



**UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON**

Programme Specification 2018–2019

Philosophy

BA
Diploma of Higher Education
Certificate of Higher Education

Important document – please read



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Important information regarding the Programme Specification

About this document

Last revised 19 February 2018

The Programme Specification gives a broad outline of the structure and content of the programme, the entry level qualifications, as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress. Some of the information referred to in this programme specification is included in more detail on the University of London [website](#). Where this is the case, links to the relevant webpage are included.

Where links to external organisations are provided, the University of London is not responsible for their content and does not recommend nor necessarily agree with opinions expressed and services provided at those sites.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided, whether here or on the website, registered students should use the *ask a question* tab in the student portal <https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk>; otherwise the *Contact Us* button on each webpage should be used.

Terminology

The following language is specific to the programme:

Course: Individual units of the programme are called courses. Each course is a self-contained, formally structured learning experience with a coherent and explicit set of learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Key revisions made

Programme specifications are revised annually. The quality committee of Birkbeck, as part of its annual review of standards, confirms the programme structure and the educational aims and learning outcomes, and advises on any development in student support.

Where changes have been made which may impact on continuing students, these are listed below. For all new students, the programme and general information provided in this document is correct and accurate and will be applicable for the current year.

Significant changes made to the programme specification 2018-2019:

No significant changes.

If you have a query about any of the programme information provided please contact us. You should use the 'ask a question' tab in the student portal <https://my.londoninternational.ac.uk>.

Title and name of awards

Programme

Philosophy

Award titles

- Bachelor of Arts Honours degree in Philosophy
- Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy
- Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy

Exit awards

- Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy
- Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy

Students who for academic or personal reasons are unable to complete the 360 UK credits required for the BA award may exit with the successful completion of 240 or 120 UK credits and be awarded a DipHE or CertHE respectively. Similarly, students who for academic or personal reasons are unable to complete the 240 UK credits required for the DipHE award may exit with the successful completion of 120 UK credits and be awarded a CertHE. Exit awards are granted at the discretion of the Board of Examiners and once a student has accepted an exit award they will not be permitted to continue their study towards a higher award on the Philosophy programme.

Individual course on a stand-alone basis

The Level 4 *Introduction to Philosophy* course may be studied on a stand-alone basis.

Level of the programmes

The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland (FHEQ) forms part of the UK Quality Code for Higher Education of the [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education](#) (QAA).

The awards are placed at the following Levels of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ):

Bachelor of Arts (BA)	Level 6
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)	Level 5
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)	Level 4

Relevant QAA subject benchmarks group(s)

See the [QAA website](#) for information:

[Philosophy](#)

Awarding body

University of London

Registering body

University of London

Academic direction

Birkbeck, University of London

Accreditation by professional or statutory body

Not applicable

Language of study and assessment

English

Mode of study

Flexible and online study

Programme structures

The BA in Philosophy consists of 12 full courses:

- Four Level 4 (compulsory) courses *plus*
- Four Level 5 courses chosen from a selection *plus*
- Three Level 6 courses chosen from a selection *plus*
- The Dissertation

Diploma of Higher Education

The Diploma of Higher Education consists of 8 full courses:

- Four Level 4 (compulsory) courses *plus*
- Four Level 5 courses chosen from a selection

Certificate of Higher Education

The Certificate of Higher Education consists of four courses:

- Four Level 4 (compulsory) courses

Some of the courses (at Level 5 and above) have prerequisites. Prerequisite courses must either

- be passed in a previous examination *or*
- be taken in the same examination period as the courses for which they are prerequisite.

To be considered for the award of the BA, a student must usually have passed all 12 courses (four at Level 4, four at Level 5 and four at Level 6) with a mark of 40% or above. However, a student may be compensated for one failed course (excluding the Dissertation) if the mark achieved is between 30–39%.

To be considered for the award of the DipHE, a student must have attempted and passed, at a mark of 40 or above, eight courses (four Level 4 courses, and four Level 5 courses).

To be considered for the award of the CertHE, a student must have attempted and passed, at a mark of 40 or above, the four Level 4 courses.

Maximum and minimum periods of registration

The maximum and minimum period of registration, from a student's effective date of registration, are:

	Minimum	Maximum
BA in Philosophy	Three years*	Eight years
DipHE in Philosophy	Two years	Five years
CertHE in Philosophy	One Year	Five years
Credit bearing individual course	One year	Two years

*This period may vary if accreditation of prior learning is permitted.

Study materials are made available after registration and on payment of the applicable fee.

Credit value of courses

Further information about the credit systems used by universities in the UK and Europe is available in:

The Higher Education Credit Framework for England,

www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Academic-Credit-Framework.pdf

The Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies,

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System,

http://ec.europa.eu/education/tools/ects_en.htm

Where credits are assigned to each course of a programme, credit indicates the amount of learning carried out in terms of the notional number of study hours needed, and the specified Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England (FHEQ) credit level indicates the depth, complexity and intellectual demand of learning involved. The details below indicate the UK credits and the European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) values.

For the BA, Diploma of Higher Education and Certificate of Higher Education credits are assigned to the courses as follows:

- 30 UK credits or 15 ECTS credits at FHEQ levels 4, 5 and 6.
- A student awarded the BA will have accumulated 360 UK credits or 180 ECTS credits.
- A student awarded the DipHE will have accumulated 240 UK credits or 120 ECTS credits.
- A student awarded the CertHE will have accumulated 120 UK credits or 60 ECTS credits.

Entrance requirements

Applicants must submit an application in line with the procedures and deadlines set out on the [website](#).

All entrance requirements are set out in detail on the programme page under [Requirements](#).

We consider qualifications from around the world. Details are available [here](#) and in the [Qualifications for Entrance](#) schedule

General entrance requirements for Undergraduate Degrees and Diplomas of Higher Education

Age:

Applicants must normally be at least 17 years of age on or before the registration deadline.

Qualifications:

Applicants must:

- have passed qualifications that satisfy category G in the Qualifications for Entrance schedule;
- meet any additional programme specific entrance requirements; *and*
- satisfy English language requirements.

Entrance requirements for Certificates of Higher Education

Age:

Applicants should check programme requirements which are given under [Requirements](#) of the programme.

Qualifications:

Applicants must

- meet programme specific entrance requirements; and
- satisfy English language requirements.

All details of the programme specific entry requirements are given on the programme page, under [Requirements](#).

English language requirements

All applicants must satisfy the English language requirements for the programme. These are set out in detail on the programme page under the [Requirements](#) tab.

Additional information on English language proficiency tests are given on the [website](#).

Where an applicant does not meet the prescribed English language proficiency requirements but believes that they can demonstrate the requisite proficiency for admission the University may, at its discretion, consider the application.

Internet access and computer specification

Students will require regular access to a computer (or mobile device*) with an internet connection to use the University of London's online resources and systems.

The computer should have at least the following minimum specification:

- a web browser with Cookies and JavaScript enabled (a latest version of Firefox or Chrome is recommended);
- a good internet connection;

And the following applications installed:

- a word processor that accepts Microsoft Word formats (.doc and .docx);
- a pdf reader;
- software for playing mp3 and mp4 files.

* Full mobile access to VLE resources is not available for all programmes.

Students with specific access requirements

The University of London welcomes applications from disabled students and/or those who have specific access requirements. The University will make every effort to provide reasonable adjustments to enable those with a disability, learning difficulty or specific access requirements to have the same opportunity as all other students to successfully complete their studies.

The University is committed to managing the application procedure and the programme itself to ensure that services are accessible for all students and that an inclusive environment is created. The admissions team encourages those students with a disability, or others who may need special arrangements to assist in taking examinations (such as separate room or special aids), to complete the relevant section of the application form, or contact the [Inclusive Practice Manager](#). Requests are considered by a University panel, whose purpose is to ensure that students with disabilities and/or specific access requirements are neither advantaged nor disadvantaged by such arrangements when compared with other students. These considerations remain separate from the academic selection processes.

For further information, see [Inclusive Practice Policy](#)

Sources of funding and scholarships

Information about potential sources of funding and scholarships is updated annually and where available is included in the prospectus web pages.

For further information see www.london.ac.uk/applications/funding-your-study.

Educational aims and learning outcomes of the programme

Learning outcomes of the programme:

The main educational aims of this programme are to offer a challenging, flexible scheme of study invigorated by research. The central aim of Philosophy is to understand the world and our place in it; this programme is intended to bring rigour to the students' thinking and

advance students' powers of engagement with the central questions that philosophers ask. Students will be introduced to and will become familiar with a range of major philosophical texts.

A central aim of the CertHE in Philosophy is to make it possible for students who have done no philosophy, to continue with their studies to the BA level. The *Introduction to Philosophy* course gives all students grounding in the methods of the subject, as well as introducing elements of the Level 5 courses that follow.

In the BA programme there is a natural progression from the compulsory courses to the Level 5 courses and to the Level 6 courses. The Level 5 and Level 6 courses build on each other in terms of their content (some courses have prerequisites). Students will develop a sophistication of thinking as they work through them. Successful completion of the BA may allow students to progress to postgraduate study or a related area of the arts and humanities.

The programme aims to:

- expand knowledge and understanding of a range of ancient and contemporary philosophical texts;
- foster an awareness of ideas and arguments of some of the major philosophers in the history of the subject;
- develop an understanding of some central theories in the field including logic, metaphysics and epistemology;
- stimulate awareness of some major issues currently at the frontiers of philosophical debate and research;
- promote clear thinking and a rigorous approach in the analysis of controversial and complex arguments;
- encourage self-development into professionally organised and interactive individuals by practicing skills of selection, analysis, assimilation and communication in the written domain.

Subject specific – knowledge and understanding

A **BA in Philosophy** student will be able to:

- interpret philosophical texts drawn from a variety of traditions and ages;
- show an understanding of some of the key theories in philosophy;
- identify underlying issues and respond with clarity and rigour to arguments presented in philosophical texts;
- understand and apply terminology appropriate to Philosophy;
- use appropriate examples to support or challenge a position;
- recognise relevant and irrelevant considerations;
- produce written work to adequate professional standards in organisation, relevance, expression and referencing.

A **DipHE in Philosophy** student will be able to:

- understand philosophical texts drawn from a variety of traditions and ages;
- appreciate some of the key theories in philosophy;
- identify underlying issues and respond with clarity to arguments presented in philosophical texts;
- understand and apply terminology appropriate to Philosophy;
- use some examples to support or challenge a position;
- recognise relevant and irrelevant considerations;
- produce written work to adequate standards in organisation, relevance, expression and referencing.

A **CertHE in Philosophy** student will be able to:

- achieve some understanding of philosophical texts drawn from different traditions and ages;
- describe some of the key theories in philosophy;
- identify issues and respond to arguments presented in philosophical texts;
- understand terminology appropriate to Philosophy;
- use examples to support a position;
- recognise relevant and irrelevant considerations;
- produce written work which is organised, and clearly referenced.

Intellectual and transferable skills

A **BA in Philosophy** student will be able to:

- conduct detailed textual analysis;
- critically analyse arguments and understand when and how these might be flawed or invalid;
- assimilate and evaluate alternative views;
- formulate coherent and persuasive interpretations and arguments;
- respond with insight and sensitivity to complex, unfamiliar and controversial arguments and debates;
- have fluent and effective communication and discussion skills in a written context;
- have a capacity to handle ideas in rational, critical and evaluative ways;
- be open-minded and have a capacity for independent judgments;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines;
- organise information, and to assimilate and evaluate competing arguments.

A **DipHE in Philosophy** student will be able to:

- conduct textual analysis;
- critically analyse arguments and appreciate when and how these might be flawed or invalid;
- assimilate alternative views;
- formulate coherent interpretations and arguments;
- respond with insight to unfamiliar and controversial arguments and debates;
- have fluent communication and discussion skills in a written context;
- have a capacity to handle ideas in critical ways;
- be open-minded and have a capacity for independent judgments;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines;
- organise information, and assimilate competing arguments.

A **CertHE in Philosophy** student will be able to:

- conduct textual analysis;
- analyse and understand arguments;
- assimilate alternative views;
- formulate interpretations and arguments;
- respond to complex, unfamiliar and controversial arguments and debates;
- have good communication and discussion skills in a written context;
- have a capacity to handle ideas in rational and evaluative ways;
- be open-minded and have a capacity for independent judgments;
- manage their own learning, including working effectively to deadlines;
- organise information, and assimilate competing arguments.

Learning, teaching and assessment strategies

All students will be given access to the programme's VLE where they can preview and download subject guides, supplementary materials and reading lists, as well as interact with other students in discussion groups. Tutors run online discussion forums for Level 4 courses throughout the academic year. Students have the option of submitting practice essays for feedback by academic staff.

Students will have electronic access to subject guides appropriate to each course and where appropriate will receive relevant material from *Philosophy: A guide through the subject Volume 1* and *Philosophy: Further through the subject Volume 2*. Students registered for the *Introduction to Philosophy* course will receive a copy of the subject guide *Reading Philosophy* published by Wiley-Blackwell.

These subject guides introduce the subjects within the syllabus and should be used alongside the recommended books and articles which can be bought, borrowed from libraries, or accessed via the Online Library. The subject guides show the student how to approach a topic using primary and secondary resources in an organised and productive manner. Advice and practical information such as study techniques, planning, and preparation for assessment is available in the Programme handbook. Past examination papers and detailed *Examiners' commentaries* are also available. These help the students understand what is expected of them. Within this framework, students manage their own learning.

Assessment criteria for the programme take into account the level at which these skills have been achieved.

Assessment methods

For each course, students will be assessed by unseen written examination and for BA students, also by a Dissertation. Questions are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students manage data, solve problems, evaluate ideas and the organisational skills they use to structure their written answers allows the standard of intellectual and transferable skills to be assessed.

Each course will be assessed by one two-hour (Level 4 and 5) or three-hour (Level 6) written examination. The exception to this is the Dissertation course in the BA, which is assessed by a 7,500 word dissertation.

The written examinations take place on one occasion each year, normally commencing in May. These are held at established centres worldwide.

Full details of the dates of all examinations are available on the [website](#).

Individual course on a stand-alone basis

If taken on a stand-alone basis, a student may choose whether or not to be formally assessed in the credit bearing *Introduction to Philosophy* course. Students who choose to be formally assessed will be examined through a two-hour unseen written examination.

Student support and guidance

The following summarises the support and guidance available to students:

- [Student Guide](#): This provides information which is common to all students and gives information about matters of importance from the start of a student's relationship with the University of London through to their graduation.
- The Virtual Learning Environment (VLE): This gives access to materials (including lessons, activities and assignments) for each course studied.
- [Programme Handbook](#): This tells students how to access available resources and assessment and examinations procedures.
- Course subject guides for each course studied; these introduce and develop the topics.

- Online student café and discussion areas – which allow students to communicate with each other.
- Past examination papers and Examiners' commentaries: These provide generic feedback from assessment.
- [Programme Regulations](#).
- [The Online Library](#): This provides a range of full-text, multidisciplinary databases where journal articles, book reviews and reports can be found.
- University of London library: Registered students can use the resources located within the Senate House library.
- Employability skills module – guidance on how to manage your career in the future, available through the VLE.
- A University of London email account and web area for personal information management.

Quality evaluation and enhancement

The University of London collaborates with the member institutions of the University of London to deliver the University of London programmes. The policies, partnerships and systems are defined within the key documents: The Quality Framework, the [Quality Assurance Schedules](#), [Guidelines for Examinations](#), [General Regulations](#) and [programme specific regulations](#) for each programme.

Parity of award standards

Every programme of study is developed by a member institution of the University of London (or a consortium with representation by more than one member institution) to the same standards as would be applied in the institution concerned. Proportionate and robust approval procedures, including external scrutiny and student engagement, are in place.

Learning materials are written and examinations are set and marked by academic staff who apply the University's academic standards.

Review and evaluation mechanisms

Procedures are in place to assure the standards of the award and the quality of the student experience, which include programme development, delivery, management, systematic monitoring and ongoing review and enhancement of all University of London programmes. Improvements are made as necessary to ensure that systems remain effective and rigorous.

- Annual programme reports are produced for all programmes in order to review and enhance the provision and to plan ahead;
- Every year independent external examiners submit reports to confirm that a programme has been assessed properly and meets the appropriate academic standards;
- Annual student information statistics are produced and are referenced in all systematic reporting within the University of London;

- Periodic programme reviews are carried out every 4-6 years to review how a programme has developed over time and to make sure that it remains current and up-to-date.

See www.london.ac.uk/about-us/academic-quality for its policies and procedures in academic quality.

Student feedback mechanisms

The Student Experience Survey, carried out every two years, collects feedback from the student body on a range of topics relating to the student lifecycle. The results are considered in a number of different ways, including by the Pro-Vice Chancellor, the Programme team, principal committees and departments at the University of London responsible for the different aspects of the student experience. Once the findings have been considered in detail, responses are published from both the University of London and from the individual Programme Directors.

Additional survey activity may also be conducted from time to time through the student portal, by email or from the programme team.

VLEs also provide the opportunity for informal feedback and discussion.

An undergraduate and postgraduate student member is appointed by the University to the majority of committees through an annual appointment round. Some programmes also recruit student members at the programme level. Students are frequently invited to take part in quality review processes such as Periodic Programme Reviews, Programme approval, Thematic Reviews, MOOC review panels and ad hoc focus groups. Opportunities such as these are advertised through social media and on the website. More information can be found at www.london.ac.uk/current-students/getting-involved.

After graduation

Further study

Successful completion of the programme can allow students to progress to a higher level award in the subject area.

Graduate employment routes

The analytical tradition of philosophy makes it a particularly good training for virtually any profession. The study of philosophy encourages students to reason and assess the reasoning of others. These skills translate easily and naturally to such areas as management and law.

Careers advice and resources

The University of London's Careers Service can provide confidential advice and guidance appropriate to the diverse needs of students and graduates, at any stage of their career. Advisers can assist on an individual basis (including help with career planning, CV writing and interview technique), through face-to-face, Skype or phone appointments, or through a 30 minute e-Advice service. Students may also make use of the dedicated careers library.

For further information, please see www.thecareersgroup.co.uk

The Alumni Network

Upon graduation, students automatically become members of the University of London Alumni Network, a diverse community of over 100,000 alumni in more than 180 countries. The Alumni Network can provide past students with lifelong links to the University of London and each other. Benefits include social and networking events, access to local groups, a bi-annual magazine, social networking groups, and the opportunity to become an Alumni Ambassador for the University of London.

For further information, please see <https://london.ac.uk/alumni>, www.facebook.com/londonualumni, [www.instagram.com/ londonu](https://www.instagram.com/londonu) and <https://www.linkedin.com/school/university-of-london/>