

# MA Philosophy & Artificial Intelligence

**New College of  
the Humanities**



## MA Philosophy & Artificial Intelligence Introduction

The emerging prevalence of Artificial Intelligence (AI) across all areas of our modern world accelerates the need to actively address the ethical and theoretical challenges that arise in connection with the uses of data and application of AI.

Poised at the intersection of the humanities and technology, this innovative Masters degree can equip you with the combination of thinking, communication, and technical skills widely sought in sectors ranging from professional services, to the creative industries and government.

The MA Philosophy & Artificial Intelligence is designed to equip you with the skills to succeed in roles working alongside data scientists in developing and deploying applications, communicating with clients or providing oversight on projects with wide-ranging stakeholders.

### Meet the Head of Faculty

Dr Brian Ball is the Head of Faculty and Associate Professor in Philosophy at New College of the Humanities. He received a Bachelor of Arts from McGill University with Honours in Philosophy and a Minor Concentration in Linguistics, and on graduation was awarded the Prince of Wales Medal in Mental and Moral Philosophy. He then completed the BPhil in Philosophy at the University of Oxford as a Marion Buck scholar, and stayed for a DPhil, carried out under the supervision of Dorothy Edgington and John Hawthorne, and funded by the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. He was subsequently a lecturer in Philosophy at St Anne's, and then Balliol College, University of Oxford.

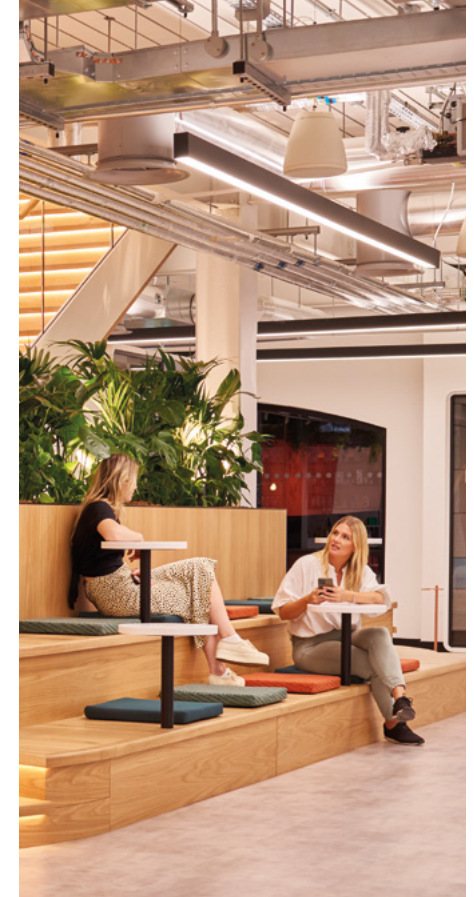


## Research at NCH

Research at NCH is truly interdisciplinary, with philosophers, historians, lawyers, and English, politics and economics scholars working hand-in-hand with technical experts in data science and artificial intelligence.

Research areas span ethics in AI, urban and global analytics, higher education in the twenty-first century and global sustainability. In 2022, NCH will become the European centre for Northeastern University's (US) Network Science Institute. NCH's research showcases the power and importance of the humanities in the digital age. Recent research awards and highlights include:

Entwining the disciplines of philosophy and computer science, the research project PolyGraphs: Combating Networks of Ignorance in the Misinformation Age, seeks to explore misinformation in the age of social media. The two-year, £100,000 project, funded by the British Academy, Royal Society and the



Leverhulme Trust, led by Dr Brian Ball and Dr Alexandros Koliouisis at NCH, and in collaboration with the University of Bristol, will employ computer simulations of large, realistic social networks to explore the complex dynamics of ignorance within groups.

# Your Courses

## Full time – 1 year

### Michaelmas:

- Minds and Reality (20 credits)
- AI and Data Ethics (15 credits)

### Plus ONE of the following breadth courses:

- Aesthetics (20 credits)
- Ancient Philosophy (20 credits)
- Early Modern Philosophy (20 credits)
- History of Ethics (20 credits)
- Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy (20 credits)
- Metaphysics (20 credits)
- Political Philosophy (20 credits)

### and ONE of the following depth courses:

- Epistemology (15 credits)
- Formal Logic (15 credits)
- Philosophical Logic (15 credits)
- Philosophy of Language (15 credits)

- Philosophy of Mind (15 credits)
- Philosophy of Science (15 credits)
- Technology and Human Values (15 credits)
- Programming with Data (15 credits)
- Foundations of Data Science (15 credits)

### Hilary:

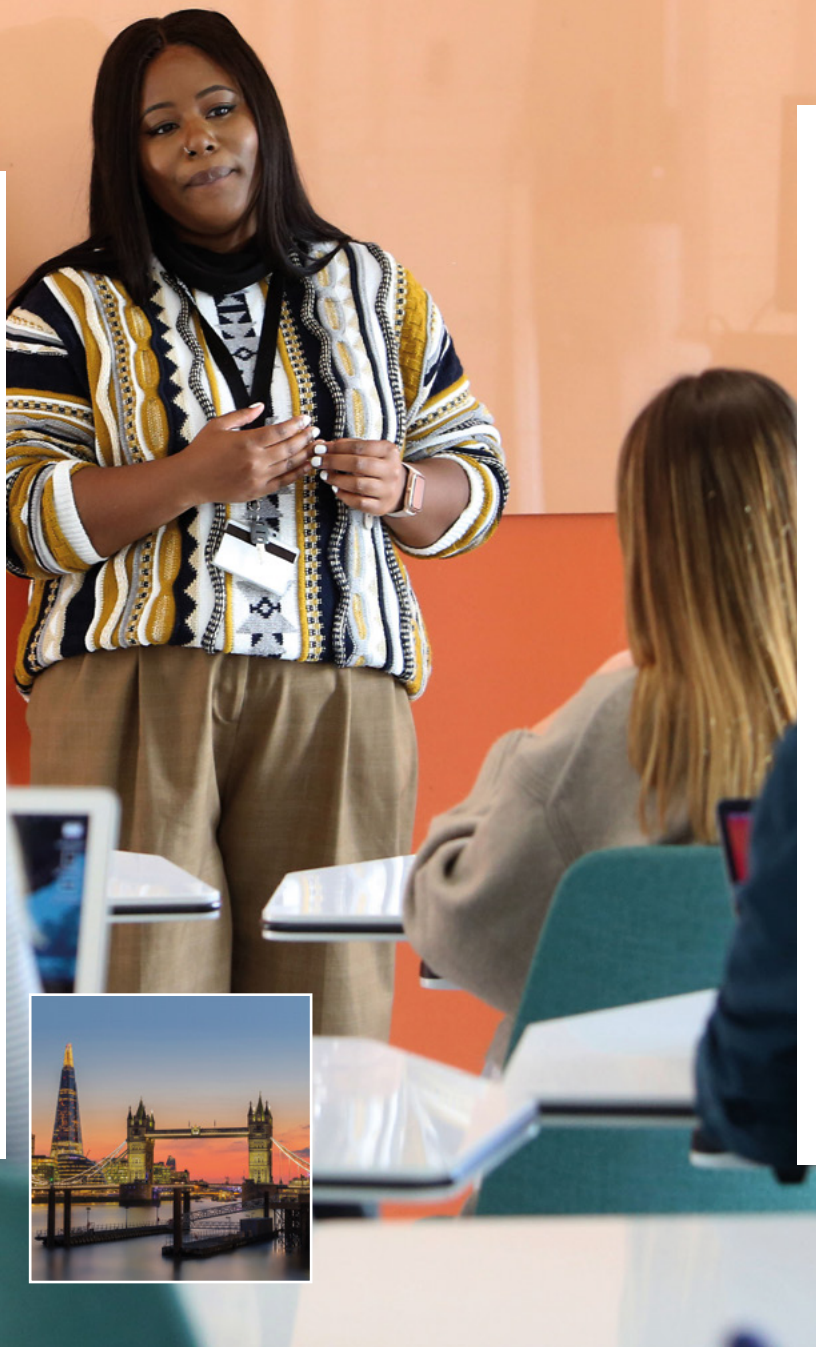
- Values and Society (20 credits)
- Minds and Machines (15 credits)

### Continuation of breadth option from Michaelmas

### Choose a second depth course

### Trinity:

- Philosophy and AI Masters Dissertation (60 credits)



## Part-time – 2 year

### YEAR 1 - Michaelmas:

- Minds and Reality (20 credits)

### Plus ONE of the following breadth courses:

- Aesthetics (20 credits)
- Ancient Philosophy (20 credits)
- Early Modern Philosophy (20 credits)
- History of Ethics (20 credits)
- Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy (20 credits)
- Metaphysics (20 credits)
- Political Philosophy (20 credits)

### Hilary:

### Continuation of breadth course from Year 1 Michaelmas

- Values and Society (20 credits)

### Trinity:

- Begin Philosophy and AI Masters Dissertation (60 credits)

## YEAR 2 - Michaelmas:

- AI and Data Ethics (15 credits)

### Plus ONE of the following depth courses:

- Epistemology (15 credits)
- Formal Logic (15 credits)
- Philosophical Logic (15 credits)
- Philosophy of Language (15 credits)
- Philosophy of Mind (15 credits)
- Philosophy of Science (15 credits)
- Technology and Human Values (15 credits)
- Programming with Data (15 credits)
- Foundations of Data Science (15 credits)

### Hilary:

- Minds and Machines (15 credits)

### Choose a second depth option

### Trinity:

- Complete Philosophy and AI Masters Dissertation (60 credits)

The courses above are subject to change in line with faculty availability and student demand so there is no guarantee every course will be delivered. For further information, please speak to your admissions contact and visit: [www.nchlondon.ac.uk/notice](http://www.nchlondon.ac.uk/notice)

## Your reading list

We encourage you to dip into some of the books below to obtain a sense of what is involved in the study of Philosophy & AI.

It is not compulsory to read all or any of the texts but we do believe you will find it easier to adjust to postgraduate study with a broad understanding of the concepts covered in your degree. At this stage, it is best to gain a general view rather than attempt to acquire a detailed understanding of any specific topic.

The following books will assist you to do so:

- Boddington (2017), *Towards a Code of Ethics for Artificial Intelligence*, Springer.
- Boden (2018), *Artificial Intelligence: A Very Short Introduction*, OUP: Oxford.
- Bringsjord and Govindarajulu (2020), 'Artificial Intelligence', in Zalta (ed.) *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- Dennett (2013), *Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking*, W.W. Norton and Company: London (especially part IV 'An Interlude About Computers')
- Müller (2020), 'Ethics of Artificial Intelligence and Robotics', in Zalta (ed.) *The Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy*
- Papineau (2012), *Philosophical Devices*, OUP: Oxford.
- Sandler (2014), *Ethics and Emerging Technologies*, Palgrave MacMillan: Basingstoke.
- Wooldridge (2020), *The Road to Conscious Machines*, Pelican: London.
- Simon Blackburn, *Think* (1999)
- Edward Craig, *Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (2002)
- Thomas Nagel, *Mortal Questions* (1979)

## Chat on UniBuddy

Chat to current students, including students who study Philosophy, to find out what NCH is really like!

Have questions about:

- Employability options
- Admissions
- Funding
- Well being
- Accommodation

Contact your admissions contact or email us at: [info@nchlondon.ac.uk](mailto:info@nchlondon.ac.uk)

Have you followed us on social media yet? [@nchlondon](https://twitter.com/nchlondon)



This document is prepared ahead of the academic period to which it relates to provide potential students with an overview of the programmes for which they are applying. As a result, there may be infrequent occasions when the College is unable to offer individual courses, degree programmes, or services described herein. Furthermore, the College reserves the right to withdraw individual courses or degree programmes where there is an insufficient number of applications or confirmed students to make the course viable. On such occasions, students will be informed of changes within a reasonable timescale and another individual course or degree programme will be offered, which will have equal academic benefit to the course or degree programme originally described.

From time to time, individual faculty members may stop teaching at the College. In such instances, the College will undertake reasonable endeavours to ensure that students are taught by another academic with an appropriate level of qualification, research interests, and experience.

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