



UNIVERSITY
OF LONDON

INTERNATIONAL
PROGRAMMES

Programme Regulations 2016–17

Philosophy (New Regulations)

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



Contents

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations	2
1 Structure of the programmes.....	3
2 Registration	5
3 Recognition of prior learning and credit transfer	5
4 Course selection.....	5
5 Assessment for the programme	6
6 Number of attempts permitted at an examination	6
7 Progression within the programme.....	7
8 Schemes of award.....	9
Appendix A – Syllabuses.....	11
Level 4 courses.....	11
Level 5 courses.....	11
Level 6 courses.....	12
Appendix B – Assessment Criteria.....	14

Important information regarding the Programme Regulations

About this document

Last revised: 6 January 2016

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.

The Programme Regulations are designed and developed by the College of the University of London responsible for the programme and they normally take account of the associated arrangements within the College. 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.

A [Glossary](#) provides an explanation of the 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 2016/2017

The effective date of registration has changed from 1 September in the year that you are registered to 30 November in the year that you are registered.

1 Structure of the programmes

1.1 BA Philosophy

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]

1.2 Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy

The Diploma of Higher Education 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]

1.3 Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy

The Certificate of Higher Education 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 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 Certificate of Higher Education 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 start by taking *Introduction to Philosophy* as an Individual course and then register for the Certificate of Higher Education, Diploma of Higher Education or BA we will give you a new maximum period of registration for the Certificate/Diploma of Higher Education or BA.

2.3

If you transfer from the Certificate of Higher Education to the Diploma of Higher Education your period of registration will be effective from your date of registration on the Certificate of Higher Education.

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

Each course of the BA (with the exception of the Dissertation), Diploma of Higher Education and Certificate of Higher Education will be assessed by one two-hour (Level 4 and 5) or three-hour (Level 6) unseen written examination.

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.

5.3

The individual course is assessed by a two-hour unseen written examination.

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

Dates for examinations

5.4

Written examinations take place in May each year.

5.5

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 or Certificate/Diploma of Higher Education is **three**.

6.2

The maximum number of attempts permitted at any examination of the individual course 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 write to the Student Assessment Office. 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 the first attempt of the assessment.

7 Progression within the programme

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

7.1

You may decide when you are examined, the number of courses you attempt each year and the order in which your courses are examined. You do not have to be examined every year.

7.2

In any one year you may normally attempt examinations in a maximum of **four** courses, excluding re-sits.

BA degree

7.3

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*.

7.4

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

Diploma of Higher Education

7.5

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*.

Progress from the Certificate of Higher Education

7.6

You may progress to the BA or Diploma of Higher Education if:

- you have been awarded the Certificate of Higher Education **or**
- you already satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA/Diploma of Higher Education.

Progress from the Diploma of Higher Education

7.7

You may progress to the BA if:

- you have been awarded the Diploma of Higher Education **or**
- you request to transfer your registration to the BA; and
- you already satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA/Diploma of Higher Education.

Transfer from a higher award to a lower award

7.8

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

7.9

You may not normally transfer your registration from the Diploma of Higher Education to the Certificate of Higher Education.

Other transfer rules

7.10

If you satisfy the criteria to progress to the BA or Diploma of Higher Education we will credit you with the courses passed.

7.11

Previous attempts at the examinations for the Certificate/Diploma of Higher Education will count towards the number of attempts permitted at each course of the BA or Diploma of Higher Education, as applicable.

7.12

If you transfer to the BA or Diploma of Higher Education part way through the Certificate of Higher Education on the basis that you satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA/Diploma of Higher Education we will not normally award you the Certificate of Higher Education.

7.13

If you transfer to the BA part way through the Diploma of Higher Education we will not normally award you the Diploma of Higher Education.

Transfer from Individual courses

7.14

If you are registered for *Introduction to Philosophy* as an individual course you may progress to the Certificate of Higher Education if you have passed *Introduction to Philosophy* as an individual course with a mark of 50% or above.

7.15

In order to progress to the Diploma of Higher Education or BA you must satisfy the entrance requirements for the BA/Diploma of Higher Education or Certificate of Higher Education.

7.16

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.

7.17

If you wish to register for the BA or Diploma of Higher Education you must submit a new application and comply with the entrance requirements for that programme. You may be credited with your pass in *Introduction to Philosophy*.

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 more	First Class Honours
60–69	Second Class (Upper Division)
50–59	Second Class (Lower Division)
40–49	Third Class Honours
0–39	Fail

8.2

To obtain the Certificate of Higher Education or Diploma of Higher Education with a given classification you will be required to achieve a final mark within the following ranges:

Mark range	Diploma classification
70 and above	Pass with Distinction
60–69	Pass with Merit
40–59	Pass
0–39	Fail

8.3

If you can be classified 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.

8.6

In order to obtain the BA you must pass a minimum of **eleven** (including the Dissertation) courses. 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 ten courses.

8.8

The Board of Examiners may use its discretion to approve the award of a Diploma of Higher Education to a student registered for the BA who has completed eight courses, or, a Certificate of Higher Education 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.

Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy

8.9

You are required to pass the examination in a total of **eight** courses.

8.10

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

8.11

The Board of Examiners may use its discretion to approve the award of a Certificate of Higher Education as an exit award to a student registered for the Diploma of Higher Education in Philosophy 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.

Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy

8.12

To be awarded the Certificate of Higher Education in Philosophy, you are required to pass the examination in a total of **four** courses.

8.13

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

Individual courses

8.14

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: Students must have passed all four level 4 courses and four level 5 courses before registering for this course.

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

All Philosophy examination scripts are marked according to the following scale

Grade	Class equivalent	Assessment criteria
80 or more	First class Honours	An answer showing all or virtually all of 7-10 above to an outstanding level, of a calibre beyond what is normally expected at undergraduate level.
70 - 79	First Class Honours	An answer showing excellence in all or nearly all of 7-10 above, and showing a high degree of competence where excellence is not achieved.
60–69	Second Class (Upper Division)	Candidate shows each of the 7-9 below to a good level: or one or two of them to an excellent level and the remainder to at least a fair level; or shows each of them and 10 below to a fair level: 7. Awareness of the philosophical issues that arise in the precise area of question. 8. Knowledge of the relevant philosophical texts or arguments. 9. Appreciation of philosophical techniques relevant to the question, making successful attempts to apply such techniques. 10. Capacity for independent critical thought about the question.
50–59	Second Class (Lower Division)	Candidate shows each of 4-6 below to a fair degree, or one or two of them to a good degree: 4. Awareness of the philosophical issues that arise in the area of the question. 5. Knowledge of the relevant philosophical texts or arguments. 6. Appreciation of philosophical techniques relevant to the question and some attempt to apply such techniques.
40–49	Third Class Honours	Candidate shows each of the following to some degree, or one or two of them to a fair degree: 1. Awareness of the philosophical issues that arise in the general area of question. 2. Knowledge of the philosophical texts and arguments. 3. Application of the philosophical techniques relevant to the general area of the question.
30 – 39	Potential Compensated Fail	Inadequate answer in all areas, displaying very little knowledge or understanding.

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.