



MA Philosophy

**New College of
the Humanities**



MA Philosophy Introduction

The Master of Arts in Philosophy is designed to help you to understand a wide range of techniques in philosophical reasoning.

On the programme you will develop skills such as critical reasoning, logic and systematic approaches to problem solving, alongside an ability to analyse an issue from a broader perspective, all of which are highly valued by employers in a variety of fields.

This MA is also excellent preparation for a PhD and career in academia with optional courses that encourage you to specialise further into different areas of philosophy.

You will engage with central philosophical texts and debates and develop research, speaking and writing skills that underpin a career in the philosophy profession and support an informed, reflective and thoughtful approach to life.

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.

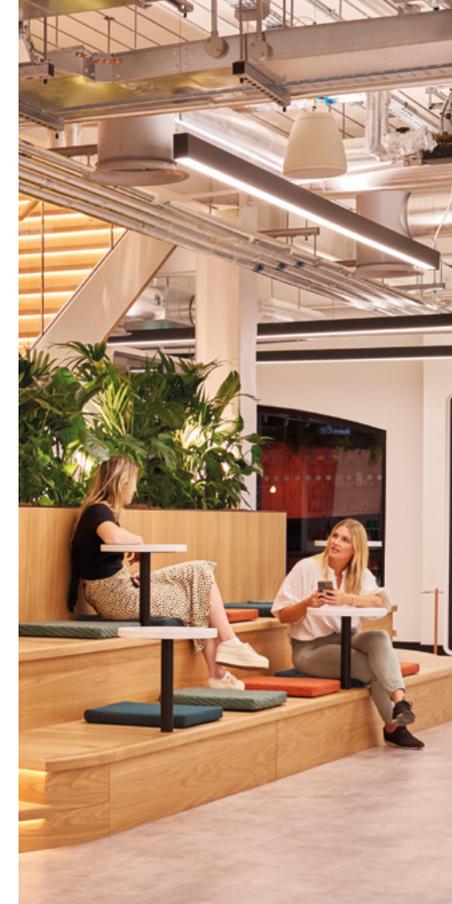


Research at NCH

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.



Wittgenstein, arguably one of the most important twentieth century philosophers (documented in Wittgenstein: A Very Short Introduction by Professor A C Grayling, founder of NCH) will be the focus of an international research community at NCH this summer. The correlation between Wittgenstein's philosophical theories and how they relate to artificial intelligence theories of today will be explored in the 11th British Wittgenstein Society Conference on the theme of Wittgenstein and AI, hosted by NCH in July 2022.

Your Courses

Full time – 1 year

Michaelmas:

- Minds & Reality (20 credits)

Plus FOUR of the following in-depth courses:

- Aesthetics (20 credits)
- Ancient Philosophy (20 credits)
- Contemporary Ethics (20 credits)
- Early Modern Philosophy (20 credits)
- Epistemology & Philosophy (20 credits)
- History of Ethics (20 credits)
- Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy (20 credits)
- Logic (20 credits)
- Metaphysics (20 credits)
- Philosophy of Mind & Language (20 credits)
- Political Philosophy (20 credits)

Hilary:

- Values & Society (20 credits)

Plus CONTINUATION of the FOUR in-depth courses from Michaelmas:

Trinity:

- Philosophy Masters Dissertation



Part-time – 2 year

YEAR 1 - Michaelmas:

- Mind and Reality (20 credits)

Plus ONE of the following in-depth courses:

- Aesthetics (20 credits)
- Ancient Philosophy (20 credits)
- Contemporary Ethics (20 credits)
- Early Modern Philosophy (20 credits)
- Epistemology & Philosophy (20 credits)
- History of Ethics (20 credits)
- Kant and Post-Kantian Philosophy (20 credits)
- Logic (20 credits)
- Metaphysics (20 credits)
- Philosophy of Mind & Language (20 credits)
- Political Philosophy (20 credits)

Hilary:

- Values and Society (20 credits)
- Continuation of in-depth course from Year 1 Michaelmas

Trinity:

- Begin Dissertation (60 credits)

YEAR 2 - Michaelmas:

Choose 3 further in-depth courses

Hilary:

- Continuation of 3 further in-depth courses from Year 2 Michaelmas

Trinity:

- Continue 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

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.

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:

- Rebecca Buxton and Lisa Whiting (eds.), *The Philosopher Queens* (2020)
- Simon Blackburn, *Think* (1999)
- Edward Craig, *Philosophy: A Very Short Introduction* (2002)
- Daniel C. Dennett, *Intuition Pumps and Other Tools for Thinking* (2013)
- J. L. Mackie, *Ethics: Inventing Right and Wrong* (1977)
- Plato, *The Last Days of Socrates*, ed. Tredennick (Penguin)
- Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels, *The Communist Manifesto* (1848)
- J. S. Mill, *On Liberty* (1869); *The Subjection of Women* (1869)
- Thomas Nagel, *Mortal Questions* (1979)
- Iris Murdoch, *The Sovereignty of Good* (1970)
- René Descartes, *Meditations on First Philosophy*, ed. J. Cottingham (1641)
- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792)
- Graham Priest, *Logic: A Very Short Introduction* (2000)
- Bertrand Russell, *The Problems of Philosophy* (1912)
- Jonathan Wolff, *An Introduction to Political Philosophy* (1996)
- Charles Mills, *The Racial Contract* (1997)
- Miranda Fricker, *Epistemic Injustice* (2007)
- Martha Nussbaum, *The Monarchy of Fear* (2018)
- Malcolm Budd, *Values of Art* (1996)
- R.G. Collingwood, *The Principles of Art* (1938)
- Richard Wollheim, *Art and its Objects* (1971)

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

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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