in Philosophy or Political Theory.
A2	Promote respect for the norms of - clarity; careful analysis; critical reflection; rational argument; sympathetic interpretation and understanding; and impartial pursuit of truth.
A3	Promote independence of thought and a critical and analytical approach, not only to theories and concepts, but to the assumptions on which they are based.
A4	Equip students with the core skills involved in - careful reading, comprehension and compression of textual material; clear thinking; sound argumentation; and the clear and well-organised expression of ideas.
A5	Facilitate an awareness of the application of philosophical thought to other academic disciplines or to matters of public interest, encouraging students to apply philosophical skills more widely where appropriate.

10. Programme learning outcomes

Knowledge and understanding (K) On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:	
K1	An understanding of fundamental terms and concepts essential to the discipline of philosophical investigation.
K2	An understanding of and critical awareness of a range of current philosophical problems, much of which is at, or informed by, work at the forefront of philosophical inquiry.
K3	An understanding of techniques applicable to their own research or advanced scholarship.
K4	Originality in the application of knowledge, together with a practical understanding of how established techniques of philosophical research are used to acquire knowledge in the discipline.
Skills and other attributes (S) *When considering the skills and attributes developed in this programme, please refer to the Sheffield Graduate attributes (SGAs). SGAs can be found here* On successful completion of the programme, students will be able to:	
S1	Ability to read carefully and interpret philosophical texts, and to identify textually-based arguments.
S2	Ability to recognise the strengths and weaknesses of arguments for and against a philosophical position.
S3	Ability to communicate ideas and arguments effectively both orally and in writing to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

S4	The independent learning ability required for continued professional development, either in Higher Education or in other professions.

11. Learning and teaching methods *(this should include a summary of methods used throughout the programme, including any unique features and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

Lectures and Seminars:

All Core and Option modules are taught by a combination of Lectures and Seminars.

Lectures are designed to present students with the theoretical background on a given topic and may include the presentation of a specific methodological perspective on that topic and/or state of the art research in the field. Lectures are intended as a preparation for a matching seminar on the same topic.

Seminars are a teaching method of the seminar and will often depart from the topic of the accompanying lecture, while often focusing on a specific set of readings on the relevant topic. The seminar provides a venue for discussion and collective reflection, and also serves as a basis for further independent study. Seminars may be either tutor-led or student-led. Some will have a standard reading-group format, centred around prior study of recommended texts and recent publications.

Individual Supervision

All students are assigned an Academic Tutor and an assigned Supervisor for their coursework essays as well as their Dissertation. The Academic Tutor is available to meet students throughout the Programme and can advise students on how to tailor their MA to their intended specialization and career goals. Essay and Dissertation supervisors will be assigned from members of staff with a specialization in the relevant field. Students will have individual meetings for their essays and their dissertation, these meetings being tailored to support students to structure their arguments, respond to constructive criticism and enhance their levels of philosophical argumentation. Supervisors and/or Academic Tutor will also be available to advise on PhD/Research proposals as appropriate.

Independent Study

Independent study is vital on this MA (as on other programmes), for very good reasons. It enables students (i) to prepare for discussion in lectures and seminars, (ii) to put in the necessary background reading for written assignments, (iii) to broaden and deepen knowledge gained through lectures and seminars, and (iv) to rehearse and assemble materials for presentations. Independent study also promotes student autonomy and the capacity to independently develop research ideas, these being important skills both in academic research and in other career paths.

Workshops and Practical Training

The School of History, Philosophy and Digital Humanities and the University more widely runs a number of events and workshops across the academic year that MA students are encouraged to participate in. These include the Philosophy Research Seminar (which often has talks by external speakers) as well as generic training specifically related to Employability and Careers.

12. Assessment and feedback methods *(this should include the range of types of methods used and should be written with a student focus as this information will display to current students and applicants i.e. prospectus)*

The standard form of modular assessment for Core modules is a) an essay (max 4000 or 6000 words) In addition, 'Approaches to Philosophy' will involve an Employability/MySkills based task (digital media/artefact) accounting for 25% of the module mark.

The standard form of assessment for Option modules is either a) one essay (max 6000 words), or b) two essays (max 3000 words). The MA Dissertation is a long essay with a word-count of 9 000-12 000 words.

Version Number:	**Purpose / Change:**	**Cohort affected: (academic year and level)**	**Date change approved:**
1			December 2007
2			April 2013
3	Major Amendment	26/27 - Year 1	October 2025

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