ROYAL HOLLOWAY
University of London

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Master of Arts and PGDip in Philosophy**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2016**. The programme consists of three streams: (1) European Philosophy; (2) Modern Philosophy; (3) Political Philosophy.

The aims of the MA European Philosophy stream are:
- to give students knowledge of some of the major theoretical positions that define the contemporary landscape of European philosophy
- to familiarise students with the different approaches to philosophy found in the European tradition
- to enable students to gain knowledge of the core texts and issues which form the framework for contemporary philosophical research
- to encourage an awareness of the connections between European philosophy and other disciplines and practices in the sciences and arts
- to provide training in research techniques in the field of study
- to foster an independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- to develop key communications, IT and management skills relevant for postgraduate work
- to develop advanced writing skills

The aims of the MA Modern Philosophy stream are:
- to familiarise students with methods involved in both analytical and European approaches to modern philosophy
- to enable students to gain knowledge of the core texts and issues which form the framework for contemporary philosophical research
- to encourage an awareness of similarities and differences between analytical and European traditions of modern philosophy
- to provide training in research techniques in the field of study
- to foster an independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- to develop key communications, IT and management skills relevant for postgraduate work
- to develop advanced writing skills

The aims of the MA Political Philosophy stream are:
- to give students knowledge of the main political implications of modern philosophy
- to familiarise students with methods involved in both analytical and European approaches to political philosophy
- to enable students to gain knowledge of the core texts and issues which form the framework for contemporary philosophical research
- to encourage an awareness of similarities and differences between analytical and European traditions of political philosophy
- to provide training in research techniques in the field of study
- to foster an independent learning ability required for continuing professional development
- to develop key communications, IT and management skills relevant for postgraduate work
- to develop advanced writing skills

The programme is delivered over one year of full-time study (52 weeks) or up to five years of part-time study (260 weeks). On successful completion of the programme a student should have an understanding of the area of the MA at a level appropriate for a postgraduate qualification. Whilst being a self-contained degree in its own right, the programme provides suitable and recognised qualifications for entry to PhD study in the same or a closely related field.

Further information

This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes
Teaching and learning in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding
- an appreciation of the key concepts, debates, and approaches characteristic of the traditions of European, Modern (European and analytic), or Political philosophy;
- an understanding of the complex relationship between argument, experience and interpretation in European, European and analytic, or political philosophy;
- a familiarity with the history of European, European and analytic or political philosophy, and the way this history influences contemporary theorists;
- knowledge of how to critically appraise texts and theories in contexts beyond philosophy;
- awareness of the centrality of philosophical issues to all areas of endeavour
- an advanced knowledge of a variety of critical and new technology approaches applicable to the specific field;
- the articulation of knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories relating to the chosen area of European, European and analytic, or political philosophy at an advanced level;
- understanding of the appropriate critical and technological skills required in the specific field of study;
- the acquisition of knowledge of advanced scholarship in the chosen area of the discipline to a level appropriate for a MA degree.

Skills and other attributes
- the ability to evaluate relevant critical, theoretical and contextual research at the forefront of the field;
- the ability to analyse and critically interpret text and data;*
- the ability to conduct philosophical research independently at an advanced level using traditional and electronic resources;*
- to further develop skills of reflection on reading and learning, and skills in information handling and retrieval;*
- the ability to articulate knowledge and the understanding of texts, concepts and theories at an advanced level, demonstrating self-direction and originality;
- the ability to present logical and coherent written and oral arguments of varying lengths;*
- the ability to comprehend and develop sophisticated concepts and original critical ideas;*
- enhanced interpersonal skills, involving recognising and respecting the viewpoints, and interacting constructively with other people;*

- enhanced time management and organisational skills including working to deadlines, prioritising tasks, organising work-time;*
- in addition, the programme fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work, and that strengthens our postgraduates' abilities to engage in lifelong learning and contribute to the wider community. These include personal motivation; the ability to work autonomously and with others; self-awareness and self-management; empathy and insight; intellectual integrity; awareness of responsibility as a local, national and international citizen; interest in lifelong learning; flexibility and adaptability; creativity.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment
Teaching and learning is mostly by means of seminar discussions, oral presentations, guided independent research, guided independent study, coursework essays, and a dissertation. The basic strategies are to nurture the interest and enthusiasm of the students for the field, to develop the students' critical and communication skills and to develop critical, research and creative skills. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by coursework essays, and a dissertation. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Department.

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Details of the programme structure(s)
The full-time programme lasts 52 weeks, beginning in September.
The brief outline of the programme is shown below; however students can obtain further details from the Programme Handbook.
The number of credits required for the MA is 180, for the PGDip the number required is 120 and for the PGCert it is 60 credits.
Credits are indicated in brackets, and indicate proportional weighting towards the MA, PGDip and PGCert classification grade. The programme structure for the PgDip is as below, with the exception that students will not undertake the dissertation, while that for the PG Cert is that students are required to take courses worth only 60 credits.

European Philosophy stream
Students must take the following:
(i)   PY5000 - Advanced Topics in Philosophy (40 credits)
(ii)   Two courses from the following list:
         PY5002 - The European Philosophical Trajectory: from Kant to the Present (20 credits)
         PY5003 - Twentieth Century French Thought (20 credits)
         PR5418 - Contemporary Continental Political Theory (20 credits)
(iii)   40 credits of option courses
(iv)   PY5001 - Dissertation (60 credits)

Options will be chosen from the following list of courses:

PY5004 - Legacies of Wittgenstein (20 credits)
PY5005 - Continental Aesthetics (20 credits)
PY5006 - Adorno and Critical Theory (20 credits)
PY5007 - Issues in Normative Epistemology (20 credits)
PR5416 - Political Concepts (20 credits)
PR5445 - Identity, Power and Radical Political Theory (20 credits)
PR5916 - Human Rights (20 credits)
PR5936 - Anglo-American Political Theory (20 credits)
CL5669 - Neo-Platonism (40 credits)

Students may also take the remaining 20 credit unit not chosen in list (ii).

Modern Philosophy stream
Students must take the following:
(i)   PY5000 - Advanced Topics in Philosophy (40 credits)
(ii)   Both of the following courses:
             PY5002 - The European Philosophical Trajectory: from Kant to the Present (20 credits)
             PY5004 - Legacies of Wittgenstein (20 credits)
(iii)   40 credits of option courses
(iv)   PY5001 - Dissertation (60 credits)

Options will be chosen from the following list of courses:

PY5003 - Twentieth Century French Thought (20 credits)
PY5005 - Continental Aesthetics (20 credits)
PY5006 - Adorno and Critical Theory (20 credits)
PY5007 - Issues in Normative Epistemology (20 credits)
PR5416 - Political Concepts (20 credits)
PR5418 - Contemporary Continental Political Theory (20 credits)
PR5445 - Identity, Power and Radical Political Theory (20 credits)
PR5916 - Human Rights (20 credits)
PR5936 - Anglo-American Political Theory (20 credits)
CL5669 - Neo-Platonism (40 credits)

Political Philosophy Stream
Students must take the following:
(i)   PY5000 - Advanced Topics in Philosophy (40 credits)
(ii)   Two courses from the following list:
             PR5416 - Political Concepts (20 credits)
             PR5418 - Contemporary Continental Political Theory (20 credits)
             PR5936 - Anglo American Political Theory (20 credits)
(iii)   40 credits of option courses
(iv)   PY5001 - Dissertation (60 credits)

Options will be chosen from the following list of courses:

PY5002 - The European Philosophical Trajectory: from Kant to the Present (20 credits)
PY5003 - Twentieth Century French Thought (20 credits)
PY5004 - Legacies of Wittgenstein (20 credits)
PY5005 - Continental Aesthetics (20 credits)
PY5006 - Adorno and Critical Theory (20 credits)
PY5007 - Issues in Normative Epistemology (20 credits)
PR5445 - Identity, Power and Radical Political Theory (20 credits)
PR5916 - Human Rights (20 credits)
CL5669 - Neo-Platonism (40 credits)

Please note that not all courses run each year and option courses may be added or deleted due to staff changes.
A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from
http://www.rhul.ac.uk/philosophy/home.aspx

Part-time programme structure
The programme can be taken part-time over two to five years, beginning in September of year one. Part-time students studying over two years normally take elements (i), an option from (ii), and (iii) in their first year, and the remaining option from (ii), (iv), and (v) in their second year.

Progression and award requirements

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in oral presentations, contributions to seminar discussion and coursework.

Please note that if you hold a Tier 4 (General) Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

To pass the **Masters** programme a student must achieve an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks between 40-49% can be condoned in courses which constitute up to a maximum of 40 credits, provided that the overall weighted average is at least 50.00%, but a failure mark (i.e. below 50%) in the dissertation cannot be condoned.

The Masters degree with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Masters degree with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any course of the programme. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Diploma** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50% *and* has either chosen not to proceed to the dissertation, or has failed the dissertation on either the first or second attempt. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Diploma, but if they are, such condoned fails would be in courses which do not constitute more than 40 credits.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Diploma with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any course. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

The **Postgraduate Certificate** may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of at least 50.00%, with no mark in any taught course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. Failure marks in the region 40-49% are not usually condoned for the award of a Postgraduate Certificate.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Merit may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 60.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%.

The Postgraduate Certificate with Distinction may be awarded if a student achieves an overall weighted average of 70.00% or above, with no mark in any course which counts towards the final assessment falling below 50%. A Distinction will not normally be awarded if a student re-sits or re-takes any course. In exceptional circumstances a viva may be held for a student at the request of the Examiners.

Student support and guidance
- The Programme Director meets with the students on a regular basis to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues. The Programme Director acts as a point of contact for pastoral support and any questions

about the programme throughout the year.
- Course coordinators, tutors and dissertation supervisors provide a back-up system of academic, pastoral and welfare advice.
- All students are allocated a personal adviser, with whom they meet at least once a term, and more regularly if required, to discuss all matters relating to their programme and for pastoral support.
- Induction programmes for orientation and introduction to the Department and College by the Director of Graduate Studies.
- All staff available and accessible through an office-hour system.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee.
- Detailed MA handbook and course booklets.
- Extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College and University libraries, as well as the Computer Centre.
- Computing equipment and office space at Bedford Square.
- Dedicated Departmental computing facilities and study room in Egham.
- Dedicated College Doctoral School.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre, Students' Union and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with additional needs.
- Membership of the Institute of Philosophy; access to further research seminars and courses.

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Admission requirements
For details of admissions requirements please refer to the Course Finder.
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Further learning and career opportunities
Graduates from Philosophy MA programmes successfully progress into a wide range of professions which include journalism, publishing and the media, computing, advertising and marketing, the creative industries, the public sector, and teaching. For other graduates, completing an MA is the precursor to embarking on research, ultimately leading to a PhD. For more details on further learning and career opportunities please refer to the Careers Service.

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Indicators of quality and standards
Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This results for the quality of our research outputs placed Royal Holloway 15th in the UK based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score and 20th in the UK for 4* and 3* research. The Department of Politics and International Relations is ranked 37 in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18 for 3* and 4* research.

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List of programmes with details of awards, teaching arrangements and accreditation
The programmes are taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and the Masters leads to an award of the University of London. The Postgraduate Diploma and Postgraduate Certificate lead to awards of Royal Holloway and Bedford New College. Programmes in Philosophy are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The Banner programme codes are given in parentheses.

Master of Arts Programme in European Philosophy

    MA in European Philosophy (2745)
    MA in Modern Philosophy (2492)
    MA in Political Philosophy (2748)

Postgraduate Diploma in Philosophy

    PG Diploma in European Philosophy (2746)
    PG Diploma in Modern Philosophy (2493)
    PG Diploma in Political Philosophy (2749)

Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy

    PG Certificate in European Philosophy (3005)
    PG Certificate in Modern Philosophy (2744)
    PG Certificate in Political Philosophy (3006)