
Department of Philosophy

www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/philosophy



The Philosophy Department at The University of Nottingham is a centre of excellence in research and teaching and is especially strong in the areas of metaphysics, mind and language, ethics, and the philosophy of art.

The Department of Philosophy, one of six departments in the School of Humanities, offers an ideal environment for study at postgraduate level.

Almost all areas of philosophy are studied but major strengths lie in metaphysics, mind, philosophy of language, ethics, and aesthetics. There is also active research in other core areas, such as epistemology and the philosophy of science, as well as some less traditional subjects such as philosophy of film and fiction and philosophy of sport.

In the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), 25 per cent of the Department's research activity has received the highest possible rating of 4* - a result surpassed by only four UK Philosophy departments outside Oxford, Cambridge and London. Overall, sixty per cent of the Department's research has been judged either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

Studying philosophy promotes the development of a wide range of personal skills, which are invaluable to employers. For example, the ability to think creatively is highly prized by many organisations, as is the art of communication, both written and oral. Many employers in the private and public sector actively seek to recruit philosophy postgraduates, believing that they bring a fresh, critical approach to the workplace.

Research programmes are delivered through supervision by a member of staff with expertise in the subject area. The taught MA programme is delivered through a choice of specialised modules, including a research-training component, which makes it ideal preparation for further research.

There are several exciting research projects underway in the Department including the Metaphysics of Science project, funded by the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC).

Postgraduate study

Key facts

Why study philosophy at Nottingham?

We have an international reputation for research in many areas, including:

- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of Mind
- Language and Logic
- Ethics
- Aesthetics

The 2009 Philosophical Gourmet Report ranks Nottingham as equal first in the UK for philosophy of art and joint eighth in the world for metaphysics.

The research culture within the Department provides extensive support for all postgraduate students, including many activities, such as a weekly departmental research seminar, which is open to all postgraduates and often hosts internationally famous philosophers.

Funding

Philosophy has a variety of funding opportunities for UK, EU and international postgraduate students.

Opportunities for funding are available to overseas students through the International Office which also offers expert support to international students applying for scholarships from their home countries.

For up-to-date information and application forms on these and other funding opportunities, please visit the Department's website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/philosophy

Applicants may also search the University's funding database, designed to give an indication of scholarships for which they may be eligible to apply: www.nottingham.ac.uk/pgstudy/funding

The University Graduate School operates two schemes of its own to help support current postgraduate research, The Graduate School Travel Prize and *Universitas 21* funding.

Taught courses

The Masters in Philosophy offers various pathways:

- Metaphysics
- Mind and Knowledge
- Ethics
- Philosophy of Language
- Aesthetics
- General Philosophy

Research opportunities

The Department offers supervision for MPhil and PhD students in a wide range of subject areas. There is a concentration of staff with research interests in metaphysics, mind and language, ethics, and the philosophy of art.

Visit us

There are plenty of opportunities to visit the Department and have an informal chat about postgraduate opportunities in philosophy. Please see the Department's website for details: www.nottingham.ac.uk/philosophy/pg-openday

Applications

Candidates are encouraged to apply online at <https://pgapps.nottingham.ac.uk>

Enquiries

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MA in Philosophy

www.nottingham.ac.uk/philosophy



The Department of Philosophy at Nottingham, which is one of the highest rated in the country, has undergone significant recent reinvigoration and expansion as a centre of research excellence.

Students studying the MA in Philosophy choose from a range of specialised subject modules taught by research active academics, creating a particular pathway through the MA. The modules offered highlight the areas of particular strength at Nottingham — metaphysics, mind and knowledge, philosophy of language, ethics, aesthetics.

The MA is supplemented by a core Research Methods module, designed to help students make the transition to postgraduate studies. Each student finishes their MA with a dissertation on a topic of their own choosing.

The course affords students who have studied philosophy at undergraduate level an opportunity to pursue the subject in greater depth.

It prepares students who seek entry to a PhD programme, and accords therefore with the Arts and Humanities Research Council's practice of offering funding packages for 1 (Masters) +3 (PhD) years. It is also suitable for students who do not intend to study for the PhD, but who wish merely to deepen their knowledge of philosophy and acquire some research skills.

MA in Philosophy

Course content

The course, which can be pursued one year full-time or two years part-time, comprises four subject modules, two per semester, a Research Methods module that runs over two semesters, and a dissertation that is completed over the summer.

There are no compulsory subject modules. In each semester, two are chosen giving the student the chance to create their own specialised pathway through the course.

Students pick two modules for each semester from the following subjects:

- Metaphysics
- Mind and Knowledge
- Ethics
- Philosophy of Language
- Aesthetics

Students who wish to specialise in only two subjects — for example, ethics and aesthetics — choose the relevant pathway through the course in each semester, in this case Ethics and Aesthetics. Students seeking a more general degree may choose modules from three or even four subjects, for example Ethics, Aesthetics in the first semester, and Mind and Knowledge, and Philosophy of Language in the second semester. The dissertation, on a topic of the student's choosing, is closely supervised by a member of staff.

You will also take our specially designed module, Research Methods in Philosophy, which includes advice on how to write an academic CV, how to write a research proposal and secure funding, giving a paper at a conference and getting published, as well as the general research skills you will need in an academic post.

On successful completion of these modules, students write a (60-credit) dissertation of 10,000–15,000 words, on a topic of their choice (subject to the approval of the Head of Department).

Entry requirements

Candidates are normally expected to hold an honours degree at 2:1 or above (or its international equivalent) in philosophy. Other candidates will be considered at the discretion of the Department.

Those whose first language is not English must achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least 7.0 with no less than 6.0 in each element, or a TOEFL score of 600 (250 for computer based tests) with a TWE of at least 5.0, or a TOEFL iBT score of 100 (with no less than 21 in any element). Test results should be no more than two years old.

Students who cannot demonstrate this level of proficiency may take a course in the Centre for English Language Education at the University.

Career opportunities

Our postgraduate students move into an extraordinarily wide range of careers following their time in the School.

Undertaking postgraduate work fosters many vital skills and may offer a head start in the job market. Studying at this level allows students to develop qualities of self-discipline and self-motivation that are essential to employment in a wide range of fields.

The course provides the theoretical training required for progression to a research degree in philosophy or to pursue a career as a professional philosopher.

A postgraduate degree from The University of Nottingham shows potential employers that students are intelligent and hard-working, able to undertake any form of specific career training.

Research degrees

Course overview

We have a flourishing postgraduate community, with regular opportunities for contact with other researchers in the Department and from other universities. The combination of world-leading academics and innovative younger scholars gives the Department a capacity to provide expert doctoral and MPhil supervision.

Our department provides excellent support for its research students, many of whom gain valuable teaching experience and publish their research whilst studying with us.

MPhil and PhD study

MPhil

This course is normally two years of full-time or four years of part-time directed study at the end of which students produce a dissertation in their chosen area of research of not more than 60,000 words. A student who is registered for the MPhil may transfer to the PhD if their work is judged to be of suitable quality and promise.

PhD

The PhD course is normally three years of full-time or six years of part-time directed research at the end of which students produce a dissertation in their chosen area of research of normally about 80,000-100,000 words.

Philosophy journals

The journal *Analysis* is based in the Department, under the editorship of emeritus professor Michael Clark. Gregory Currie is one of the editors of *Mind and Language* and others occupy editorial boards of various journals. Advice is given on publishing philosophy with the eventual goal of placing our successful doctoral students in academic jobs across the globe.

Entry requirements

Candidates are normally expected to hold a masters level degree in philosophy. Other candidates may be considered at the discretion of the Department.

Those whose first language is not English must achieve an overall score on the British Council IELTS test of at least 7.0 with no less than 6.0 in each element, or a TOEFL score of 600 (250 for computer based tests) with a TWE of at least 5.0, or a TOEFL iBT score of 100 (with no less than 21 in any element). Test results should be no more than two years old.

Students who cannot demonstrate this level of proficiency may take a course in the Centre for English Language Education at the University.

Postgraduate community

The Department has a lively postgraduate culture which includes a weekly research seminar offering the chance to hear international visiting scholars. The seminar, which is open to all, allows postgraduate students to broaden their philosophical knowledge and gain a better sense of interactive research in philosophy. The Department also hosts regular workshops and conferences.

There is also a weekly seminar just for postgraduate students, at which students present work or discuss a paper of their choosing, as well as a range of formal and informal reading groups which meet weekly to discuss topics of common interest.

Since 2002, the Department has organised a regular postgraduate conference, attracting students from around the country, which is now organised by the students themselves. The Department provides funds to enable postgraduate students to attend conferences elsewhere.

Our postgraduates regularly present papers at conferences and have been successful in publishing and in securing lecturing posts at universities in the UK and abroad including Oxford, Leeds, York, Massey, and Geneva.

Being a postgraduate student at Nottingham

Research environment

We have a flourishing postgraduate community with regular opportunities for contact with other researchers in the Department and from other universities.

The Department is regularly host to visiting philosophers, including speakers to its research seminar such as: Timothy Williamson, David Armstrong, Mike Martin, David Papineau and Nancy Cartwright; Special (non-stipendiary) Professors, other distinguished professors and early career researchers. It holds frequent conferences and workshops, often centred on the work of a visiting academic. As well as those noted above, these have included *Art, Expression and Emotion: themes from the work of Jenefer Robinson* (2007), and *The Metaphysics of Art: Themes from the work of Jerrold Levinson* (2006).

Research resources available to students centre on the Hallward Library, which contains over 1.2 million printed books; 660,000 e-books, 10,500 print and electronic journals, including significant holdings of over 100 periodicals related to philosophy.

Research training

On joining the University, you will receive automatic membership of the Graduate School, a unique facility for our postgraduate students, which provides a range of facilities, training opportunities and support, as well as workshops and events to enhance the postgraduate experience and help you to develop a range of transferable skills.

The Arts Graduate Centre (ACG) is a platform which supports postgraduate students in the Arts Faculty, by offering a wide range of training opportunities. The Centre aims to enhance the research environment for postgraduates and contract research staff in the Faculty of Arts by working with postgraduates and contract research staff to plan, deliver and review activities which develop skills, support their research work and enhance their employability.

All postgraduate students in the Department may also register for the Academic German course run by the School of Humanities. This course is designed to provide research students who have little or no experience in this language with the skills to use German in their research.

Postgraduate study

What our students say...

David Beesley completed a MA in ethics and political philosophy in 2006. He continued onto the PhD course and is writing a thesis, *Are Moral Reasons Grounded in Social Rationality?*

“Nottingham is an excellent place to undertake postgraduate study in philosophy. The Department has an excellent reputation and offers a wide range of expertise. The taught MA programmes are well structured and allow in-depth study of a chosen area — mine being ethics — giving the opportunity to develop the skills needed for PhD research. I have always found the Department to be very supportive, offering advice, encouragement and essential support in applying for funding. There is a good sense of community among the postgraduates, and in the wider Department too. Weekly postgraduate research seminars which are relatively informal give a great opportunity to present one’s work, and are a good way of getting to know other postgraduates.

The weekly Department research seminars have visiting speakers from all areas of the subject, and are a great way to get involved in Department life. My experience at Nottingham has been very positive; I would recommend studying philosophy as a postgraduate here without hesitation.”

Charlotte Matheson studied at Massey University in New Zealand before coming to Nottingham in 2006. She is writing a PhD thesis entitled *Powers and Causation*.

“My experience as a philosophy postgraduate student at Nottingham has been very positive. The Department has an excellent reputation for research. Staff are knowledgeable, friendly and supportive, and take an interest in students’ work. There are good research facilities for students, with access to library facilities, research training through the Graduate School, and a dedicated postgraduate research room. The latter not only provides working space with desks and computers, but also a place for postgraduates to interact and discuss ideas.

As an international student, I feel that the Department welcomed me when I arrived; allaying any fears I had about travelling halfway around the world to study in Nottingham. There are many opportunities for students and staff to interact, including weekly postgraduate and staff seminars and a number of reading and discussion groups which postgraduates are actively encouraged to take part in. Many PhD students are given the opportunity to lead undergraduate seminars. Not only have I found this to be rewarding in its own right, but it is also a useful source of teaching experience which will help my long-term career prospects. Overall, I would happily recommend Nottingham to anyone contemplating postgraduate study in philosophy.”

Staff profiles

Professor Stephen Barker

Research areas: Philosophy of language and metaphysics, particular topics being time, persistence, causation, truth, normativity, thought, and meaning
Selected publication: *Renewing Meaning* (OUP, 2004)

Dr Scott Campbell

Research areas: Philosophy of science, especially the topics of risk, induction and probability
Selected publication: 'The Conception of a Person as a Series of Mental Events' (*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2006)

Professor Gregory Currie

Research areas: Aesthetics, cognition and the relations between the two
Selected publication: *Arts and Minds* (OUP, 2004)

Dr Andrew Fisher

Research areas: Metaethics
Selected publication: *Arguing about Metaethics* (co-edited with Simon Kirchin, Routledge, 2008)

Dr Carrie Jenkins

Research areas: Epistemology, metaphysics and the philosophy of logic, language and mathematics
Selected publication: *Grounding Concepts: An Empirical Basis for Arithmetical Knowledge* (OUP, 2008)

Dr Matthew Kennedy

Research areas: Philosophy of mind and epistemology
Selected publication: 'Visual Awareness of Properties' (*Philosophy and Phenomenological Research*, 2007)

Professor Penelope Mackie

Research areas: Metaphysics and the philosophy of language, especially necessity and causation
Selected publication: *How Things Might Have Been: Individuals, Kinds, and Essential Properties* (Clarendon Press, 2006)

Gregory Mason

Research areas: Moral and political philosophy, especially radical political theory

Professor Stephen Mumford

Research areas: Metaphysics
Selected publication: *David Armstrong* (Acumen, 2007)

Professor Daniel Nolan

Research areas: Metaphysics, the philosophy of science, philosophy of language, philosophical logic, metaethics and other areas
Selected publication: *Topics in the Philosophy of Possible Worlds* (Routledge, 2002)

Professor Harold Noonan

Research areas: Philosophy of mind and the philosophy of language, identity and personal identity, philosophical logic, and the philosophies of Frege and Russell
Selected publication: *Hume* (One World Publishers, 2007)

Professor Philip Percival

Research areas: Metaphysics, epistemology and philosophy of science
Selected publication: 'An empiricist critique of constructive empiricism: The Aim of Science', in B. Monton (ed.) *Images of Empiricism: Essays on Science and Stances*, pp. 83-116 (OUP, 2006)

Staff profiles

Professor Stefano Predelli

Research areas: Philosophical Semantics and Aesthetics, especially the philosophy of music

Selected publication: *Contexts: Meaning, Truth, and the Use of Language* (OUP, 2005)

Dr Komarine Romdenh-Romluc

Research areas: Merleau-Ponty, particularly his earlier work, first person thought and phenomenology

Selected publication: 'Merleau-Ponty and the power to reckon with the possible', in T. Baldwin (ed.) *Reading Merleau-Ponty* (Routledge: London, 2007)

Dr Neil Sinclair

Research areas: Metaethics, especially expressivism, and normative ethics

Selected publication: Expressivism and the Practicality of Moral Convictions, *The Journal of Value Inquiry* 41 (2007)

Dr Jonathan Tallant

Research areas: The philosophy of time

Selected publication: 'What is it to 'B' a relation?', *Synthese*, 162: 117-132 (2008)

Dr Chris Woodard

Research areas: Normative ethics and political philosophy

Selected publication: *Reasons, Patterns, and Cooperation* (Routledge, 2008)

Tuition Fees

2010/11

Taught postgraduate courses

- MA in Philosophy

Full-time fees (1 year) **Academic year 2010/11**

- Home and EU students: £4,000
- International students: £10,880

Part-time fees (2 years) **First academic year**

- Home and EU students: £2,000
- International students: £5,440

Following academic year

- Home and EU students: £2,000 (plus minimal increase)
- International students: £5,440 (plus minimal increase)

Research postgraduate courses

- MPhil/PhD

Full-time fees (3 years) **First academic year**

- Home and EU students: £3,460
- International students: £10,880

Following academic years

- Home and EU students: £3,460 (plus minimal increase)
- International students: £10,880 (plus minimal increase)

Part-time fees (up to 6 years) **First academic year**

- Home and EU students: £1,730
- International students: £5,440

Academic year 2011/12

- Home and EU students: £1,730 (plus minimal increase)
- International students: £5,440 (plus minimal increase)

Funding opportunities

The Department of Philosophy is offering a number of studentships (tuition fees plus maintenance grant) and scholarships (tuition fees) to postgraduate students.

Please note that applying for funding and a place to study are two separate processes. To apply for a place to study, please use the University's online system: <https://pgapps.nottingham.ac.uk>.

School of Humanities PhD Studentships

The School has PhD Studentships to award to students first registering to undertake PhD study on a full-time basis in the Department starting September 2010. Each studentship pays UK/EU fees and a maintenance grant for up to three years (subject to satisfactory progress). The grant will be approximately £13,400 per annum and rises each year in line with AHRC guidelines. For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

Philosophy PhD Studentships

The Department has one or two PhD Studentships to award to students first registering to undertake PhD study on a full-time basis in the Department starting September 2010. Each studentship pays UK/EU fees and a maintenance grant for up to three years (subject to satisfactory progress). The grant will be approximately £13,400 per annum and rises each year in line with AHRC guidelines. For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

AHRC Doctoral Studentships

Under the AHRC's Block Grant Partnership with the University, the Department will be awarding an AHRC Doctoral Studentship to a student registering to study for PhD September 2011. For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

School of Humanities Masters Studentships

The School has an Masters Studentship to award to a student registering to undertake an MA degree on a full-time basis in the Department starting September 2010. The studentship pays UK/EU fees and a maintenance grant of approximately £9,400 per annum. For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

AHRC Research Preparation Masters Studentships

Under the AHRC's Block Grant Partnership, the Department has an AHRC Research Preparation Masters Studentship to award to a student registering to study for a Masters degree September 2010 in the Department. The Studentship pays UK/EU fees and, in line with AHRC guidelines on eligibility, a maintenance grant of approximately £9,400 per annum (pro rata part-time). For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

Department Masters Scholarships

This scholarship covers the cost of tuition fees for a UK or EU student studying an MA in the Department, on a full-time basis, starting September 2010. The award cannot be deferred. To be eligible to apply you must have a UK or EU fee status and should have or be expected to gain a 2i honours degree or equivalent. For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

School of Humanities Overseas Research Scholarships

The Overseas Research Scholarship (ORS) covers the cost of overseas fees for a student first registering to undertake PhD study on a full-time basis in the Department starting September 2010. The award cannot be deferred. For further information on how to apply, please visit the departmental website.

International Office Scholarships

The University's International Office has a wide range of non-competitive and competitive scholarship opportunities for students with either an EU or Overseas fee status, including Full Tuition Fee Research Scholarships, a fee reduction for alumni, EU and Accession State Scholarships, FUN America Scholarships. For further information on how to apply, please visit the website of the International Office: www.nottingham.ac.uk/international.

Other sources of funding

For up-to-date information on these and other funding opportunities, please visit the departmental website: www.nottingham.ac.uk/philosophy