

“ *In logic nothing is accidental* ”

Ludwig Wittgenstein (1889–1951)

What is
Philosophy?

Why study
Philosophy
at York?

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY

Where will it
take me?

What will
I learn?

“ *We should be most diligent in
seeking the truth until we finally
come to seeking the unseekable* ”

Al-Ghazālī (c. 1056–1111)

Islamic philosopher, theologian and lawyer.

THE UNIVERSITY *of* York

Contents

- 3 Why study Philosophy?
- 4 Unlocking the potential of your Philosophy degree
- 6 What can I do with a Philosophy degree?
- 8 How we approach Philosophy at York
- 10 Degree structure
- 12 Combined degrees with Philosophy
- 14 Research excellence
- 16 The global perspective
- 17 The student experience
- 18 Life in York
- 19 How to apply

“ As an employer, I look at a Philosophy degree similarly to a Law degree. I expect thoroughness, rigour and clarity of thought.

A Philosophy degree on a CV shows an interest in how the world works, how people work, and how it all hangs together. It suggests an interesting and thoughtful person who is capable of logic and clarity of thought. ”

**Philip Jenner, Vice President,
Government Relations, Europe, Viacom**

Viacom is a leading global entertainment content company across film, TV and digital media

The University of York is one of the success stories in UK higher education. Recognised as the 'best young university' in the UK and eighth in the world among universities under 50 (Times Higher Education), 90 per cent of our students are satisfied with the quality of our teaching (National Student Survey 2012).

As a member of the UK's prestigious Russell Group of elite research institutions, we have an impressive research profile both nationally and internationally, which means that our teaching at undergraduate level is relevant and cutting-edge.

“ *The business of education ... is not to make them perfect in any one of the Sciences, but so to open and dispose their Minds as may best make them capable of any, when they shall apply themselves to it.* ”

John Locke (1632–1704)

What are the most fundamental constituents of reality?

WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

The study of philosophy is unlike any other discipline. It is an activity, rather than a body of knowledge: the activity of seeking to understand yourself and the world around you. Philosophy trains your mind; it helps you think clearly and coherently and to see things from different perspectives.

While studying Philosophy at York, whether on its own or combined with other subjects, you will grapple with many exciting and fundamental questions, including some of those that we have highlighted throughout this brochure.

You will engage with some of the world's leading academics in the various branches of philosophy and also with your fellow students in attempting to establish what can and cannot be rationally defended.

The process of philosophical questioning is not just an academic exercise; it trains you to identify assumptions, construct arguments and assess their validity. This develops your skills in reasoning, analysis and imagination – all invaluable skills when it comes to your future career. Philosophy students are actively sought after by employers, and the majority of our students go on to highly successful careers in sectors such as law and finance. Others choose to pursue further postgraduate study and many achieve fulfilling academic careers.

While there is no 'typical' Philosophy student at York, all of our students share a desire to expand and exercise their minds. This is reflected in the fact that most of our students become active members of the vibrant Philosophy Society which publishes its own highly regarded magazine, *Dialectic*, as well as engaging in numerous other societies and groups across the University.

We pride ourselves on being a welcoming department and this is borne out by what our students and graduates say about us. Our doors are always open and we will support you through your undergraduate years both academically and pastorally.

You will be based at a world-leading university, on a lively, collegiate campus in the beautiful city of York.

**Professor Tom Stoneham
Head of Department**



QUESTIONTIME

Suppose I decide to stay at home rather than keep my promise to visit my grandmother. But unknown to me, I have been locked in and couldn't have gone anyway. Have I broken my promise or not?



Is it better to have knowledge than mere true beliefs?

“ True opinions are a fine thing, but they are not willing to remain long and are not worth much until one ties them down by giving an account of the reason why ”

Plato (427–347 BC)
It has been said that all philosophy is footnotes to Plato.

“ Our indispensable reliance on mathematics in characterising and defining scientific concepts tells us more about the requirements of theorising than the truth of the mathematics we assume ”

Dr Mary Leng
Senior lecturer at York and author of *Mathematics and Reality* (2010).

Are any of our beliefs justified independently of experience?

“ There actually are in human knowledge judgements which are necessary and in the strictest sense universal, and which are therefore pure ‘a priori’ judgements ”

Immanuel Kant (1724–1804)
Kant used transcendental arguments to examine the necessary features of all possible thought and experience.

UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF YOUR PHILOSOPHY DEGREE

Philosophy is a challenging activity. The practice of constructing and questioning assumptions and arguments is one that sharpens your mind, enabling you to unpick and analyse complex situations and hypotheses.

You will develop skills that can be applied to numerous careers.

While your future career may not be foremost in your mind as you think about applying to university, it is worth noting that Philosophy develops skills and aptitudes that are highly prized by employers. The degree in Philosophy from the University of York is particularly recognised because of the academic standing of the Department and the strength of its research expertise as well as the overall reputation of the University.

Through studying Philosophy, you will develop skills in:

- logical thinking
- reasoning and debate
- critical analysis of complex subjects
- tolerance in relation to the ideas of others
- changing your mind in the face of new evidence.

These transferable skills are particularly desired in leadership and management across a wide variety of disciplines and sectors. Careers that University of York Philosophy students have progressed to include:

- the Civil Service
- the National Health Service (NHS)
- other national and local government and public administration bodies
- law – both solicitors and barristers
- management consultancy
- investment and banking
- the charity or not-for-profit sector
- Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs)
- media
- publishing.

All of these careers require a sharp mind and the ability to tackle complex issues: studying Philosophy provides just that.

Throughout your degree at York you will be supported and guided through your decisions by both the Department and the University’s Careers Service.

On the following two pages you will find out what some of our graduates say about how studying Philosophy at the University of York has enabled them to pursue successful careers across very diverse organisations.

QUESTIONTIME

Either there is justice in this life or there is not. If there is, then there is no need to suppose an afterlife in which injustices are corrected. But if there is not, then there is no reason to suppose the creator of this world cared about justice. Should we conclude that, even if there is a creator, there is no reason to believe in life after death?



“Philosophy helped me in two ways. First, it taught me how to construct arguments. This logical process is useful in journalism, where evidence is needed to find facts - and facts are needed to tell stories. Knowing how to build your own arguments helps you scrutinise other people’s as well. Secondly, philosophy taught me to doubt everything - a healthy starting point for any journalist.”

Daniel Ashby
(Philosophy and Politics, 2008)
Education Correspondent, ITV Tyne Tees



WHAT CAN I DO WITH A PHILOSOPHY DEGREE?

“Studying for a Philosophy degree at York was invaluable. The emphasis on rigorous, yet imaginative, thinking combined with clarity of written and verbal expression is something that has been helpful in all of my work since graduating. Philosophy develops a unique mix of precision and creativity that is rare to find in other subjects and I’ve found that employers are quick to recognise this.”

Matthew Manning (Philosophy, 2003)
Committee Specialist to Treasury Select Committee, formerly Associate at Financial Services Authority

“I enjoyed, and greatly benefited from, studying Philosophy at York. Philosophy has enabled me to examine what it is to be human and what it means to live a good life. It has been a great foundation for my career in law. The course taught me, amongst other things, how to develop arguments, how to read complex texts, how to spot specious arguments, how to understand the importance of the foundations of any topic or subject before discussing it. I have found those skills invaluable during my life as a barrister and judge.”

Edward Bindloss (Philosophy, 1990)
Barrister and Judge

“I wanted to study a subject which involved a great deal of rigorous thought - a subject in which success was not determined by your ability to remember facts but, instead, your ability to decipher complex concepts and logically analyse and construct persuasive arguments which cannot be rationally challenged. The ability to analyse arguments into their constituent parts, whilst identifying strengths and weaknesses, and the ability to construct incontrovertible arguments has proved to be an invaluable asset in my current role. This is an ability that I would never have developed had I not undertaken a degree in Philosophy.”

Lucie Cocker (Philosophy, 2005)
Solicitor - Higher Court Advocate, Housing Litigation Department, Forbes Solicitors

“At the age of 16, I came across the book *Sophie’s World* by Jostein Gaarder and a whole new realm of philosophical thinking was opened up to me. The Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE) degree at York used an array of different teaching and communications methods which, in turn, provided me with the skills I needed to run a small business: from logical thinking, to how to address problems creatively. Philosophy is all about asking questions and, as a naturally inquisitive person, this has enabled me to develop the ability to formulate arguments - invaluable when managing complex events with multiple stakeholders and in project-managing the various aspects of my diverse chocolate business.”

Sophie Jewett (PPE, 2004)
Owner, York Cocoa House



Do parents harm their children merely by bringing them into existence?

“ Even the best lives are very bad ”

David Benatar

South African philosopher and author of *Better Never to Have Been: The Harm of Coming into Existence* (2006).

PAIN

PLEASURE

“ Most men pursue pleasure with such breathless haste that they hurry past it ”

Søren Kierkegaard (1813–1855)

Danish philosopher known as the father of Existentialism.

HOW WE APPROACH PHILOSOPHY AT YORK

“If you like to see patterns, open your mind to anything from the most abstract to the most grounded topics and find loopholes in the arguments of some of history’s greatest minds and writers, philosophy is a discipline you will enjoy.”

Madeleine, BA Philosophy

Our lively Department brings together stimulating teaching and original research in an informal, friendly and dynamic setting in our new building on the University’s campus.

For undergraduates, our unique ‘pathways’ structure enables students to gain the knowledge and philosophical skills required to take our exciting research-led modules in their third year.

The teaching process involves active participation from you; our teaching aims to get you reading, thinking, questioning, discussing, and writing philosophy yourself.

Teaching and learning

Throughout your time studying Philosophy at the University of York you will be taught by leaders in their fields, from Ethics and the History of Philosophy, to Aesthetics and the Philosophy of Mind.

We use a wide range of teaching methods to give you the intellectual tools with which to successfully study Philosophy, including lectures, tutorials, seminar discussions, online discussions and written assignments.

Assessment is through examinations and essays, the precise mix of which is dependent on your choice of module options.

We pride ourselves on having small seminar and tutorial groups, creating an intimate environment in which to discuss and debate philosophical ideas (tutorials typically comprise between one and three students and seminars comprise a maximum of 15 students).

We give regular feedback and our doors are open to students who have any questions, concerns or who would like to pursue a philosophical idea further.

How many body parts would have to be replaced before you became a different person?

“ We both step and do not step in the same rivers. We are and are not ”

Heraclitus (active around 500 BC)

Heraclitus believed in universal flux and the unity of opposites.

EXISTENCE

QUESTIONTIME

Three judges are trying to decide Sam’s guilt. A and C think Sam took the money but B does not. B and C think taking the money was a crime, but A does not. Should they find Sam guilty of committing a crime?

“It is the part of prudence not to place absolute confidence in that by which we have even once been deceived”

René Descartes (1596–1650)

As well as making important contributions to science and mathematics, Descartes' philosophy set the terms of debate for more than 400 years.

TRUTH

Is it plausible to suppose we don't know that 19 is a prime number?

Does the possibility that we are dreaming show that perception is not a source of knowledge?

“When men follow this blind and powerful instinct of nature, they always suppose the very images, presented to the senses, to be the external objects, and never entertain any suspicion, that the one are nothing but representations of the other”

David Hume (1711–1776)

Scottish enlightenment thinker who developed a science of the mind and criticised religious dogma.

“As far as the laws of mathematics refer to reality, they are not certain; and as far as they are certain, they do not refer to reality”

Albert Einstein (1879–1955)

The greatest physicist of the 20th century who also reflected on the scope and limits of human knowledge.

PERCEPTION

DEGREE STRUCTURE

“The Philosophy students at York are some of the most intelligent and hardworking I have encountered anywhere. The personal approach of small group teaching combined with larger lectures creates a dynamic and stimulating environment for all our students.”

Catherine Wilson, Anniversary Professor of Philosophy

Our undergraduate Philosophy degree comprises three stages:

Your first year

This year is all about providing you with a grounding in the many different areas of Philosophy at degree level, with modules ranging from 'Ethics' and 'Ancient Philosophy' to 'Reason and Argument' and 'Knowledge and Perception'. You will also undertake a personal writing project in which you will create your own web page on a particular philosopher. This will give you invaluable skills in independent research and in writing for the web.

Your second year

Here at York we offer unique, year-long modules called 'pathways' giving you in-depth knowledge in core areas of the subject, preparing you for the specialist options you will take in your third year. Depending on your course, you may also choose from a large range of optional modules.

These pathways are:

Knowledge and reality

It has been said that philosophy begins in wonder. In this module we wonder about what exists and how we can know about it. For example, what are the limits of human knowledge? Can we exclude the possibility that we are not brains in a vat and, if we can't, can we know anything at all about the world? What are the fundamental types of stuff? Is scientific method reliable? Is there a place for God in a natural world?

Practical philosophy

Practical philosophy is concerned with questions about how we should act and how we should live, both as individuals and as members of various communities – local, societal and global. The issues that are covered range from the very abstract: Are moral judgments beliefs? Can they be true or false? To the slightly less abstract: which actions are right and wrong and why? To the quite specific: the legitimacy of affirmative action, the death penalty, pornography, the right response to world hunger, the protection of privacy or the justifiability of wars.

Language and mind

What are the relations between language, the world and our minds? How can we represent the world with words? Does thinking depend upon language? What is it like to be a bat? Is consciousness a brain state? Is anger just a feeling? Must we always act for a reason?

History of philosophy

To understand philosophy you must be able to appreciate – and criticise – its history. Starting with Aristotle (on being) and ending with Hegel (on knowing), this pathway studies the original thoughts of some philosophers who still influence us today.

Your third year

In your final year you will apply the knowledge and skills acquired in the first two years to develop your own philosophical views by choosing from about 20 specialist research-led modules. Modules vary from year to year but could include areas such as Consciousness, History of Early Analytic Philosophy, Reasons and Values, Identity and Personal Identity, Issues in Non-visual Perception and Topics in Indian Philosophy, to name but a few.

You may also write an extended essay on a special subject of your own choosing, subject to approval.

“The seminars are always taught in a relaxed environment in small numbers, which encourages open discussion and some very exciting debates!”

Hollie, BA English and Philosophy

“How can the will at pleasure, call upon an idea, when before it begins to call, it must know what it wishes to call?”

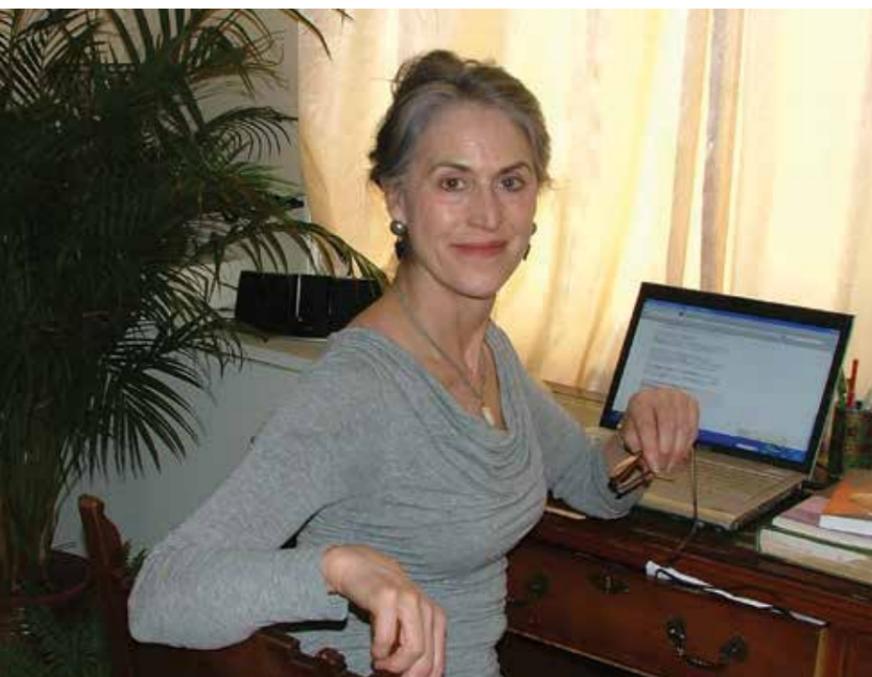
Mary Shepherd (1777–1847)

Shepherd defended the reality of causation and the external world against Hume's scepticism.

What would it be like to have no imagination?

QUESTIONTIME

If A is better than B and B is better than C, then A has to be better than C. But we all know that rock is better than scissors and scissors are better than paper, whilst paper is better than rock. Can this only happen in a game?



“Some people do not believe that the notion of sexual perversion makes sense, and even those who do disagree over its application”

Thomas Nagel (b 1937)
American philosopher and author of *The View from Nowhere* (1986) and *Mind and Cosmos* (2012) who famously asked 'What is it like to be a bat?'

Are any sexual acts intrinsically perverted?

COMBINED DEGREES WITH PHILOSOPHY



The nature of philosophy naturally crosses into other disciplines, and many of our students study Philosophy in combination with a related subject such as English, History, French, German, Linguistics, Mathematics, Sociology, Computer Science, Physics, Politics or Economics.

Combined honours students follow the same course structure as single subject students but take specialist 'bridge' modules that straddle Philosophy and the other subject area. Examples include: Can Machines Think?, a module for combined honours Philosophy/Computer Science students; Descartes' philosophical correspondence in French; Philosophy of Literature (see page 13); Philosophy of Physics, which examines some of the philosophical and conceptual problems raised by classical, relativistic and quantum physics; Foundations of

Mathematics, an exploration of issues in the philosophy of mathematics, and the Philosophy of History, which asks what historical explanation aims to do and whether objectivity is possible.

The Department of Politics and the School of PEP (Politics, Economics and Philosophy) usually offer modules to single honours Philosophy students: History of Political Philosophy; Contemporary Political Philosophy; Rationality, Morality and Economics; and Philosophy and Public Policy.

QUESTIONTIME

Alex: How was the game?

Chris: My burger was pretty good.

Did Chris say the game was rubbish? How? Does the sentence 'My burger was pretty good' mean 'The game was rubbish'? If Chris had said, 'My burger was rubbish', could that have meant 'Chelsea scored in the first half'? What is the difference?

ETHICS

“Relativism ... possibly the most absurd view to have been advanced even in moral philosophy”

Bernard Williams (1929–2003)
Influential British philosopher and author of *Ethics and the Limits of Philosophy* (1985) and *Truth and Truthfulness* (2002).

Does a lack of universal agreement in ethics, and variety in cultural codes, show that moral objectivism is false?



“My special research interest is in exploring connections between philosophy and literature and I find it hugely rewarding to teach the always strong cohort of joint English and Philosophy students at York. Our Philosophy of Literature module is unique in content and approach, applying analytical methods in philosophy to fundamental questions about the nature and value of literature.”

Professor Peter Lamarque, Department of Philosophy

Can computers be creative?

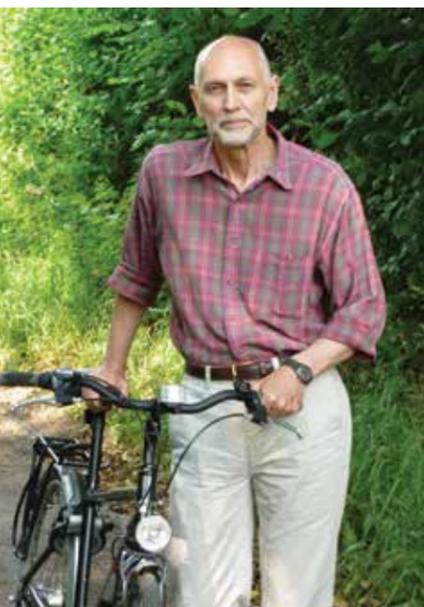
TECHNOLOGY

“Machines take me by surprise with great frequency”

Alan Turing (1912–54)
Pioneer of code-breaking and computing who developed the Turing Test for artificial intelligence.



RESEARCH EXCELLENCE



Our research strengths lie in three main areas: history of philosophy, philosophy of mind, and aesthetics with additional strengths in ethics and metaphysics, and we collaborate with many other disciplines across the University in our teaching and research activities.

This research excellence has a direct and positive effect on our undergraduate teaching; you will learn from academics who are recognised around the world for their original contributions to these debates, which means they will always take your thinking several steps beyond the textbooks. Below are just three examples highlighting research being carried out within our Department that has an impact on our undergraduate teaching.

Delusional beliefs

“I work in a number of different areas, mostly where philosophy meets some other subject; psychology and psychiatry being two of them. For example, I’m interested in delusions, where people have strange and apparently irrational beliefs. They might believe that a radio has been implanted in their brains by the CIA, or that their father has been replaced by an alien who looks exactly like their father. But what makes such a belief worthy of philosophical or medical concern, given that we don’t find it remarkable or worrying when people say they believe in miracles or horoscopes? Another interesting question about delusions is whether they are beliefs or some other kind

of mental state. I’ve argued that some delusions (probably not all) are not really beliefs that people hold and suggested that they are imaginings instead. I plan to write a book on this over the next few years.”

Professor Greg Currie, Department of Philosophy

Professor Currie’s particular research interests are in the arts and cognition and his latest book is about whether we really learn as much from reading fiction as we think we do.

History of Philosophy: John Locke and the nature of the mind

“I work on the English philosopher John Locke (1632–1704), and in particular his theory of the nature of the mind, and his account of the nature, and limits, of human knowledge. According to Locke, perception and thought always involves awareness of ‘ideas’. What we can know is limited by the ideas that we have in our minds, and all our ideas ultimately derive from experience; Locke is an ‘empiricist’ in the sense that he denies the existence of ‘innate ideas’ imprinted in our minds at birth. One of the questions that interests me is that if perception and thought always involves awareness of ideas, can Locke allow for knowledge of an external material world beyond our ideas? Or do Locke’s theories of mind and knowledge lead inevitably to the ‘idealism’ of George Berkeley (1685–1752), who denies the existence of an external material world?”

Dr Keith Allen, lecturer

Dr Allen’s research focuses on the history of philosophy and in particular the work of John Locke.

Philosophy of mind and recollective memory

“My research focuses on issues in the philosophy of mind and psychology, and especially on the phenomenon of recollective memory. Sometimes we have memories which are ‘as if’ seeing, hearing, tasting, smelling or touching something again which we have encountered in the past, and those cases of memory are called ‘recollective memories’. These play a central role in our mental lives. For we can, or so I argue, come to know new things about the past on the basis of a recollective memory, and recollective memories make us aware of past events in a very immediate way. Arguably, recollective memories are also necessary in order for us to be able to think about the past. From the experiencing subject’s point of view, recollective memories are very similar to sensory imaginings, so we need to explain how we usually manage to tell memories and imaginations apart. Last but not least, sometimes recollective memories are accompanied by emotional experiences.”

Dr Dorothea Debus, lecturer and Undergraduate Admissions Tutor

Dr Debus’ research focuses on philosophy of mind and psychology, ethics, epistemology and metaphysics.



BELIEF

Can we satisfactorily answer moral questions by reference to divine commands?

“Is the pious loved by the gods because it is pious, or is it pious because it is loved by the gods?”

Plato

MORAL

Should we follow moral rules or trust our instinct about what is right?

“One who strives to perform an act without having considered the nature of dharma may adopt any old thing and may be thwarted and come to harm”

Śābara

Fourth-century Indian Buddhist philosopher.

THE GLOBAL PERSPECTIVE

“Studying in California was a rewarding experience; the opportunity to immerse myself in a totally different culture was enriching in itself. I can think of no finer way to experience life abroad than as a student, since you have the support of two universities, and few things tying you down. Having year-round sunshine was an added bonus!”

Benjamin, BA in Philosophy

Global programmes

As a Philosophy student you will have the opportunity to spend between three months and one year studying in Europe as part of the European Union Erasmus student exchange scheme. Our partners include the University of Paris (Sorbonne) and the Humboldt University in Berlin.

You could also spend your second year on exchange at one of our worldwide university partners in North America, South Africa, Asia and Australia. These exchanges are open to competition within the University but many Philosophy students are successful in winning places on them.

Our global community

The Department of Philosophy and the University welcome applicants from around the world, and have a thriving international community made up of both students and staff. Each year we also welcome a number of overseas students from partner universities who study Philosophy with us for either a term or a full year. Those students are offered the chance to study Philosophy in German or French (this is also open to our UK students who meet certain criteria).

This community, together with our research links with other global academic institutions, creates a vibrant and cosmopolitan setting.

The University has a Student Support Co-ordinator who specialises in supporting overseas students with all aspects of studying and living in York, and an International Students' Association which organises events throughout the year.

If English is not your first language, you will need an English Language qualification for admission. The University offers support during the first year of your course with free, specialised English language tuition for students. To find out more about these and our International Foundation Programmes, visit the University's website at www.york.ac.uk/study/international.

Students outside the University of Paris (Sorbonne)

©Olivier Jacquet – Université Paris-Sorbonne



THE STUDENT EXPERIENCE

The University of York is based at Heslington, on the edge of the historic city of York, where our colleges are set in an attractive landscaped campus. It is compact, easy to get around and is a safe, friendly environment in which to study and socialise. The campus also offers excellent sports facilities, including the new York Sport Village.

You'll join a strong network of peers within the Department of Philosophy, and the University's close collegiate environment, with its emphasis on support and pastoral care, means you'll make friends and settle in quickly.

The Philosophy Society

Our active and vibrant Philosophy Society, run by students in the Department, organises a programme of regular social events including weekly informal socials, 'Philosoffee', reading groups, film evenings, guest speakers, society trips, meals and picnics.

The society welcomes all undergraduate and postgraduate students, regardless of discipline.

You can find us on Facebook and follow us on Twitter: @yorkphilosophy.

We publish a highly regarded biannual journal, *Dialectic*, produced by University of York students and featuring essays by undergraduates, postgraduates and academics from a wide range of UK and international institutions.

Events programme

The University hosts an exciting range of public lectures, visiting speakers, conferences, workshops and extra-curricular talks by staff and postgraduates, all of which undergraduates are welcome to attend.

Public talks by eminent visiting philosophers include Royal Institute of Philosophy-sponsored lectures such as 'Love and teaching' by Professor Raimond Gaita, and Professor Jennifer Hornsby and Professor Susan Mendus on the Leveson Inquiry.

Themed public lectures by departmental staff have, in the past, covered topics ranging from 'The Emotions' to 'Creativity in the History of Philosophy'.

University clubs and societies

You can also join one or more of the many clubs and societies run through the Students' Union, from the New Generation Society, which hosts talks on social and political issues to faith groups, the Debating Society, York Student Television and a huge range of music groups.



“The Department provides a fantastic intellectual environment with reading groups, visiting lecturers and research seminars, allowing valuable engagement with other world-leading philosophers.”

Ema, BA, MA and PhD in Philosophy

“ The emphasis on the natural sciences threatens the status of our ordinary understanding of thought and action in which we advance reasons which justify what we think and do ”

Thomas Baldwin (b 1947)

Professor in the Department of Philosophy who has served on the Nuffield Council for Bioethics, the Human Genome Commission and the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

..... EPISTEMOLOGY



“ It is often claimed that analytic philosophy appeals to armchair intuitions in the service of ‘conceptual analysis.’ But this is deplorably misleading ”

Ernest Sosa (b 1940)

American philosopher and author of a series of books about virtue epistemology.

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LIFE IN YORK



Life in York is varied, colourful and lively. A diverse range of shops, galleries, clubs, cafés, museums, music groups and sports clubs means that the city offers something for everyone.

With a population of 190,000, York is big enough to feel cosmopolitan but small enough not to be overwhelming. It is a friendly place you can settle into quickly, but which still feels fresh and exciting once you get to know it well.

York was recently voted Britain’s favourite small city in the Rough Guide Poll, and its historic streets bustle with visitors from all around the world. There is plenty to impress, from the famously soaring gothic Minster and winding medieval streets, to a packed calendar of cultural activities including festivals, concerts and sporting events.

York is also one of Britain’s best-connected cities, offering great transport links to other major cities including London, Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester, as well as the wealth of beautiful countryside and coastline to be found in Yorkshire and beyond.

For more information on student life in York, visit the website at www.york.ac.uk/study/student-life.

HOW TO APPLY

We welcome all enquiries from potential undergraduates. Feel free to email or phone us with any queries you have about our range of degree courses in Philosophy.

There are no specific subject requirements for studying Philosophy and candidates studying arts, sciences or social sciences (or a combination) will all be considered. Mature students are welcomed and considered on an individual basis. A mix of exam performance, your UCAS personal

statement and the reference on your UCAS form is what we look at when considering aptitude for studying Philosophy at degree level. If you are offered a place, you will usually receive an invitation to visit the Department where you will have the opportunity to meet our staff and current students.

With thanks to John Houlihan, Ian Martindale and Olivier Jacquet for photographs and images used in this brochure.

“Personally my biggest interests in philosophy are ethics and politics. I really enjoy discussing what ‘good’ is and what ‘justice’ is. These two areas address the way in which we live our lives and are so fundamental to humanity.”

James, BA Philosophy



“ *They succeed, because
they think they can* ”

Virgil (70–19 BC)

