

# UNIVERSITY OF YORK

## GRADUATE PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

<b>This document applies to students who commence the programme(s) in:</b>		September 2017			
<b>Awarding institution</b>		<b>Teaching institution</b>			
University of York		University of York			
<b>Department(s)</b>					
Philosophy					
<b>Award(s) and programme title(s)</b>			<b>Level of qualification</b>		
Graduate Diploma in Philosophy			Level 6 (Honours)		
<b>Award available <i>only</i> as interim awards</b>					
Exit route: Graduate Certificate in Philosophy					
<b>Admissions criteria</b>					
Minimum of 2.1 in an undergraduate honours degree which is not in Philosophy					
<b>Length and status of the programme(s) and mode(s) of study</b>					
Programme	Length (years) and status (full-time/part-time)	Start dates/months (if applicable – for programmes that have multiple intakes or start dates that differ from the usual academic year)	Mode		
			Face-to-face, campus-based	Distance learning	Other
GDPHISPHI1	9 months f/t 18 months p/t	September	Yes		
<b>Language of study</b>		English			
<b>Programme accreditation by Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (if applicable)</b>					
N/A					
<b>Educational aims of the programme(s)</b>					
<p>The course is intended to provide an opportunity for students with no background in Philosophy to do advanced work in the subject and to obtain thereby an H-level qualification in Philosophy.</p> <p>While the programme can be pursued valuably as an end in itself, the Graduate Diploma is also a helpful stepping stone for those with no background in Philosophy to prepare for a Master's degree in the subject.</p>					

<b>Intended learning outcomes for the programme – and how the programme enables students to achieve and demonstrate the intended learning outcomes</b>	
<i>This programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas:</i>	<i>The following teaching, learning and assessment methods enable students to achieve and to demonstrate the programme learning outcomes:</i>
<b>A: Knowledge and understanding</b>	
<p>Knowledge and understanding of:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The main areas of Western philosophy, with respect to both its history and contemporary philosophical debates;</li> <li>2. philosophical practice, including providing reasoned arguments for particular views, explaining views in ways that display their merits, and constructing counterexamples and objections to particular views;</li> <li>3. key concepts, terminology, issues and arguments in a wide range of contemporary and historical philosophical discussions.</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Seminars (1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Small group work (1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Tutorials (1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Independent Study (1, 2, 3)</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed essays (1, 2, 3)</li> <li>• Closed examinations (1, 2, 3)</li> </ul>
<b>B: (i) Skills – discipline related</b>	
<p>Able to:</p> <p><i>For the Certificate and Diploma:</i></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. write clearly and in a well-structured way;</li> <li>2. read and analyze philosophical texts carefully and sensitively;</li> <li>3. expound philosophical arguments and theories accurately and fairly;</li> <li>4. engage critically with texts and</li> <li>5. debates;</li> <li>6. identify errors of reasoning and fact;</li> <li>7. articulate precise conceptual distinctions;</li> <li>8. recognize merits of alternative views;</li> <li>9. think flexibly and imaginatively about philosophical issues (e.g. by conceiving of scenarios which serve as counterexamples to particular claims);</li> <li>10. formulate persuasive arguments in defence of one's own opinions;</li> <li>11. engage constructively in debate.</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (all, but especially 2-8)</li> <li>• Seminars (all outcomes)</li> <li>• Small group work (all, but especially 2-4, 7-10)</li> <li>• Tutorials (all outcomes)</li> <li>• Independent study (all outcomes)</li> </ul>

<p><i>Additionally for the Diploma:</i></p> <p>12. carry out an independent piece of research (Diploma Project) on a topic of their choice.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed essays (all outcomes)</li> <li>• Closed examinations (all outcomes)</li> </ul>
<b>B: (ii) Skills - transferable</b>	
<p>Able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. think and write clearly and carefully;</li> <li>2. understand and formulate complex arguments;</li> <li>3. appreciate strengths and weaknesses of arguments;</li> <li>4. identify and articulate the best case for a view;</li> <li>5. appreciate differences of opinion;</li> <li>6. access relevant information from appropriate sources (such as the library and internet);</li> <li>7. manage one's own workload;</li> <li>8. meet deadlines;</li> <li>9. develop one's skills and attributes self-reflectively;</li> <li>10. take responsibility for one's learning and activities.</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Lectures (1-5)</li> <li>• Seminars (all outcomes)</li> <li>• Small group work (1-5, 9-10)</li> <li>• Tutorials (all outcomes)</li> <li>• Independent study (all outcomes, but especially 6-10)</li> </ul> <p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Assessed essays (all outcomes)</li> <li>• Closed examinations (all outcomes)</li> </ul>
<b>C: Experience and other attributes</b>	
<p>Able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. appreciate different forms of learning, including lectures, seminars, small group work, tutorials, guided study, independent study, essay writing, oral presentation;</li> <li>2. work co-operatively and constructively with peers;</li> <li>3. engage intellectually with academics;</li> <li>4. understand the relevance of past thought to present issues;</li> <li>5. be part of a university environment in which students develop intellectually as well as personally and socially;</li> </ol>	<p>Learning/teaching methods and strategies (relating to numbered outcomes):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Studying at York (all outcomes)</li> </ul>

<p>6. be part of an intellectual community in which curiosity, rigour, intellectual honesty, imagination, and scholarship are valued and cultivated;</p> <p>7. learn about the wide range of different forms of thinking and patterns of belief both in the past and today.</p>	<p>Types/methods of assessment (relating to numbered outcomes)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• N/A</li> </ul>
---	--

**Relevant Quality Assurance Agency benchmark statement(s) and other relevant external reference points** (e.g. National Occupational Standards, or the requirements of Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies)

QAA benchmark statement for Philosophy:  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/Publications/InformationAndGuidance/Pages/Subject-benchmark-statement-Philosophy.aspx>

**University award regulations**

To be eligible for an award of the University of York a student must undertake an approved programme of study, obtain a specified number of credits (at a specified level(s)), and meet any other requirements of the award as specified in the award requirements and programme regulations, and other University regulations (e.g. payment of fees). Credit will be awarded upon passing a module's assessment(s) but some credit may be awarded where failure has been compensated by achievement in other modules. The University's award and assessment regulations specify the University's marking scheme, and rules governing progression (including rules for compensation), reassessment and award requirements. The award and assessment regulations apply to all programmes: any exceptions that relate to this programme are approved by University Teaching Committee and are recorded at the end of this document.

**Departmental policies on assessment and feedback**

Detailed information on assessment (including grade descriptors, marking procedures, word counts etc.) is available in the written statement of assessment which applies to this programme and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website:  
<http://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/current/postgraduate/>

Information on formative and summative feedback to students on their work is available in the written statement on feedback to students which applies to this programmes and the relevant module descriptions. These are available in the student handbook and on the Department's website: <http://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/current/postgraduate/>

**Diagrammatic representation of the programme structure, showing the distribution and credit value of core and option modules**

**Graduate Diploma GDPHISPHI1 (full-time students)**

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
20 credits of 1 <sup>st</sup> year modules (C)* 20 credits of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year modules (H)	40 credits of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year modules (H)	Project (30 credits) (H)
PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills (10 credits)		

**Part 1 Graduate Diploma GDPHISPHI1 (Part time students, year 1)**

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
20 credits of 1 <sup>st</sup> year modules (C)*	20 credits of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year modules (H)	Project (10 credits) (H)
PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills (10 credits)		

**Part 2 Graduate Diploma GDPHISPHI1 (Part time students, year 2)**

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term
40 credits of 3 <sup>rd</sup> year modules (H)		Project (20 credits) (H)

\*Must include either Reason and Argument A (20 credits) or Reason and Argument B(10 credits)

The Graduate Certificate (as an exit route) is awarded on the basis of completing 60 credits taken from the modules available to Diploma students.



**Diagrammatic representation of the timing of module assessments and reassessments, and the timing of departmental examination/progression boards**

Autumn term	Spring term	Summer term	Summer vacation	Date of final award board
<p><b>Week 10:</b> Essays due for Reason and Argument A</p>	<p><b>Week 1:</b> Exams for Reason and Argument A and B, and Early Modern Philosophy B.</p> <p><b>Week 2:</b> Essays due for 3<sup>rd</sup> year autumn term module</p>	<p><b>Week 2:</b> Essays due for 3<sup>rd</sup> year spring term modules</p> <p><b>Week 1:</b> Reflective Journal and online component due for Research Skills module.</p> <p><b>Week 10:</b> Project Essay due for f/t and p/t Project modules.</p>	<p><b>University Reassessment Period (3<sup>rd</sup> week of August):</b> Reassessment (up to 40 credits for the Graduate Diploma; up to 20 credits for the Graduate Certificate)</p> <p><b>First week of September:</b> Post reassessment meeting (if required)</p>	<p>If no resits required, July or August; if resits required, early September – during UG Resit BoE meetings</p>





## Overview of modules

### Graduate Diploma Core module table

Module title	Module code	Credit level <sup>1</sup>	Credit value <sup>2</sup>	Prerequisites	Assessment rules <sup>3</sup>	Timing (term and week) and format of main assessment <sup>4</sup>
Diploma Project (full-time students)	PHI00044H	6/H	30	None	None	Essay Week 10 SuT
Diploma Project (part-time students Yr1A)	PHI00042H	6/H	10	None	None	Essay Week 10 SuT (Block 1A)
Diploma Project (part-time students Yr1B)	PHI00043H	6/H	20	None	None	Essay Week 10 SuT (Block 1B)
Either: Reason and Argument A	PHI00005C	4/C	20	None	None	Essay Week 10 AuT and Closed Exam Week 1 SpT
Or: Reason and Argument B <i>and</i> Early Modern Philosophy B	PHI00006C	4/C	10	None	None	Closed Exam Week 1 SpT
	PHI00002C	4/C	10	None	None	Closed Exam Week 1 SpT
Postgraduate Research Skills	PHI00008M	6/H	10	None	None	Online element to be completed by Wk 1 SuT Reflective journal to be submitted Wk 1 SuT

### Graduate Diploma Option modules

Module title	Module code	Credit level	Credit value	Prerequisites	Assessment rules	Timing and format of main assessment
--------------	-------------	--------------	--------------	---------------	------------------	--------------------------------------

<sup>1</sup> The **credit level** is an indication of the module's relative intellectual demand, complexity and depth of learning and of learner autonomy. Most modules in graduate programmes will be at Level 6/Honours. Graduate programmes may exceptionally include a maximum of 20 credits-worth of level 7(M) modules. The use of level 7 (M) credit must be approved by University Teaching Committee and recorded by departments and the University.

<sup>2</sup> The **credit value** gives the notional workload for the module, where 1 credit corresponds to a notional workload of 10 hours (including contact hours, private study and assessment)

<sup>3</sup> **Special assessment rules** (requiring University Teaching Committee approval)

P/F – the module is marked on a pass/fail basis (NB pass/fail modules cannot be compensated)

NC – the module cannot be compensated

NR – there is no reassessment opportunity for this module. It must be passed at the first attempt

<sup>4</sup> AuT – Autumn Term, SpT – Spring Term, SuT – Summer Term, SuVac – Summer vacation

Consciousness	PHI00018H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SpT
Personal Identity	PHI00005H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SpT
Language and Mind	PHI00046H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SpT
Philosophy of Art from Hume to Tolstoy	PHI00091H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SpT
Philosophy of Christianity	PHI00058H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SpT
Suffering and the Good	PHI00096H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT
Contemporary Issues in Bioethics	PHI00002H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT
German Idealism	PHI00073H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT
Analytic Aesthetics	PHI00100H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT
Philosophy of the Emotions	PHI00081H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT
Wittgenstein and Philosophy	PHI00097H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT
Value and the Meaning of Life	PHI00075H	H	20	None	None	Essay Week 2 SuT

<b>Transfers out of or into the programme</b>	
N/A	
<b>Exceptions to University Award Regulations approved by University Teaching Committee</b>	
<b>Exception</b>	<b>Date approved</b>
<b>Quality and Standards</b>	
<p>The University has a framework in place to ensure that the standards of its programmes are maintained, and the quality of the learning experience is enhanced.</p> <p>Quality assurance and enhancement processes include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The academic oversight of programmes within departments by a Board of Studies, which includes student representation</li> <li>• The oversight of programmes by external examiners, who ensure that standards at the University of York are comparable with those elsewhere in the sector</li> <li>• Annual monitoring and periodic review of programmes</li> <li>• The acquisition of feedback from students by departments.</li> </ul> <p>More information can be obtained from the Academic Support Office:  <a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/">http://www.york.ac.uk/about/departments/support-and-admin/academic-support/</a></p>	
<b>Date on which this programme information was updated:</b>	1 September 2017
<b>Departmental web page:</b>	<a href="http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/phil/">http://www.york.ac.uk/depts/phil/</a>
<b>Please note</b>	
<p>The information above provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and learning outcomes that a typical students might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the leaning opportunities that are provided.</p> <p>Detailed information on learning outcomes, content, delivery and assessment of modules can be found in module descriptions.</p> <p>The University reserves the right to modify this overview in unforeseen circumstances, or where processes of academic development, based on feedback from staff, students, external examiners or professional bodies, requires a change to be made. Students will be notified of any substantive changes at the first available opportunity.</p>	