

Philosophy, Politics and Economics with a Year in Industry

 BA (Hons)

COURSE DETAILS

- A level requirements: [AAB](#)
- UCAS code: L0V1
- Study mode: Full-time
- Length: 4 years

KEY DATES

- Apply by: [29 January 2025](#)
- Starts: 22 September 2025

Course overview

This programme offers the same content as our three-year BA in Philosophy, Politics and Economics, but with the addition of a year in industry after the second year.

INTRODUCTION

A degree in Philosophy, Politics and Economics unites three disciplines that are foundational to public life and policy. Nowadays, anyone hoping to understand or advance in politics has to be proficient in economics, and an understanding of the philosophical underpinnings of the various political views that jostle on the public stage has long been recognised as hugely important.

Programme in detail

As with the three-year degree, this programme provides the opportunity to master the overlap of the three disciplines, to come to grips with some of their specialisms, to attain a very thorough grounding in mathematical economics, and to develop skills in identifying and evaluating the principles and values that underlie debates. The combination is highly sought after by employers, who appreciate the breadth of knowledge and variety of skills that it provides.

Year one will comprise entirely of compulsory modules: four from Economics, and two each from Philosophy and Politics. In year two, as well as a range of Philosophy and Politics options, you will take some compulsory modules which include SOTA260, which will prepare you for your year in industry.

Your third year will be spent on a salaried placement in a role related to your studies, giving you the opportunity to apply skills and knowledge acquired during study to a real-life

situation, thus developing key life and employability skills.

In your final year you will undertake a PPE-focused dissertation, and then optional modules from each of the three subjects.

Year in Industry

This programme is available with an optional [year in industry](#). If you choose this option, year three is spent on a paid placement within an organisation in industry, broadly defined. You will be supported by the School of the Arts and the Department throughout, and your reflexive written account of the experience will contribute towards your final degree result. If you wish to study this programme with a year in industry, please put the option code 'YI' in the 'further choices' section of your UCAS application form.

WHAT YOU'LL LEARN

- Advanced numeracy and literacy skills
 - Creative, critical and independent thinking
 - Flexibility and adaptability
 - Efficient time and information management
 - The ability to organise and present a persuasive case
 - The ability to devise and sustain arguments, and solve problems
 - Systematic knowledge and critical understanding of key aspects of Philosophy, Politics and Economics
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Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

YEAR ONE

You will take compulsory modules in each of the three subjects, which will give you the mathematical, philosophical and political foundations for the rest of your degree.

COMPULSORY MODULES

FOUNDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI104)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides an introduction to the main schools of thought and key issues in the field of International Relations (IR). It starts by offering an outline of these schools of thought and introduces students to important thinkers and theories within them. It then moves on to applying and comparing and contrasting different theories to a range of important contemporary issues, from the persistence of war to the environment. It concludes with a discussion of possible futures.

FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS (POLI109)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module provides students with a critical introduction to a number of political concepts such as power, the state, legitimacy of sovereignty and gender through engaging with political thinkers such as Weber, Dahl, Tilly, Hooks and Rousseau. It also aims to establish a grounding in a number of areas that will benefit the students in the academic study of politics. For example, essay writing, debating in seminars, and an introduction to academic research. In so doing the module develops on the skills gained at A-level to ensure students are fully prepared for degree level study in Politics. Principally this will be accomplished through interactive lectures and seminars, as well as detailed feedback on their assessments. This module provides students with the tools they require to master different forms of assessment and course work. It also lays the foundations for the development of research confident students by making them active learners with a responsibility for their own academic study.

MATHEMATICAL ECONOMICS (ECON113)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module introduces students to techniques of proof and mathematical methods that will be assumed elsewhere in the programme. It prepares students for the Year 2 Mathematical Economics II option, which is a prerequisite for certain Year 3 modules.

PHILOSOPHY TOOLKIT (PHIL105)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Students taking this module will develop key skills which are essential for studying philosophy. Students will learn how to approach philosophical texts written in a variety of styles – how to identify arguments, how to distinguish arguments from rhetoric, and how to evaluate arguments. They will also learn how to summarise views accurately, clearly and concisely, and how to write persuasively when presenting their own analysis of the philosophical topics covered. This module also includes lectures on successful presenting, and how to conduct fruitful philosophical discussions. Students will also be advised on understanding and learning from feedback. Students will gain skills in conducting their own independent, enquiry-led research, which is facilitated by a two-hour information and research skills workshop provided by the Library.

The seminar readings will cover three engaging philosophical topics. Since the lecture content is primarily devoted to developing the skills involved with philosophical practice, this module also features three podcasts which serve as introductions to the readings for the three seminar topics.

The module is assessed as follows: seminar participation counts for 10% of the overall grade, a 1,000-word executive summary of any two of the seminar readings counts for 30% of the module result, and a 2000-word essay counts for the remaining 60%. Feedback on the executive summary and the essay is provided online using the VLE. It specifically relates the assessed work to the marking descriptors (which are published online in advance).

Feedback on seminar participation is provided informally by the seminar leader (and by the students' peers). Students will also have the opportunity to discuss their participation by making use of their seminar leader's feedback and advice hours.

POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY (PHIL102)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module introduces students to the main arguments and theories in the history of Western political philosophy. Taking this module will enhance students' abilities to analyse political arguments and claims and to identify the philosophical assumptions that underlie them. The module is taught by lecture (2 x 1 hour per week in person, or pre-recorded mini-lectures available online, depending on the circumstances) and seminar (1 hour per week). Assessment is via a take home exam (2 hour equivalent, weighted at 90% of the module mark) and a 5-10 minute seminar presentation (weighted at 10% of the module mark). Seminar presentations may be recorded by students, if in-person presentation is not possible.

PRINCIPLES OF MACROECONOMICS (ECON123)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module complements and builds on Principles of Microeconomics and provides a foundation for further studies in macroeconomics. It introduces concepts and theories of economics which help understand changes in the macroeconomic environment and enables students to explain and analyse the formulation of government macroeconomic policy.

PRINCIPLES OF MICROECONOMICS (ECON121)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module acquaints the student with a foundation in neo-classical microeconomics. The module equips students with the knowledge and mathematical tools to approach fundamental problems in microeconomic analysis. Students are introduced to the importance of theoretical models and their role. The module is supported by a customized textbook. Students who engage fully with this course will receive a solid foundation in microeconomics, which forms the foundation of all future courses in microeconomics and related subjects.

STATISTICS & DATA ANALYSIS FOR ECONOMICS AND BUSINESS (ECON112)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The aim of this module is to give students an understanding of how statistics operates in Business and Economics. This module serves both as a foundation for further study and as a broadly based introduction to statistics and data analysis. It is practically based and will teach the foundations of statistical analysis including calculating and presenting statistics from sample data and inferential techniques for making inferences about variable parameters from these as well as a good understanding of probability and variables as probability distributions.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

YEAR TWO

You will take compulsory modules in Economics, a module in Business Ethics (PHIL272), and SOTA260 in preparation for your year in industry. The remaining 30 credits will be taken from a range of options in Politics.

COMPULSORY MODULES

BUSINESS ETHICS (PHIL272)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module deals with business ethics and the social responsibility of business organizations. It is designed to inform decision-making about ethical challenges arising in business. It will help students identify and manage difficult ethical dilemmas they are likely to encounter in their future career. It is not intended to convert sinners into saints, to preach ethical truths, or to convey the wisdom of moral philosophers. However, it will develop students' analytical skills in ethical reasoning and provide them with a substantive framework to deal with ethical challenges. The module is taught by lecture (2 x 1 hour lectures per week, or a set of recorded mini-lectures available online if necessary) and workshops (2 during the semester, 2 hours each, which may occur online if necessary). Assessment is via case study analysis (40%) and an open book examination (60%). There will also be formative tests during the term. This module is identical to PHIL271, except that it runs in Semester 2.

MACROECONOMICS 1 (ECON223)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module provides training in the principal methodologies, theories and techniques of modern macroeconomic analysis. It is designed to introduce classic macroeconomic issues such as growth, inflation, unemployment, interest rates, exchange rates, technological progress, and budget deficits. The course will provide a unified framework to address these issues and to study the impact of different policies, such as monetary and fiscal policies, on the aggregate behaviour of individuals. These analytical tools will be used to understand the recent experience of the United States and other countries and to address how current policy initiatives affect their macroeconomic performance.

MACROECONOMICS 2 (ECON224)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The aim of this module is to further extend the study of macroeconomics at intermediate level. The module follows a modern approach to macroeconomics by building macroeconomic models from microeconomic principles.

On completion of this module, students should be able to: 1) examine macroeconomic data and analyse macroeconomic events; 2) critically evaluate macroeconomic models, 3) build and solve micro-founded macroeconomic models; 4) explain the implications of shocks and evaluate the effects of fiscal and monetary policies using macroeconomic models.

MICROECONOMICS 1 (ECON221)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Introduction to the functions of individual decision-makers, both consumers and producers. Students will learn the major principles of microeconomics including consumer theory, producer theory, and general equilibrium. Perhaps more importantly, students will also learn how to apply these principles to a wide variety of real world situations in both personal and professional lives.

MICROECONOMICS 2 (ECON222)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module aims to introduce students to three topics in microeconomic theory: game theory, asymmetric information and welfare economics.

PROFESSIONAL AND CAREER DEVELOPMENT (SOTA260)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module aims to prepare students for a smooth transition into a work placement year and, more broadly, to develop lifelong skills, attitudes and behaviours and support students in their continuing professional development. This will help students lead flexible, fulfilling careers working as a professional in their field, and enable them to contribute meaningfully to society.

OPTIONAL MODULES

AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY (POLI205)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module examines the governing institutions and processes associated with the US federal government, and how these interact with core linking institutions and structures of society to create what is understood as the American political process.

ASPECTS OF MEDIA AND POLITICS (POLI208)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module covers the media's relationship to politics, with a particular (but not exclusive) focus on Britain. It touches on the political, economic, moral and legal contexts in which journalists cover politics, and looks at how subsequent coverage relates to citizen's attitudes and to democratic politics. The module deals with a range of key topics, such as 'the economy', 'climate change' and 'Europe'. Students should, as a result, get a rounded appreciation of the media's role in contemporary society and politics. The module is delivered via a standard lecture and tutorial format.

BRITISH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (POLI237)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module analyses the major ideologies in British politics and explores how ideas have brought about change in British politics and society since 1945.

BRITISH PARTY POLITICS (POLI239)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to develop students' knowledge of British political parties and the party system within which they operate. It explores questions and issues surrounding party structure and organisation, electoral strategy, party ideology and the socio-historical contexts which lead to the rise of certain types of parties rather than others.

COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (POLI215)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

After years of authoritarian stasis, the tectonic plates of Middle East politics began to shift with the "Arab Spring" of 2011. Much media analysis reduces political explanation of the region's politics to a single variable (Islam) or its impact on Europe (refugees, terrorism). This module will provide students with the tools to analyse the region's politics in its richness. Students will critically engage with key concepts and debates in the study of Middle East comparative politics. These include the role of oil and the "rentier-state", democratisation and authoritarian resilience, and the role of religion in politics.

DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL CHANGE (POLI235)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module provides an overview of struggle for democracy in contemporary history. It challenges students to reflect upon why a particular variety of democracy, representative government (or 'polyarchy'), has become one of the dominant political systems in the modern world. It explores the circumstances under which dictatorship gives way to representative government, and the conditions under which it endures.

The course focuses on three major approaches to questions of democratisation: modernisation theory; the social forces tradition; and transition theory. These rival theories provide the framework for an exploration of key cases in the history of democracy as the course follows the so called 'waves of democracy' and 'reverse waves' of democratic breakdown.

Moving to the frontier of democratic struggle, the course examines the prospects for democracy in the global South, or amongst countries that democratised during the most recent 'Third Wave.' Is there any reason to expect that democracy will take root and consolidate, or might new hybrid political systems establish themselves? Will struggles over the legitimate basis of political rule continue? What can this tell us about the future of democracy in an interdependent world?

INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (POLI225)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The international system has no central authority that makes and enforces laws, yet it is not totally anarchic. A large number of international organisations allows states to co-operate in areas as diverse as the economy, international security, or the protection of the environment. The aim of this module is to enable students to systematically study international organisations. We focus on key questions: How do international organisations become (and remain) legitimate? Are they independent from their member-states? What inequalities and hierarchies do they transform or reproduce? Through a series of empirical examples – such as the United Nations, the WTO, the World Bank – students will be able to systematically analyse the role and functions of international organisations in global politics.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI209)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

International (or Global) Political Economy (IPE/GPE) is a sub-discipline of International Relations. This module examines the interplay between politics and economics and the way this relationship is influenced by domestic and international forces. It examines the social underpinnings of economic transactions, the political frameworks that shape economic activity at national, regional and global levels, and the economic imperatives that impinge upon political decision-makers. During the module, you will be introduced to influential perspectives, theories and ideas that have been advanced to explain and anticipate events and developments in political economy. The module covers the most important issue-areas in international political economy and examines recent developments, including the global financial crisis of 2008, challenges to the western liberal order, and the impact of the ecological crisis on global political economy. Firms, individuals, markets, societies, social classes, and states are all important elements of IPE. Theories differ in the way they deal with these elements and the relative significance they accord to each of them. The tension between the elements, resulting in cooperation and conflict, is a major feature in the theory and practice of IPE.

SECURITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD (POLI231)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Understanding security in international relations and how it is challenged by contemporary globalisation.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

YEAR THREE

You will spend your third year on a paid placement within an organisation in a related industry. Support for your placement will be provided by the Department and the School of the Arts.

COMPULSORY MODULES

WORK PLACEMENT YEAR (SOTA600)

Credits: 120 / Semester: whole session

This is an opportunity to spend the third year of your studies working as part of your degree programme. The placement year is not just about gaining work experience, it is also about deepening your academic understanding in your subject. Whatever modules you have taken previously, your prior studies in Years 1 and 2 will have given you some appreciation of general issues and theoretical concerns in your subject area. Your placement will give you some real-world experience against which to compare that academic knowledge. The experience will in turn inform your studies in your final year, providing you with material to discuss in such modules as the Independent Project or the Dissertation. You will have the opportunities to learn and practise a range of intellectual, interpersonal and technical skills relevant to your chosen industry. You will be encouraged to think creatively and to develop skills in adapting and responding positively to changing circumstances. Ultimately, your academic learning will be enhanced in the final year of study through this opportunity to contextualise your studies in the workplace. Students who have taken SOTA600 are not allowed to take SOTA300.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

YEAR FOUR

In your final year, you must complete a dissertation (**HASS301**). The rest of your modules are chosen from a range of options.

In semester one, you will be required to:

- take up to two of the following (but not both **ECON233** and **ECON250**): **ECON233, ECON250, ECON322, ECON325, ECON335, ECON342, ECON362**
- take up to two of the following: **PHIL302, PHIL316, PHIL367**
- take up to two of the following: **POLI319, POLI322, POLI328, POLI329, POLI347, POLI349.**

In semester two, you will be required to:

- take up to two of the following: **ECON306, ECON337, ECON343, PHIL366, ECON333, ECON360**
 - take up to two of the following: **PHIL312, PHIL365, PHIL366, PHIL311**
 - take up to two of the following: **POLI302, POLI310, POLI314, POLI323, POLI345, POLI350.**
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COMPULSORY MODULES

PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS AND ECONOMICS DISSERTATION (HASS301)

Credits: 30 / Semester: whole session

Students can choose their own research topic at the interface of two or more of the constituent disciplines of PPE. This allows them the opportunity to pursue their own particular interests in depth via reading and private study under expert supervision. All students will have the opportunity to participate in the Philosophy Dissertation Showcase, the Dissertation 'Boot Camp', and training in how to write a dissertation.

OPTIONAL MODULES

ADVANCED MACROECONOMICS (ECON343)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module is designed for Economics students who wish to advance further their understanding of modern macroeconomic analysis. The module considers a number of macroeconomics topics at a more advanced level and in greater depth. Why do countries grow? What are the sources of recessions and booms? Why is there unemployment and what determines its extent? What are the sources of inflation? How do government policies affect output, unemployment, inflation and growth?

ADVANCED MICROECONOMICS (ECON342)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This is a third year advanced module in microeconomic theory focussed on the study of asymmetric information environments. In the seminar/tutorial students will be expected to present and discuss additional material as well as solve exercises.

AESTHETICS (PHIL316)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module intends to familiarise students with central themes of aesthetics and art theory, especially questions about aesthetic judgement, aesthetic experience and aesthetic value. They will be able to strengthen their understanding of the history of philosophy, as well as the connection between theory and artistic practice. The module is taught by lecture (1 hour per week) and seminar (1 hour per week). Assessment is via a 3,000 word essay (85% of the module mark) and one 10-15 minute presentation (delivered during seminars, or recorded if on-line only teaching) that provides the remaining 15% of the module mark.

ALTERNATIVE PERSPECTIVES IN ECONOMICS (ECON250)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

Since the financial crash there seems to have been a growing interest in economic ideas that challenge orthodox views. This unit provides an introduction to alternative ideas in economics. It provides the students with a knowledge of the debates between the different schools of thought, and also leads to a deeper understanding of mainstream views, and of the discipline of economics as a whole.

CLASSICAL CHINESE PHILOSOPHY (PHIL367)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module will introduce students to ideas formulated during the classical period of Chinese philosophy. The focus will be on the dialectic between the Daoist and Confucian schools. The module will help students to understand the ways in which Chinese philosophers approached topics that are also discussed in the Western traditions. It will also enable students to understand what is distinctive about the Chinese approaches. There will be one lecture and one seminar per week. Assessment is by examination (60%), essay (30%) and assessed seminar presentation (10%).

COMPETITION AND REGULATION (ECON337)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module provides, from an economics perspective, the knowledge required to understand competition issues in the business environment. Understanding the concept and framework of regulatory policy, both within each region and country, and as applied to individual sectors and industries, is crucial to gain maximum benefit for companies and other organisations and to avoid inadvertently violating legal requirements.

CREATIVE SECTOR ECONOMICS (ECON362)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The creative sector of the economy rivals the financial services sector in size in the UK. This module first provides context for the sector in both the UK and globally. It then explores the application and development of economic theory in a sector which is often characterised by 'non-standard' markets (i.e. markets where neoclassical microeconomic assumptions may not hold) such as: Insubstitutability of labour for capital; superstar labour markets; intangible property of copyrights; fundamental measures of economic 'value'; demand under utility models influenced by taste formation and differing levels of public sector influence. It is applied by examining a variety of creative industries, including fine arts, music, broadcasting, movies and others.

DIGITAL INQUIRY PROJECT (PHIL311)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Students will choose a topic of special interest related to their programme of study and conduct an independent research project upon it in consultation with an allocated supervisor. The module is distinctive because the final project output is to be presented as if to a specified target external audience (such as sixth-form students, policy groups or the general public), and use a digital platform (eg website, vlog, animation, podcast). The module thus offers students opportunities to integrate their philosophical skills, knowledge and understanding with applied skills of digital communication relevant in arenas beyond the academic setting.

Students do not need digital skills beyond those they will have already acquired as final year students of Philosophy to take this module. Training is offered via a suite of learning materials as relevant to an individual's chosen mode of presentation and through scheduled supervised workshops. Advice and support are provided. Students will have the opportunity to offer peer feedback on each other's outputs before final submission.

Formal assessment is threefold:

- a) Research Report (2000 words; 45%). The student, before embarking on the module, will have identified a question or problem which they wish to research and address. The Research Report offers a summary of this, arguments put forward and conclusions drawn. It also confirms the proposed audience and output format.
- b) Digital Inquiry Project (45%). Guidance is supplied on appropriate size/length, which will vary according to platform, but be such that the project communicates the findings of the Report in a manner appropriate to the audience and digital format.
- c) Reflective Commentary (500 words, 10%). This gives students the opportunity to reflect critically on the process, identifying challenges, how these were addressed and explaining presentational decisions made.

FRONTIERS OF ETHICS (PHIL302)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module familiarises students with some of the main theories and arguments in debates about issues that raise problems for traditional ethics. These include the treatment of disability, the issue of humanitarian intervention and other matters of global concern, such as international justice, and issues raised by what some call the 'environmental crisis'. The module is taught by lecture (1 hour per week) and seminar (1 hour per week). Assessment is via a 3,500 word essay (comprising 90% of the module mark) due in the January assessment period. Students will have the opportunity to receive formative feedback on a draft essay plan towards the end of the autumn term. Students will also give one 10-15 minute seminar presentation that provides the remaining 10% of the module mark.

GAME THEORY (ECON322)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The objective of this module is to provide an introduction to Game Theory. This is the study of strategic interactions i.e. situations where outcomes depend not only on our own actions but also on how others react to our actions. This module complements those in core macro and microeconomics and offers more insight into strategic business decisions and competitive behaviour in general. In particular, we will use game theory to study market competition, auctions, bargaining, signalling, etc.

GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module provides alternative perspectives on global politics, drawing on feminist theory and gender analysis, with a focus on conflict and peace, and the implications for global politics and International Relations (IR). The module will engage with theoretical concerns (how are women affected differently by conflict and peace, how do we engage feminist methodologies) to practical concerns (conflict, security, participation, sexual violence, human rights). Theories and concepts will be illustrated with relevant global case studies and examples. The module aims to encourage engaged, critical reflection on feminist approaches to our understanding of issues in world politics.

HEALTH CARE, ECONOMICS AND JUSTICE (PHIL366)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module covers the main normative issues surrounding the delivery of health care in modern societies. It discusses the purpose of health care, the notions of health and disease, just allocation of medical resources, issues of inequity in health dispositions, and problems of prioritising and rationing in health care. It acquaints students with the main theories of health care justice and also covers problems in public health and global health inequalities. After successfully taking the module, students will be able to explain the main moral and economic problems in the provision and allocation of health care resources. They will have sufficient knowledge of underlying philosophical debates and theories in these areas to engage critically with recent public debates about the just and economically viable provision for health care needs.

The module will be delivered by 8 x 2-hour seminar groups and two 2-hour workshops.

Modes of summative assessments are i) a group presentation (weighted at 15% of the module mark); ii) a brief argument (up to 500 words) in relation to the group presentation, in the style of a "Letter to the Editor" (15%); iii) a 2000-words essay (70%).

INDUSTRIAL ORGANISATION (ECON333)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

Industrial organisation is concerned with the economic analysis of firms and industries, with a particular focus on how well consumers (society) are being served by particular industry structures and firm actions. The module incorporates debate between alternative schools of thought. The coursework is based on an industry case study selected by each student, which they research and which develops skills of independent research, writing, analysis and critical appraisal. In particular students are asked to evaluate which school of thought provides the most plausible interpretation of firm strategies and market outcomes.

INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (ECON325)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module is addressed to students of both economics and business and management. It uses rational choice and public choice to study aspects of a globalised world, which in key respects differ from that of elementary textbook models. The first part of the module introduces theoretical concepts, which are then applied in the second part of the module to study open economies in a context of globalisation. The final part of the module examines Latin America as a case study.

INTERNATIONAL TRADE (ECON335)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module aims to develop a good understanding of the main trade theories, their assumptions, implications, applications and limitations, and provide essential skills to students to engage in an analytical discussion of the impact of trade patterns, trade policies of government, foreign direct investment and World Trade Organisation on the economies of both developing and developed countries.

LAW AND ECONOMICS (ECON360)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module will be delivered via weekly small group face to face sessions and through weekly online recordings delivered asynchronously.

MACROECONOMICS 1 (ECON223)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module provides training in the principal methodologies, theories and techniques of modern macroeconomic analysis. It is designed to introduce classic macroeconomic issues such as growth, inflation, unemployment, interest rates, exchange rates, technological progress, and budget deficits. The course will provide a unified framework to address these issues and to study the impact of different policies, such as monetary and fiscal policies, on the aggregate behaviour of individuals. These analytical tools will be used to understand the recent experience of the United States and other countries and to address how current policy initiatives affect their macroeconomic performance.

MEDIA, POLITICS AND CLIMATE CHANGE (POLI345)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

The module will look at the manner in which a range of media engage with climate change and energy security, and the political and social implications that follow. Students should achieve an understanding the context of coverage (including the science, the surrounding political environment, and journalistic practice). They should also be able to understand the principal features of coverage (and their impact), and the political implications that follow. The module will be delivered via lectures, workshop-tutorials, and online tutorials. It will be assessed by exam, short essay and a student's performance in a presentation undertaken in a group alongside other students.

PHILOSOPHICAL APPROACHES TO CONFLICT (PHIL365)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module gives students the opportunity to explore selected areas of conflict in social, political and legal domains. When rights or interests clash, or seem to clash, what philosophical issues are at stake? How should the state adjudicate? Key themes include rights, freedoms and responses to oppression. The module seeks to help students develop a philosophical manner of thought that will enable them to refine their views on other similar issues of public importance, often controversial in nature, which they might encounter later in life. Representative areas for inquiry include questions such as 'Does the state have the right to display religious symbols in classrooms?' and 'How far should midwives be allowed to opt out of assisting with abortions?', and topics such as freedom and the media, the ethics of immigration, forms of oppression within society, and sexual harassment.

There are no lectures for this module; it is based on student-led research and applied learning, facilitated by the tutor in weekly two-hour workshops. Some content is sensitive, and discussions are carefully moderated to respect this. The assessment asks students to integrate their academic skills with analysis of 'real-world' scenarios. There are three research-based applied components: a presentation (15% + submitted materials 5%), case study (2000 words, 45%), and an opinion piece (1000 words, 35%). The opinion piece is published electronically as a course wiki for peer comment prior to formal submission.

Samples and in-class support will be provided.

PHILOSOPHY OF THE FUTURE (PHIL312)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The course focuses on the philosophical implications of likely (or possible) future technological developments.

The universe is billions of years old, there are billions of stars in our galaxy and billions of galaxies, and thanks to recent discoveries it now seems likely that most stars have planets. Yet so far we have seen no sign of intelligent life elsewhere in the universe. What is the significance of this 'great silence'? Advances in medical technology will soon make possible significant 'improvements' to our bodies and minds. How serious are the ethical objections to human enhancement? If teleportation technology were available many of the all too familiar problems associated with ordinary modes of transportation could be avoided.

But is teleportation actually survivable? Computers are advancing all the time, and some say that super-intelligent machines are inevitable. Are they right, and if so, what are the implications? Will it prove possible to upload ourselves into computer-sustained virtual paradises, as some transhumanists hope? Is it likely, as some have argued, that we are in fact living our lives in virtual worlds? If so, how should we conceive of these worlds? Are they as real as the real world? If we could achieve immortality, either through bio-enhancement or uploading, would it be something we could coherently desire? Is time travel really possible? Some quantum physicists maintain that the universe is continually branching. What are the implications for how we think of our lives if they are right about this?

Many of these scenarios and issues have been anticipated in science fiction. While some ('hard') sci-fi authors seek scientific plausibility, i.e. they do their best to stick within the known laws of physics, they generally pay far less attention to metaphysical and ethical issues. Yet in working out how we should respond to what the future may bring, metaphysical and ethical considerations are of paramount importance. It is with these that this course will be dealing.

The module is taught by a combination of lectures and seminars. Assessment consists of a seminar presentation (10%), an essay on a relevant topic (2,000 words, 30%) and a take-home exam (60% approx. equivalent to a 2 hour exam).

POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (POLI314)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

What are the institutional prerequisites of economic development? Global development institutions such as the World Bank or UNDP have proposed the concept of "good governance" as an answer to this question. This module critically engages with this concept by juxtaposing it with various historical institutionalist accounts of the state, including the East Asian developmental state, Africa's failed states, and the Middle Eastern rentier state. Students engage with key debates about the role of the state, democracy, corruption and the "resource curse" in economic development.

PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This module explores the theories, ideas and concepts that underpin the development of contemporary public policies.

THE CHANGING FACES OF AFRICAN POLITICS (POLI329)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

This module introduces students to a range of politicians and political thinkers from the African continent who were/ are responding to a range of political circumstances. The module aims to encourage students to think critically about the approaches studied, as well as the historical context that has led to the current political environment. In particular the module is intended to encourage students to move beyond the Eurocentric approaches often associated with canonical discussions of African politics and politicians and to think more carefully about how we engage with 'Africa'. The module combines traditional approaches to thinking about questions of politics and international relations with a theoretical and cultural studies lens. In so doing it encourages students to engage with a range of different source material and thinkers.

THE ECONOMICS OF DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECON306)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This is an introductory module to the economics of international development. It introduces students to conceptual and methodological issues within international development and provides a solid grounding in various models of economic growth and development. It builds an understanding of various contemporary issues in this area and develops critical and analytical skills in analysing the problems of developing countries. From this perspective, it is designed to prepare students for a master's course in international development or to simply bring a critical understanding of issues of developing countries to their chosen field of work.

THE MEDIA, THE INTERNET AND POLITICAL SCIENCE (POLI319)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 1

The module will cover a range of contemporary mass media and their role in the power structures of British society. Students should achieve an understanding of the mechanisms by which power is (or is not) exerted through and by the mass media; which models of power distribution are most plausible in this context; and which case studies best exemplify the mechanism at work (including mediation of protest; political mobilisation via the web; public relations and spin practices; and the phone hacking affair). The module will be delivered via lectures and workshops, and will be assessed by exam, short essay and a student's performance in a presentation undertaken in a group alongside other students.

THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RHETORIC IN BRITISH POLITICS (POLI323)

Credits: 15 / Semester: semester 2

This is the first substantive module in the UK to examine the rhetoric of British political parties at Undergraduate level. It roots its theories and methods in the classical schools of rhetorical analysis, alongside developing a more contemporary understanding of discourse analysis. This module will enable students to think critically about the political message, how it is constructed, and delivered to a range of audiences.

Any optional modules listed above are illustrative only and may vary from year to year. Modules may be subject to minimum student numbers being achieved and staff availability. This means that the availability of specific optional modules cannot be guaranteed.

HOW YOU'LL LEARN

In studying Philosophy, you will learn how to defend your views with reasoned arguments, and to assess the arguments of others. Argumentative skills are learned through attending lectures and reading philosophical texts, developed by group seminar discussions, and formally assessed through essays and exams. You will complete modules to the value of 120 credits per year, from a wide range of options available. Most modules employ a blend of lectures, seminars and online support materials. You will learn by reading and studying outside class time, by attending and participating in classes, by doing coursework and, for dissertations, via one-to-one meetings with a supervisor. There is also scope, both formally in the placement module and informally, for you to develop practical skills by volunteering.

HOW YOU'RE ASSESSED

Philosophy employs a mixture of modes of assessment: exams and coursework in many different varieties including essays, oral presentations, dissertations, exercises, and supported independent work (eg in the placement module).

LIVERPOOL HALLMARKS

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

Careers and employability

Graduating with a degree in philosophy will empower you to delve into the profound questions that shape human existence but also position you as a valuable asset in today's competitive job market.

The School has its own placements and employability officer, and you will have the opportunity to undertake a work placement or a year in industry as part of your programme.

Graduates in Philosophy obtain work in fields such as:

- advertising and marketing;
- the arts, broadcasting, and journalism;
- commerce and management;
- the civil service, law, and politics;
- teaching.

3 IN 4 PHILOSOPHY STUDENTS FIND THEIR MAIN ACTIVITY AFTER GRADUATION MEANINGFUL.

Graduate Outcomes, 2018-19.

Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

TUITION FEES

UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)	
Full-time place, per year	£9,535
Year in industry fee	£1,850

International fees	
Full-time place, per year	£24,100
Year in industry fee	£1,850

The UK full-time tuition fee and international course fee shown are correct for 2025/26 entry. We are currently awaiting confirmation of whether the year in industry fees will change, so the fees shown are for 2024/25.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about fees and funding.](#)

ADDITIONAL COSTS

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

SCHOLARSHIPS AND BURSARIES

We offer a range of scholarships and bursaries that could help pay your tuition and living expenses.

We've set the country or region your qualifications are from as United Kingdom. [Change it here](#)

- **UNDERGRADUATE GLOBAL ADVANCEMENT SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)

[If you're a high-achieving international student starting an undergraduate degree with us from September 2024, you could be eligible to receive a fee discount of up to £5,000. You'll need to achieve grades equivalent to AAA in A levels. Most of our undergraduate degrees are eligible, with the exception of clinical programmes in Medicine and Dental Surgery.](#)

- **THE LIVERPOOL BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student joining an undergraduate degree and have a household income below £35,000, you could be eligible for a Liverpool Bursary worth up to £2,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

- **ASYLUM SEEKERS SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Apply for an Asylum Seekers Scholarship and you could have your tuition fees paid in full and receive help with study costs. You'll need to have applied for asylum in the UK, or be the dependant of an asylum seeker, and be joining an eligible undergraduate degree.](#)

- **CARE LEAVERS' OPPORTUNITY BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you've spent 13 or more weeks in Local Authority care since age 14, you could be eligible for a bursary of £3,000 per year of study. You'll need to be a UK student joining an eligible undergraduate degree and be aged 28 or above on 1 September in the year you start.](#)

- **COWRIE FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Are you a UK student with a Black African or Caribbean heritage and a household income of £25,000 or less? You could be eligible to apply for a Cowrie Foundation Scholarship worth up to £8,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

- **ESTRANGED STUDENTS BURSARY**

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a UK student identified as estranged by Student Finance England \(or the equivalent UK funding body\), you could be eligible for a bursary of £1,000 for each year of undergraduate study.](#)

- **GENESYS LIFE SCIENCES SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Joining a School of Biosciences degree and have a household income of less than £25,000? If you're a UK student, you could apply to receive £4,500 per year for three years of your undergraduate course.](#)

- **GRADUATE ASSOCIATION HONG KONG & TUNG UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS**

- [International students](#)

- [Hong Kong](#)

[If you're an undergraduate student from Hong Kong who can demonstrate academic excellence, you may be eligible to apply for a scholarship worth £10,000 in partnership with the Tung Foundation.](#)

- **KAPLAN DIGITAL PATHWAYS EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP**

- [International students](#)

[Completed a Kaplan Digital Pathways Foundation Certificate? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of undergraduate study for a maximum of two high achieving students joining one of our non-clinical degrees from an online Kaplan Foundation Certificate.](#)

- **NOLAN SCHOLARSHIPS**

- [Home students](#)

[Do you live in the Liverpool City Region with a household income of £25,000 or less? Did neither of your parents attend University? You could be eligible to apply for a Nolan Scholarship worth £5,000 per year for three years of undergraduate study.](#)

- **RIGBY ENTERPRISE AWARD**

- [Home students](#)

[Are you a UK student with a household income of £25,000 or less? If you've participated in an eligible outreach programme, you could be eligible to apply for a Rigby Enterprise Award worth £5,000 per year for three years of your undergraduate degree.](#)

- **ROLABOTIC SCHOLARSHIP**

- [Home students](#)

[Are you a UK student with a household income of £25,000 or less? Did neither of your parents attend University? You could be eligible to apply for a ROLABOTIC Scholarship worth £4,500 for each year of your undergraduate degree.](#)

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SPORT LIVERPOOL PERFORMANCE PROGRAMME

- [Home and international students](#)

[Apply to receive tailored training support to enhance your sporting performance. Our athlete support package includes a range of benefits, from bespoke strength and conditioning training to physiotherapy sessions and one-to-one nutritional advice.](#)

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TECHNETIX BROADHURST ENGINEERING SCHOLARSHIP

- [Home students](#)

[Joining a degree in the School of Electrical Engineering, Electronics and Computer Science? If you're a UK student with household income below £25,000, you could be eligible to apply for £5,000 a year for three years of study. Two awards will be available per academic year.](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE EXCELLENCE SCHOLARSHIP

- [International students](#)

[Completed a Foundation Certificate at University of Liverpool International College \(UoLIC\)? We're offering a £5,000 fee discount off the first year of undergraduate study to some of the highest achieving students joining one of our non-clinical degrees from UoLIC.](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE FIRST CLASS SCHOLARSHIP

- [International students](#)

[We're offering a £1,000 fee discount for years 2 and 3 of undergraduate study to eligible students progressing from University of Liverpool International College. You'll need to be studying a non-clinical subject and get an average of 70% or above in year 1 of your degree.](#)

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UNIVERSITY OF LIVERPOOL INTERNATIONAL COLLEGE IMPACT PROGRESSION SCHOLARSHIPS

- [International students](#)

[If you're a University of Liverpool International College student awarded a Kaplan Impact Scholarship, we'll also consider you for an Impact Progression Scholarship. If selected, you'll receive a £3,000 fee discount off the first year of your undergraduate degree.](#)

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YOUNG ADULT CARER'S (YAC) BURSARY

- [Home students](#)

[If you're a young adult and a registered carer in the UK, you might be eligible for a £1,000 bursary for each year of study. You'll need to be aged 18-25 on 1 September in the year you start your undergraduate degree.](#)

Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
A levels	AAB Including A in Mathematics. Only one of General Studies, Critical Thinking and Citizenship will be accepted. You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme .
GCSE	GCSE Mathematics at grade 5/C and GCSE English at grade 4/C required.
BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma	DDD plus A level Maths at A. BTEC qualifications must be in a Business related subject.
International Baccalaureate	35 including 6 in HL Maths, with no score less than 4
Irish Leaving Certificate	H1,H1,H2,H2,H2,H3 including H1 in Maths
Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher	AAB including A in Maths.
Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced	Accepted at grade A with A levels AB (including A in Maths)
Access	45 level 3 credits at Distinction including 15 level 3 credits in Maths

Your qualification	Requirements About our typical entry requirements
International qualifications	<p>Many countries have a different education system to that of the UK, meaning your qualifications may not meet our direct entry requirements. Although there is no direct Foundation Certificate route to this course, completing a Foundation Certificate, such as that offered by the University of Liverpool International College, can guarantee you a place on a number of similar courses which may interest you.</p>

ALTERNATIVE ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

THE ORIGINAL

REDBRICK