



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Programme Regulations 2017–18

Philosophy

BA
Diploma of Higher Education
Certificate of Higher Education

Important document – please read
This document contains important
information that governs your
registration, assessment and
programme of study



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Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

About this document

Last revised: 10 April 2017

As a student registered with the University of London you are governed by the current General Regulations and Programme Regulations associated with your programme of study.

These Programme Regulations are designed and developed by Birkbeck, University of London which is responsible for the academic direction of the programme. The regulations take account of any associated arrangements at Birkbeck, University of London. Programme Regulations, together with the [Programme Handbook](#), will provide the detailed rules and guidance for your programme of study. Further information about how to use the Programme Regulations and Programme Handbook can be found in the [Student Guide](#).

In addition to Programme Regulations, you will have to abide by the [General Regulations](#). These regulations apply to all students registered for a programme of study with the International Academy and provide the rules governing registration and assessment on all programmes; they also indicate what you may expect on completion of your programme of study and how you may pursue a complaint, should that be necessary. Programme Regulations should be read in conjunction with the General Regulations.

Further information about your programme of study is outlined in the Programme Specification which is available on the relevant Courses page of the website. The Programme Specification gives a broad overview of the structure and content of the programme as well as the learning outcomes students will achieve as they progress.

Terminology

For the Philosophy programme, you should note the following terminology:

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.

A [Glossary](#) provides an explanation of the other terms used in this document.

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>.

To note:

Throughout the Regulations, 'we' 'us' and 'our' mean the University of London; 'you' and 'your' mean the student, or where applicable, all students.

Changes to Philosophy Regulations 2017-18

Appendix B, Assessment Criteria, is now aligned with the Birkbeck on-campus programme. No changes have been made to the class divisions or percentages required to achieve a grade. Some changes to the assessment criteria descriptions have been made.

1 Structure of the programmes

BA in Philosophy

1.1

Level 4 courses

The following four courses:

- Introduction to philosophy [PY1020]
- Ethics: historical perspectives [PY1095]
- Epistemology [PY1025]
- Logic [PY1070]

Level 5 courses

Four courses chosen from the following:

- Greek philosophy: Plato and the Pre-Socratics [PY1085]
- Modern philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume [PY1065]
- Ethics: contemporary perspectives [PY3115] (Prerequisite: PY1095)
- Metaphysics [PY3075] (Prerequisite: PY1070)
- Methodology: induction, reason and science [PY3035]

Level 6 courses

Three courses chosen from the following:

- Modern philosophy: Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant [PY3125] (Prerequisite: PY1065)
- Greek philosophy: Aristotle [PY3120] (Prerequisite: PY1085)
- Continental philosophy: Hegel, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche [PY3190] (Prerequisite: PY3125)
- Aesthetics [PY3130]
- Philosophy of language [PY3210]
- Philosophy of mind [PY3100]
- Political philosophy [PY3090]
- Philosophy of religion [PY3110]

One compulsory Level 6 course:

- The Dissertation [PY3500]

Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Philosophy

1.2

The DipHE in Philosophy consists of eight courses, as follows:

Level 4 courses

The following four courses:

- Introduction to philosophy [PY1020]
- Ethics: historical perspectives [PY1095]
- Epistemology [PY1025]
- Logic [PY1070]

Level 5 courses

Four courses chosen from the following:

- Greek philosophy: Plato and the Pre-Socratics [PY1085]
- Modern philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume [PY1065]
- Ethics: contemporary perspectives [PY3115] (Prerequisite: PY1095)
- Metaphysics [PY3075] (Prerequisite: PY1070)
- Methodology: induction, reason and science [PY3035]

Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Philosophy

1.3

The CertHE in Philosophy consists of four courses, as follows:

Level 4 courses

The following **four** courses:

- Introduction to philosophy [PY1020]
- Ethics: historical perspectives [PY1095]
- Epistemology [PY1025]
- Logic [PY1070]

1.4

Introduction to philosophy is offered as a credit-bearing stand-alone individual course. If you successfully complete the assessment for the *Introduction to philosophy* course with a mark of 50% or above, you will be considered for transfer to the CertHE in Philosophy.

1.5

You may apply to change your choice of course at any stage in your studies until you enter the examination for that course. If you have entered for an examination, your application will not be considered until after the examination results for that session have been published.

2 Registration

Effective date of registration

2.1

Your effective date of registration will be 30 November in the year that you initially registered. This allows you to sit your first examinations in the following May.

Period of registration

See the [Programme Specification](#) for the minimum and maximum periods of registration applicable to this programme.

2.2

If you take *Introduction to philosophy* as a stand-alone individual course and then register for the CertHE, DipHE or BA, we will give you a new maximum period of registration for the CertHE, DipHE or BA.

2.3

If you transfer from the CertHE to the DipHE or BA, or DipHE to BA, your period of registration will be effective from your initial date of registration on the CertHE or DipHE, as applicable.

See [Glossary](#) for the definition of 'effective date of registration'.

3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer

To be read in conjunction with the [General Regulations](#), Section 3.

Accreditation of Prior Learning

3.1

A BA student may apply for accreditation of prior learning for up to four Level 4 courses. There is no accreditation of prior learning for Level 5 and 6 courses.

4 Course selection

[Appendix A](#) provides details of the programme structures and module titles.

4.1

The examination for *Introduction to philosophy* must be taken in the year in which you first enter for an examination.

4.2

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.

5 Assessment for the programme

Assessment methods

See [Glossary](#) for the definition of 'examination' and 'written paper examination'.

5.1

Level 4 and 5 courses are each assessed by one two-hour unseen written examination. Level 6 courses are each assessed by one three-hour unseen written examination (with the exception of the Dissertation).

5.2

The Dissertation course is assessed by a 7,500 word dissertation. Details of the Dissertation arrangements will be given in the Dissertation subject guide.

See the website for the [list of examination centres](#).

Dates for examinations

5.3

Written examinations take place in May each year.

5.4

The Dissertation proposal must be submitted by **15 October** and the final Dissertation must be submitted by **1 May** in the academic year the Dissertation course is being taken. Further details about submission are available on the relevant course forum on the VLE.

See [General Regulations](#) Rules for taking written examinations

6 Number of attempts permitted at an examination

6.1

The maximum number of attempts permitted at any examination of the BA, DipHE or CertHE is **three**.

6.2

If taken as an individual course on a stand-alone basis, the maximum number of attempts permitted at any examination of *Introduction to philosophy* is **two**, provided your registration has not expired.

The Dissertation

6.3

If you do not want to submit your Dissertation in the year in which your proposal was approved, you should contact the Student Assessment Office via the *ask a question* tab in the Student Portal. You must explain the reasons for requesting the deferral and include supporting evidence. If we agree to your request, you must submit the Dissertation the following year. This will count as your first attempt at the assessment.

7 Progression within the programme

See [section 5](#) for method of assessment.

7.1

In any one year, you may normally attempt examinations in a maximum of **four** courses, excluding re-sits. You do not have to be examined every year.

BA degree

7.2

You may not take more than two Level 5 or Level 6 courses until you have passed two Level 4 courses, one of which must be *Introduction to philosophy*.

7.3

You may only enter for the Dissertation once you have passed all four courses at Level 4 and a minimum of four courses at Level 5 and/or Level 6.

DipHE

7.4

You may not take more than two Level 5 courses until you have passed two Level 4 courses, one of which must be *Introduction to philosophy*.

Progression from the CertHE

7.5

You may progress to the BA or DipHE if:

- you have been awarded the CertHE **or**
- you already satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA/DipHE.

Progression from the DipHE

7.6

You may progress to the BA if:

- you have been awarded the DipHE **or**
- you already satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA.

Transfer from a higher award to a lower award

7.7

You may not normally transfer your registration from the BA to the DipHE or CertHE, or from the DipHE to the CertHE. Students who for academic or personal reasons are unable to complete the 240 or 360 credits required for the DipHE or BA awards may exit with the successful completion of 120 or 240 credits and be awarded a CertHE or DipHE respectively.

Other transfer rules

7.8

If you satisfy the criteria to progress to the BA or DipHE, we will credit you with the courses passed.

7.9

Previous attempts at the examinations for the CertHE or DipHE will count towards the number of attempts permitted at each course of the BA or DipHE, as applicable.

7.10

If you transfer to the BA or DipHE part way through the CertHE on the basis that you satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA/DipHE, we will not normally award you the CertHE, unless as an exit award subsequently.

7.11

If you transfer to the BA part way through the DipHE on the basis that you satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA, we will not normally award you the DipHE, unless as an exit award subsequently.

Transfer from the stand-alone individual course

7.12

If you take *Introduction to philosophy* as a stand-alone individual course and pass with a mark of 50% or more, you may transfer to the CertHE. If you wish to transfer to the BA or DipHE, you must submit a new application and comply with the entrance requirements for that award.

7.13

If you are permitted to transfer, you may be credited with your pass in *Introduction to philosophy* provided that the application is made within three years of the completion of the course.

8 Schemes of award

8.1

To obtain the BA with a given classification, you will be required to achieve a final mark within the following ranges:

Grade	Class equivalent
70% and above	First Class Honours
60–69%	Second Class (Upper Division) Honours
50–59%	Second Class (Lower Division) Honours
40–49%	Third Class Honours
0–39%	Fail

8.2

To obtain the CertHE or DipHE with a given grade, you will be required to achieve a final mark within the following ranges:

Mark range	Award grade
70% and above	Pass with Distinction
60–69%	Pass with Merit
40–59%	Pass
0–39%	Fail

8.3

If you can be granted an award, you will **not** be permitted to make any further attempts at any examinations.

8.4

All courses are weighted equally.

BA in Philosophy

8.5

You are required to have attempted the examination in a total of twelve courses, which may include accreditation of prior learning for Level 4 courses.

8.6

In order to obtain the BA you must usually pass all twelve courses with a mark of 40% or above. However, you may be compensated for one failed course (excluding the Dissertation) if the mark achieved is between 30–39%.

8.7

You will be awarded a BA in a given class (as above) if:

- a) the majority of the best ten course marks (i.e. six or more) fall into that class and
- b) the average of these ten marks is no lower than that required for the next lower class

In determining the classification of the degree, examiners have complete discretion and will take into consideration the marks for all courses.

8.8

The Board of Examiners may use its discretion to approve the exit award of a DipHE to a student registered for the BA who has completed eight courses, or, a CertHE to a student who has completed four courses. The Board must be satisfied that these constitute a coherent programme of study appropriate to the title of the award.

8.9

If you have been awarded accreditation of prior learning (APL) for any courses at Level 4, the examiners will assess your class of degree entirely upon your performance in the courses in which you have been examined.

DipHE in Philosophy

8.10

You are required to pass the examination in a total of **eight** courses with a mark of 40% or above.

8.11

The final mark is determined by an average of all marks obtained for each of the eight courses studied.

8.12

The Board of Examiners may use its discretion to approve the exit award of a CertHE to a student registered for the DipHE who has completed four courses provided that the Board is satisfied that these constitute a coherent programme of study appropriate to the title of the award.

CertHE in Philosophy

8.13

To be awarded the CertHE in Philosophy, you are required to pass the examination in a total of **four** courses with a mark of 40% or above.

8.14

The final mark is determined by an average of all the marks obtained for each of the four courses studied.

Individual courses

8.15

If taken on a stand-alone basis, the pass mark for the *Introduction to philosophy* course is 40%.

Appendix A – Syllabuses

A detailed outline of the module syllabus is provided on the Philosophy course page, under [structure](#)

Level 4 courses

Introduction to philosophy [PY1020]

An introduction to the subject matter and methods of philosophy by means of a study of certain fundamental philosophical problems and texts. Included here will be: the problem of free-will and determinism, the nature of the self, arguments for equality and the foundations of knowledge.

Ethics: historical perspectives [PY1095]

An exploration of the history of moral philosophy, including the views of Plato, Aristotle, Hume, Kant and Mill.

Epistemology [PY1025]

An investigation of the problems of analysing knowledge, and dealing with the challenge of scepticism.

Logic [PY1070]

An investigation of the philosophical questions that arise from logic. Topics included are: truth, conditionals and validity, reference, necessity, vagueness, as well as a number of issues addressing the relationship between natural language and logic. (Note: it is advised that students acquire some background in elementary formal logic either whilst doing this course, or before attempting it.)

Level 5 courses

Greek philosophy: Plato and the Pre-Socratics [PY1085]

The interpretation of the extant fragments of Pre-Socratic philosophy and a selection of Plato's dialogues, including (but not limited to) *The Republic*, *Symposium*, *Theatetus*, *Phaedo*, *Philebus* and *Parmenides*.

Modern philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume [PY1065]

Study of the main metaphysical, logical and epistemological views of Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume.

Ethics: contemporary perspectives [PY3115]

Prerequisite: **Ethics: historical perspectives** must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

An investigation of the central questions in moral philosophy including such issues as: the metaphysical status of moral value, morality and truth, theories of the good, moral relativism and moral conflict, consequentialism and moral accountability.

Metaphysics [PY3075]

Prerequisite: **Logic** must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

An exploration of the main questions of metaphysics, including those raised by the nature of substance, problems of identity and individuation, as well as issues involving time, causation and universals.

Methodology: induction, reason and science [PY3035]

Prerequisite: **Epistemology** must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

An investigation of explanation generally, and in science, as well as the problems of induction and confirmation.

Level 6 courses

Modern philosophy: Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant [PY3125]

Prerequisite: **Modern philosophy: Descartes, Locke, Berkeley and Hume** must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

Study of the main metaphysical, logical and epistemological views of Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant.

Greek philosophy: Aristotle [PY3120]

Prerequisite: **Greek philosophy: the Pre-Socratics and Plato** must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

The study of the broadly metaphysical, logical and epistemological doctrines of Aristotle. Works covered include: *Physics*, *On God*, *De Anima (On the Soul)*, *Categories* and *Posterior Analytics and Metaphysics*.

Continental philosophy: Hegel, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche [PY3190]

Prerequisite: **Modern philosophy: Spinoza, Leibniz and Kant** must be taken at the same time or already have been passed.

The main doctrines of Hegel, Schopenhauer and Nietzsche.

Aesthetics [PY3130]

An investigation of problems such as: the nature and value of art, aesthetic judgement, representation, expression and interpretation. Included will be a historical approach to these issues involving writers such as Plato, Aristotle, Kant, Nietzsche and Collingwood.

Philosophy of language [PY3210]

An exploration of the notion of meaning as well as an investigation into the more detailed problems arising from study of natural language. Included are topics such as metaphor, reference and the nature of rules and language.

Philosophy of mind [PY3100]

An exploration of the problems raised by intentionality, consciousness and action. Issues covered include: the relationship of the mind to the physical world, the understanding of subjectivity and the nature of human action.

Political philosophy [PY3090]

The study of the history of political philosophy as well as an investigation of contemporary issues. Included in the historical part of the course are works by Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Hegel, Marx and Mill. Contemporary issues involve topics such as political authority and the state, democracy, liberalism, distributive justice and markets and capitalism.

Philosophy of religion [PY3110]

The overall aim of this course is the philosophical scrutiny of the claims of religious believers and those made on behalf of the major religious traditions. Specific topics include: arguments for God's existence, an investigation of religious language, the nature of religious experience and the issue of the soul and immortality.

Dissertation [PY3500]

Prerequisite: You may only enter for the Dissertation once you have passed all four courses at Level 4 and a minimum of four courses at Level 5 and/or Level 6.

A dissertation of 7,500 words on a topic to be negotiated with a member of the staff at Birkbeck, University of London. Students will receive feedback on a one-page outline (consisting of a working title, a summary of the main sections of the dissertation, and a short bibliography), and comments on a complete drafts, if required.

Appendix B – Assessment Criteria

Examinations and dissertations are assessed using the following criteria (not in order of importance):

- Relevance of answer to question set.
- Coverage of answer: appropriate range of facts, ideas and sources.
- Accuracy of information.
- Structure and organisation of argument.
- Quality of analysis, argumentation and critical evaluation.
- Quality of expression and presentation.
- Display of capacity for independent thought.

These criteria are used to categorise answers to exam questions and dissertations into the following classes.

Grade	Class equivalent	Assessment criteria
80% or more	First Class Honours	An outstanding answer in all or virtually all areas, of a calibre beyond what is normally expected at undergraduate level.
70–79%	First Class Honours	An excellent answer in all or nearly all areas; showing a high degree of competence where excellence is not achieved.
60–69%	Second Class (Upper Division) Honours	A good answer. Very competent in some areas, or showing moderate competence in some and excellence in others.
50–59%	Second Class (Lower Division) Honours	A satisfactory answer, competent in some of the criteria but weak in others.
40–49%	Third Class Honours	An answer that meets the minimum criteria to pass, showing some awareness of issues raised by the question and knowledge of relevant material, but with weak performance on most of the criteria.
30–39%	Potential Compensated Fail	The answer is only slightly below the pass standard and the examiners believe that the wider consequences of a fail need to be further examined.
20–29%	Fail	Inadequate answer in all areas, displaying very little knowledge or understanding
0–19%	Fail	Totally inadequate answer in all areas, displaying scant evidence of understanding or knowledge.