

Programme Specification

Title of Course: *MPhilStud Philosophy*

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Version number	6
Faculty	Kingston School of Art
School	School of Creative and Cultural Industries
Department	Department of Humanities
Delivery Institution	Kingston University

This Programme Specification is designed for prospective students, current students, academic staff and employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended 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. More detailed information on the learning outcomes and content of each modules can be found in the course VLE site and in individual Module Descriptors.

SECTION 1: GENERAL INFORMATION

Award(s) and Title(s): <i>Up to 10 pathways</i>	MPhilStud Philosophy
Intermediate Awards(s) and Title(s): <i>There are 4 Intermediate awards for each pathway</i>	Postgraduate Diploma in Modern European Philosophy Postgraduate Certificate in Modern European Philosophy
Course Code <i>For each pathway and mode of delivery</i>	PPPHI1PHI01 PFPHI1PHI01
UCAS code <i>For each pathway</i>	

RQF Level for the Final Award:	Masters
Awarding Institution:	Kingston University
Teaching Institution:	Kingston University
Location:	Penrhyn Road
Language of Delivery:	English
Modes of Delivery:	Part-time Full-time With Professional Placement
Available as:	
Minimum period of registration:	Part-time - 4 Full-time - 2 With Professional Placement - 3
Maximum period of registration:	Part-time - 8 Full-time - 4 With Professional Placement - 4
Entry Requirements:	The minimum entry qualifications for the programme are: From BA: Normally a first class honours undergraduate degree or its equivalent in a relevant or related subject (including but not limited to philosophy, history, politics, cultural studies, fine art and visual culture, modern languages). From MA: Normally a high commendation or merit in a relevant or related subject (including but not limited to philosophy, history, politics, cultural studies, fine art and visual culture, modern languages). Applicants wishing to transfer from one of the CRMEP 12-month MAs after 2 Teaching Blocks (120 credits) must have

	attained a GPA of at least 65%, normally with no grades under 60%. Applications for transfer from MA requires a written statement of purpose; there is no automatic right of transfer to the higher degree. Applicants with other kinds of qualifications will be considered on an individual basis. A minimum, overall IELTS score of 6.5 or equivalent is required for those for whom English is not their first language.
Programme Accredited by:	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmark Statements:	There is currently no benchmarking statement specific to Philosophy at postgraduate level.
Approved Variants:	The MPhilStud has the following approved variant from the KU Postgraduate Taught Programmes regulations: • A variation to the maximum permissible credit size of a single module – normally 60 credits but here, for the MPhilStud, 180 credits (the Dissertation Module, PH7003)
Is this Higher or Degree Apprenticeship course?	

For Higher or Degree Apprenticeship proposals only

Higher or Degree Apprenticeship standard:	N/a
Recruitment, Selection and Admission process:	N/a
End Point Assessment Organisation(s):	N/a

SECTION 2: THE COURSE

A. Aims of the Course

The general aims of the MPhilStud in Philosophy Programme are:

- to offer students the opportunity to study Modern European Philosophy to an advanced level within a taught programme, at greater length and to greater depth than the traditional one year MA.
- to enhance students' knowledge of the main lines of inquiry in European philosophy in the post-Kantian tradition and to understand the central methodological features of that tradition.
- to enable students to develop an advanced understanding of current debates in the field of European philosophy, notably with respect to the ongoing reception of foundational figures like Kant, Hegel and Marx.
- to foster students' ability to develop general philosophical skills, both in class discussions and in individual written work, of interpretation, analysis, criticism and argument.
- to provide training in advanced research skills and the use of research resources, both physical and electronic.
- to develop students' ability to construct a complex argument and to express that argument in clear and accurate English prose.
- building on the taught elements of the programme, to enable students to produce a piece of original research (the dissertation), working under the supervision of a senior member of staff.
- to provide students with a solid foundation for doctoral study or professional development.
- The 3-year programme with integrated placement(s) also provides students with an opportunity to enhance their professional skills, preparing them for higher levels of employment, further study and lifelong learning

This programme allows for three exit qualifications: post-graduate Certificate in Modern European Philosophy (60 credits); post-graduate Diploma in Modern European Philosophy (120 credits), and MA Modern European Philosophy (180 credits, **of necessity including a dissertation module of at least 90 credits**). Please note that 180 credits of taught modules without the dissertation cannot lead to the award of MA. Students who fail to achieve to the required level in the MPhilStud dissertation may be re-assessed against the learning outcomes of the Dissertation module on the MA in Modern European Philosophy (PH7001, 60 credits), and, if successful, may be awarded the MA in Modern European Philosophy as an exit award. A student passes the MPhilStud Dissertation module but fails up to 2 of the taught modules (60 credits) at final attempt may be awarded the MA Modern European Philosophy as long as long as the student is judged to have met the Programme Learning Outcomes of the MA.

The required modules having been passed (4 x 30 credit modules), students will also have the option to switch to a one-year MA programme (MA Modern European Philosophy, 180 credits) at the end of Teaching Block 2 of year 1 for a full-time student, or the end of Teaching Block 2 year 2 for a part-time student. These students will then take the dissertation module for the MA Modern European Philosophy (PH7001), worth 60 credits) and be assessed against its learning outcomes.

B. Intended Learning Outcomes

Where appropriate, the programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA subject benchmarks for Philosophy*, the Master's Degree Characteristics (2020) and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014), and relate to the typical student.

* There is no benchmark statement relating specifically to Philosophy at Level 7. Where appropriate, we are guided by the most recent QAA benchmark statement for Philosophy at Honours level.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

The programme learning outcomes are the high-level learning outcomes that will have been achieved by all students receiving this award. They must align to the levels set out in the ['Sector Recognised Standards in England'](#) (OFS 2022).

Programme Learning Outcomes					
	Knowledge and Understanding		Intellectual Skills		Subject Practical Skills
	On completion of the course students will be able to:		On completion of the course students will be able to		On completion of the course students will be able to
A4	The distinctive features and modes of argument and presentation of the post-Kantian philosophical tradition.	B4	Construct and sustain complex arguments about matters of a fundamental and abstract nature, and express them in clear and accurate English prose.	C4	Organise and sustain wide-ranging research over a period of time and to structure and present a complex argument in a coherent fashion
A3	The main ideas and arguments of two or more major thinkers within the post-Kantian tradition of European philosophy, as presented in canonical texts	B1	Interpret and analyse complex and difficult philosophical texts, informed by current critical practice	C3	Locate appropriate electronic and physical research resources and plan a programme of library-based research appropriate to an MPhilStud dissertation
A2	The formative role of the writings of Kant and Hegel within the 19th- and 20th-century European philosophical tradition	B2	Consider and critically examine unfamiliar ideas and terminology	C2	Prepare and deliver effective oral presentations of their work
A1	The main epistemological and metaphysical ideas and arguments of Immanuel Kant, in the light of current critical debates	B3	Recognize methodological errors, rhetorical devices and unnoticed assumptions	C1	Work independently and manage their time effectively
				C5	Demonstrate professional skills (including self-presentation, communication, interpersonal/teamwork, research and information literacy, numeracy, time-management and project-planning, management and leadership skills, and ethical practice).

In addition to the programme learning outcomes, the programme of study defined in this programme specification will allow students to develop the following range of Graduate Attributes:

1. Creative Problem Solving
2. Digital Competency
3. Enterprise
4. Questioning Mindset
5. Adaptability
6. Empathy
7. Collaboration
8. Resilience
9. Self-Awareness

C. Outline Programme Structure

This programme is offered in full-time, part-time and 'with professional placement' mode (full-time 2 years; part-time 4 years; 'with professional placement' 3 years full-time) (interim awards: PG Cert Modern European Philosophy; PG Dip Modern European Philosophy). The programme leads to the award of MPhilStud in Philosophy. Entry is normally at level 7 with BA, MA or equivalent qualifications (See section D). Transfer from a similar programme is possible at level 7 with high commendation or merit in comparable level 7 modules – but is at the discretion of the course team. Intake is in September only.

E1. Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

E2. Work-based learning

Work placement is an integral part of the 3-year programme and students will receive support from the award winning Careers and Employability Services team.

While it is the responsibility of individual students to secure appropriate placements, the Careers and Employability Services team offers each student support at all stages of the application process, including writing CVs, completing application forms, participating in mock interviews, assessment centre activities and psychometric tests. Sourcing and applying for placement(s) gives students the opportunity to experience a competitive job application process.

The experience of the work placement period enables students to apply their learning in the professional work environment, to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to their prior learning, and to evaluate the relationships between academic skills and employers' expectations. Students will be assessed during and at the end of this period, through a portfolio of work, which will be marked as pass/fail.

E3. Outline Programme Structure

The degree consists of 360 credits, six taught modules of 30 credits each and a final dissertation of 180 credits. All students will be provided with the University regulations. Full details of each module will be provided in module descriptors and student module guides.

Students on the 3-year programme (with integrated placement) must complete all modules except the final 'capstone project' module, by the end of TB2, and then work in their placement(s) for a maximum of 12 months. The student should confirm that their placement opportunity is available by the end of May, and the course team will confirm whether this is acceptable within two weeks. Students on placement(s) must complete a portfolio assessment which includes a reflection on how they have applied the skills they have developed during the previous year, within a professional working environment.

A comprehensive list of all possible options is provided here. The option list in any given year will be carefully constructed to ensure that the course curriculum is coherent, enabling students to achieve the programme learning outcomes via their chosen selection of modules.

MPhilStud Philosophy

Level 7							
MPhilStud Philosophy							
Core modules	Module code	Credit Value	Level	Teaching Block	Pre-requisites	Full Time	Part Time
MPhilStud in Philosophy Dissertation	PH7003	180	7	2 and 3			
Kant and his Legacy - delivered and assessed in English	PH7801	30	7	1			
Kant and the Aesthetic Tradition - Delivered and assessed in English	PH7701	30	7	1			
Optional Modules							
Recent Italian Philosophy (v1 2019-20)	PH7903	30	7	1			
Art Theory: Modernism, Avant-Garde, Contemporary - delivered and assessed in English	PH7703	30	7	2			
Contemporary European Philosophies - delivered and assessed in English (v1 2019-20)	PH7601	30	7	1			

Critique, Practice, Power (v1 2019-20)	PH790 1	30	7	1			
German Critical Theory - delivered and assessed in English (v1 2019-20)	PH790 4	30	7	2			
Hegel and his Legacy	PH780 2	30	7	1			
Marx and his Legacy	PH790 5	30	7	2			
Modes of Subjection	PH790 7	30	7	2			
Nietzsche and Heidegger - delivered and assessed in English (v1 2019-20)	PH780 3	30	7	2			
Philosophy and Psychoanalysis (v1 2019-20)	PH790 6	30	7	1 or 2			
Philosophy of Art History	PH770 5	30	7	1			
Plasticity and Form	PH770 4	30	7	1 or 2			
Political Philosophy (v1 2019-20)	PH780 6	30	7	2			
Professional Placement	HU710 0	120	7	TB3 (Yr 1) and TB1 & TB2 (Yr 2)			
Recent French Philosophy - delivered and assessed in English	PH780 4	30	7	2			
Romantic Philosophy of Art - delivered and assessed in English	PH770 2	30	7	2			
Topics in Modern European Philosophy A - delivered and assessed in English (v2 2019-20)	PH780 5	30	7	2			

Level 7 information

Students exiting the programme with 60 credits are eligible for the award of PgCert in Modern European Philosophy.

Students exiting the programme with 120 credits are eligible for the award of PgDip in Modern European Philosophy.

Students exiting the programme with 180 credits may be eligible for the award of MA if a dissertation has been successfully assessed against the learning outcomes of the MA Modern European Philosophy Dissertation Module.

D. Principles of Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The Programme has been designed to take account of the KU Curriculum Design principles. The Programme uses a range of teaching and learning methods that encourage students' active engagement throughout. Teaching and learning methods are designed to suit the content and learning outcomes of the modules.

In the taught modules lectures are knowledge focused, explaining core aspects of the syllabus and its intellectual context, as well as offering models of interpretation and commentary. Seminar discussions explore the understanding of set texts and lecture materials and develop skills of exegesis, argumentation and oral presentation. Brief (formatively assessed) oral presentations help students develop their own understanding of the essentials of particular texts and topics and help students gain confidence in public speaking and response. As both presenters and respondents students engage in peer review and develop critical questioning skills. Individual and group tutorials offer opportunities to discuss essay topics and any issues students may find particularly difficult on the modules, and are used to receive detailed feedback on assessed written work. Individual and group tutorials are arranged with module tutors; on core modules and some option modules doctoral Teaching Assistants (CRMEP PhD students) also run tutorials. Students also learn autonomously through independent study of set texts, library research, peer engagement and discussion both inside and outside the class, and through individual writing. Development of academic skills is threaded throughout the whole course.

Assessment in all modules (including the Dissertation module) is both formative and summative. All 30-credit modules are formatively assessed (by staff and peers) through seminar discussions and students' oral presentations. 30-credit modules are also summatively assessed either through a 1500-word written exercise and a 3500-4000 word essay or through one 5000-6000-word essay alone. The 1500-word written exercise is designed to ensure that students have grasped the basic philosophical content in the early stages of each module; to identify, early on, any problems that individual students may need to address and to identify the means to do so; to identify and devise strategies for building on individual student's strengths; and to build confidence and skills in academic writing. Individual feedback tutorials in which the written exercises are discussed also allow staff and teaching assistants to provide formative guidance and advice in preparation for the 3000-word essay. The longer essays give students the opportunity to explore topics in greater depth. Students take advantage of pre-essay tutorials to discuss and receive formative advice on essay plans; the summative assessment of essays includes written comments that provide formative guidance on skills for the preparation of the dissertation. In summative assessments the emphasis falls squarely on the development of the ability to demonstrate comprehension and to communicate aspects of difficult topics in writing. This is a major transferable skill and intense preparation for any further postgraduate (for example doctoral) study.

In the dissertation module students follow a programme of research methods and skills seminars in the summer Teaching Block of year 1 (having completed work for two modules);

assessed work from this part of the module comprises 10% of the overall module grade. All teaching of research methods and skills is based on study of philosophical texts, i.e. through philosophical content. Students can expect 5 seminars, run by different members of the teaching team, over 2 months, where required readings are assigned and discussed, leading to two assessed exercises of 2000-2500 words or one 4000-5000-word essay. Each student then prepares a 25,000–30,000 word dissertation under the supervision of a senior member of staff, applying the skills and knowledge acquired during the taught phase of the degree. MPhilStud students will practice and extend oral presentation and response skills, receiving and participating in formative peer assessment, as well as receiving feedback from staff. During this period students will also be expected to organise and attend peer-led reading groups, learning about each other's research interests and sharing their own (staff will help with timetabling these sessions). Individual supervision is a feature of the Dissertation module from year 2, when each student prepares a dissertation proposal, is assigned a supervisor, and meets at least 6 times with the supervisor, supporting the student through the process of planning and writing the dissertation.

The regular extra-curricular research events schedule is also partly designed to complement and extend formal teaching and learning on the MA.

(See <https://www.kingston.ac.uk/faculties/kingston-school-of-art/research-and-innovation/crmepl/>).

Research seminars, lectures, conferences and workshops include topics relevant to the MA and offer students the opportunity to engage with a wider national and international research community. An annual CRMEP Graduate Conference, organised by a team of PhD and MA students, allows students to participate in organisational and decision-making processes. Students who present papers at the conference also benefit from the experience of speaking and responding to a large public audience, and from further formative peer and faculty assessment. As well as formal class contact in lectures, seminars and tutorials, the extra-curricular events programme also allows for and encourages significant, informal staff-student contact as part of the enhanced learning and teaching environment. Online learning technologies are also used throughout the course, to communicate with students, to make learning materials available to students and to foster on-line learning where appropriate.

E. Support for Students and their Learning

In addition to structured teaching, guidance is available for students throughout the academic year through the provision of specific pre-set Office Hours, during which all members of the teaching staff are available for consultation with students. Students are encouraged to meet with teaching staff at such times, and at other times by appointment, for individual tutorial sessions. Students are also assigned a personal tutor, normally the tutor teaching the core module. In addition to help and advice from module tutors the personal tutor tracks tutees' achievement, makes any appropriate recommendation for further support, and acts as the first contact for academic support and advice of all kinds. Provision is made for students to change personal tutor if necessary.

Students are supported by:

- A Module Leader for each module
- A Course Leader to help students understand the programme structure
- Personal Tutors to provide academic and personal support
- A placement tutor to give general advice on placements

- Technical support to advise students on IT and the use of software
- A designated Course Administrator
- An induction week at the beginning of each new academic session
- Staff Student Consultative Committee
- VLE/Canvas – a versatile online interactive intranet and learning environment accessible both on and off-site
- LinkedIn Learning – an online platform offering self-paced software tutorials
- A substantial Academic Services Centre that provides academic skills support for both UG and PG students
- Student support facilities that provide advice on issues such as finance, regulations, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- A Student Achievement Officer who provides pastoral support
- Support for students with disabilities
- The Union of Kingston Students
- Careers and Employability Services team, who will provide support for students prior to undertaking work placement(s).

F. Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Course

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners
- Boards of Study with student representation
- Annual Monitoring and Enhancement
- Periodic review undertaken at subject level
- Student evaluation including MEQs (module evaluation questionnaires) and a Postgraduate survey
- Moderation policies
- Feedback from employers

G. Employability and work-based learning

The MPhilStud in Philosophy fosters a range of skills highly desirable to employers, such as high level communication skills, the capacity to deal effectively with substantial quantities of complex information, skills in analysis, critical and creative thinking, research skills, self-management and the capacity to work to deadlines, meticulousness in written presentation, the ability to work both independently and constructively with others. With the successful completion of the dissertation the MPhilStud graduate should be able to demonstrate the ability to produce a substantial piece of original writing, with evidence of significant independent thought.

While some students in the MPhilStud in Philosophy will be studying to prepare for a doctoral research degree, or to begin or enhance a career path in teaching, research or in the creative industries, other graduates will go into a variety of careers, including public policy, politics, media/journalism, publishing, arts administration, management, marketing, leisure and tourism, IT and a variety of public service and therapeutic fields.

The 3-year integrated work placement programme is designed to provide students

with enhanced opportunities for securing professional employment at the end of their degree, providing skills and experience that employers are looking for in their work force. These are supported by the Careers and Employability Services team, providing drop-in and scheduled events to support students in the preparation of CVs, applications, and preparation for interviews and assessment centres.

Work-based learning, including sandwich courses and higher or degree apprenticeships

Work placement is an integral part of the 3-year programme and students will receive support from the award winning Careers and Employability Services team.

While it is the responsibility of individual students to secure appropriate placements, the Careers and Employability Services team offers each student support at all stages of the application process, including writing CVs, completing application forms, participating in mock interviews, assessment centre activities and psychometric tests. Sourcing and applying for placement(s) gives students the opportunity to experience a competitive job application process.

The experience of the work placement period enables students to apply their learning in the professional work environment, to reflect upon their own personal experience of working in an applied setting, to focus on aspects of this experience that they can clearly relate to their prior learning, and to evaluate the relationships between academic skills and employers' expectations. Students will be assessed during and at the end of this period, through a portfolio of work, which will be marked as pass/fail.

H. Other sources of information that you may wish to consult

Course page on the KU website

<https://www.kingston.ac.uk/postgraduate-course/philosophy-mphilstud/>

I. Development of Course Learning Outcomes in Modules

This table maps where course learning outcomes are **summatively** assessed across the modules for this course. It provides an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the course aims, a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the course progresses and a checklist for quality assurance purposes.

Module Code	Level 7
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		HU7100	PH7003	PH7601	PH7702	PH7703	PH7704	PH7907	PH7705	PH7806	PH7803	PH7901	PH7804	PH7805	PH7802	PH7701	PH7904	PH7903	PH7905	PH7906	PH7801
Knowledge & Understanding	A4		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	A3			S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	A2				S										S	S					S
	A1														S	S					S
Intellectual Skills	B4		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	B1		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	B2		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	B3		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
Practical Skills	C4		S																		
	C3		S					S													
	C2		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	C1		S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S	S
	C5	S																			

Students will be provided with formative assessment opportunities throughout the course to practise and develop their proficiency in the range of assessment methods utilised.