

Studying Philosophy at Oxford

Oxford is one of the world's great centres for philosophy. There are over 60 full-time permanent members of the Faculty of Philosophy, each with a college Fellowship, together with a still larger number of associate members, between them covering a vast range of subjects within philosophy.

Many are international leaders in their fields. The Faculty of Philosophy is one of the largest departments of philosophy in the world, and is widely recognized to be amongst the best.

The study of Philosophy develops analytical rigour and the ability to criticise and reason logically. It allows you to apply these skills to many contemporary and historical schools of thought and individual thinkers. You will also apply these skills to questions ranging from how we acquire knowledge and form moral judgements to central questions in the philosophy of religion, including the existence and nature of God and the relevance of religion to human life.

Studying Philosophy at St Anne's

Visiting Students can study Philosophy at St Anne's as a single or joint subject. St Anne's has dedicated Philosophy faculty and one of the largest philosophy library collections amongst Oxford colleges.

Study durations

You can apply to study Philosophy as a single or joint subject for any study duration.

	Ext AY	AY	Fall Term	Hilary and Trinity terms	Studied with other subjects
Philosophy	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Classical Archaeology and Ancient History; Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Classics; English; History of Art; Medical Humanities; Modern Languages; Music; History; Economics; Law; Politics; Computer Science; Experimental Psychology; Maths

Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE) – visiting students can study all 3 subjects if they attend for the academic year or the extended academic year. If attending for a term it is only possible to study 2 of the 3 subjects

Courses

You will find a list of currently available philosophy papers and course descriptions on the Faculty of Philosophy website: <https://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/course-descriptions-finals>

Please note the following when selecting your choices:

- All philosophy courses listed in the Finals Course Descriptions require some prior background in philosophy.
- You must have sufficient background, as deemed by College tutors to undertake courses. This is especially important in relation to papers requiring a background in logic, which requires a firm grasp on propositional and predicate logic (up to and including identity).
- Please also note the restriction of certain papers to students who are studying Classics ("Literae Humaniores") since these papers are studied in the original languages.

- Not all courses listed are available to visiting students. Those unavailable include papers in Philosophy of Physics 120 and 121/123 and 198 Special subjects.

Some courses (especially the first-year courses) are only available in specific terms. If you have not studied philosophy before you can choose from the following three introductory papers:

Introductory Logic (only in Michaelmas Term)

This course introduces students to formal work in propositional and predicate logic, through study of a dedicated text: *The Logic Manual*, by Volker Halbach (OUP). Students investigate the patterns of valid inference by means of the formal system set out in the text, and learn about the relationship between elements of the system and the types of argument and inference used in ordinary language. The course is intended both for those with an interest in logic who will undertake further work in it or related topics at finals, and for those who will not study it further but who will find the ability to understand formal expressions useful in their later study of philosophy.

General Philosophy (only in Hilary Term)

General Philosophy introduces students to key topics in epistemology and metaphysics, including knowledge and scepticism, induction, mind and body, personal identity, freewill, and God and evil. Students approach these topics in one of two ways: either using relevant sections from Descartes, Hume and Locke as a starting point, or by studying key contemporary writings on the topics.

Moral Philosophy (only in Trinity Term)

Moral Philosophy is studied in conjunction with J. S. Mill's Utilitarianism and, by means of the study of Mill's and contemporary versions of utilitarianism, introduces students to discussion of subjects such as happiness and pleasure, the criterion of right action, the role and foundation of moral principles, and justice.

Pre-requisites

Ideally you will be studying philosophy at your home institution and will have undertaken introductory courses in philosophy, similar to those listed above; Logic, general philosophy and moral philosophy or covering the same academic materials. To access higher level courses you must have undertaken a logic course.

If you have not studied philosophy previously you may be able to participate in the introductory, first-year courses Outlined above, but cannot be considered for other courses.

Additional information

Department of Philosophy: <https://www.philosophy.ox.ac.uk/>