

VV56: Philosophy and Theology



Undergraduate BA 2021

Essentials

Please note: 2020-21 courses may be affected by Covid-19 and are therefore subject to change due to the ongoing impact of Covid-19. Summaries of course-specific changes resulting from the impact of Covid-19 will be provided to applicants during August 2020.

For the latest information on our plans for teaching in academic year 2020/21 in light of Covid-19, please see www.durham.ac.uk/coronavirus

UCAS code	VV56
Degree	BA
Mode of study	Full Time
Duration	3 Years
Location	Durham City (www.durham.ac.uk/study/location/durham.city)
A-Level	AAA
BTEC	DDD
International Baccalaureate	37
Alternative qualifications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Other UK qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/UK.pdf) • EU qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/resources/undergraduate/apply/EU.pdf) • International qualifications (www.dur.ac.uk/international/country.information/)
Contextual Offers	You may be eligible for an offer which is one or two grades lower than our standard entry requirements. Find out more (www.durham.ac.uk/study/ug/apply/contextualoffers/).
More information	Still have questions? (www.durham.ac.uk/study/askus/)
Department(s) Website	www.durham.ac.uk/philosophy www.durham.ac.uk/theology.religion

Course Summary

Description

The study of philosophy at Durham does not follow one particular school. The Department is unique in the UK in its wide-ranging expertise in Anglo-American analytical philosophy and continental philosophy. Each of these has its own distinctive set of issues and approaches to resolving them. We also have special expertise in the philosophy of science, and social science, and the history of science and medicine. So at Durham, you will follow one of the widest-ranging philosophy degrees in the country.

At Durham, you will have the opportunity to study Philosophy as a Single Honours degree, or with another subject including: English, Psychology, Politics or Theology. Philosophy can also be combined in a Joint Honours degree within the Natural Sciences degree or as part of a Combined Honours degree.

Philosophy is a new subject for many students, so in your first year, you follow a range of introductory courses, introducing the fundamental philosophical subject areas.

Year 1

In the first year, you will take the core modules of Ethics and Values, Knowledge and Reality, and Reading Philosophy. The first two of these concern the two broad divisions of Philosophy, into Metaphysics and Theory of Knowledge on the one hand, and Moral Philosophy on the other. Reading Philosophy is a text-based course which examines in depth classic works of philosophy.

You will take two compulsory modules in Theology and Religion:

- Introduction to the New Testament
- Introduction to Christian Theology.

In addition, you are able to choose one further module from those offered by Theology and Religion.

Years 2 and 3

In the second year, you will take Philosophy of Religion. In the second and third years, you will also have a choice of a wide range of Philosophy topics.

In previous years these have included:

- Moral Theory
- Modern Philosophy I and II
- History of Science and Medicine
- Issues in Contemporary Ethics
- Philosophy of Religion
- Political Philosophy
- Metaphysics
- Language, Logic and Reality

- Twentieth Century European Philosophy
- Philosophy of Science
- The Philosophy of Economics and Politics: Theory, Methods and Values
- Applied Ethics
- Philosophical Issues in Contemporary Science
- History and Philosophy of Psychiatry
- Biomedical Ethics Past and Present
- Philosophy of Mind.

A similarly wide range of modules are available in Theology.

In previous years these have included:

- Literature and Theology of the Old Testament
- New Testament Theology: Exploring Paul and John
- Death, Ritual and Belief
- Christian Theology: The Essential Questions
- The Making of Modern Christianity: Medieval and Reformation Europe
- Philosophy and the Christian Religion 100–1300
- God, Freedom and the Soul
- Topics in Christian Ethics
- Science and Theology: Exploring the Interface
- Religion in Contemporary Britain
- Judaism
- God and the Universe of Faiths
- Religion and Film
- The Postmodern God
- The Theology of Thomas Aquinas
- Landscapes of Worship in Contemporary South Asia.

You will also have the opportunity to study a subject in depth, by writing a substantial dissertation of your choice.

We review course structures and core content (in light of e.g. external and student feedback) every year and will publish finalised core requirements for 2021 entry from September 2020.

Study Abroad

Philosophy

We participate in exchange schemes through which you may spend a year of your studies abroad, either with universities in Europe – through the ERASMUS programme – or with the University of California.

Theology and Religion

We are part of the ERASMUS programme which encourages students to study for part of their course in an EU university. We currently have exchange links with the following European universities where teaching is offered in the language of the country:

- Strasbourg (France)
- Tübingen, Kiel and Erfurt (Germany)

- Bern (Switzerland)
- Iasi (Romania)
- Athens and Thessaloniki (Greece).

ERASMUS students can follow courses in English at our current partner universities in:

- Leuven (Belgium)
- Helsinki (Finland)
- Uppsala (Sweden)
- Oslo (Norway)
- Reykjavic (Iceland).

You can also benefit from the non-EU exchange schemes set up by Durham University which, at the time of writing, include:

- Boston College (USA)
- The University of British Columbia (Canada)
- McMaster University (Canada)
- Queens University (Canada)
- University of Calgary (Canada)
- The University of Hong Kong (China)
- The National University of Singapore (Singapore)
- University of Otago (New Zealand)
- University of Western Australia (Australia).

Placement Year

You may be able to take a work placement. Find out more (www.durham.ac.uk/placements/).

Admissions Process

Subject requirements, level and grade

A level offer – AAA. Philosophy at AS or A level is not a requirement.

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma/OCR Cambridge Technical Extended Diploma – DDD.

Typical IB score 37 to include 666 in higher level subjects.

In addition to satisfying the University's general entry requirements, please note:

- We welcome applications from those with other qualifications equivalent to our standard entry requirements and from mature students with non-standard qualifications or who may have had a break in their study.
- We consider each application holistically. Whilst academic achievement is important, it is not the only factor that we consider when assessing applications and applicants who have achieved, or are predicted to achieve, close to our typical offer, but who have not met it exactly, will be welcome to apply if they have a strong application in other key elements, for example can demonstrate merit and potential through their personal statement or their reference.
- An interview may form part of the entry requirements for mature students with non-standard qualifications.
- We are pleased to consider applications for deferred entry.

Science A levels

Applicants taking Science A levels that include a practical component will be required to take and pass this as a condition of entry. This applies only to applicants sitting A levels with an English examination board.

English Language requirements

Please check requirements for your subject and level of study (www.durham.ac.uk/learningandteaching.handbook/1/3/3/)

How to apply

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/apply

Information relevant to your country

www.durham.ac.uk/international/country.information/

Fees and Funding

Full Time Fees

EU Student	£22,250.00 per year
Home Student	£9,250.00 per year
Island Student	£9,250.00 per year
International non-EU Student	£22,250.00 per year

The tuition fees shown for **home** students are for one complete academic year of full time study and are set according to the academic year of entry. Fees for subsequent years of your course may rise in line with an inflationary uplift as determined by the government.

The tuition fees shown for **overseas and EU** students are for one complete academic year of full time study, are set according to the academic year of entry, and remain the same throughout the duration of the programme for that cohort (**unless otherwise stated**).

Please also check costs for colleges and accommodation (www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/accommodation/costs/).

Scholarships and funding

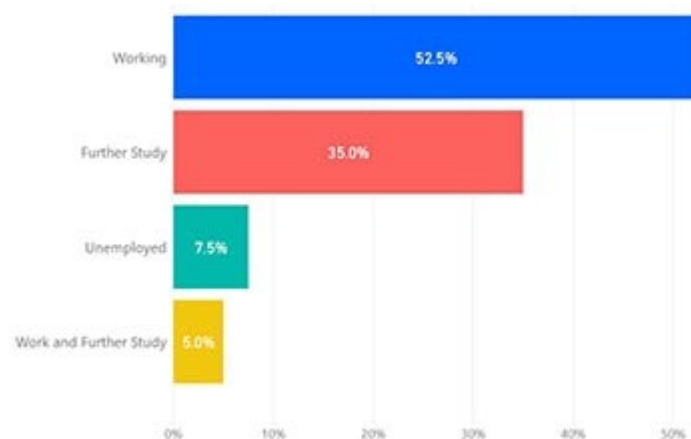
www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/finance

Career Opportunities

Philosophy

Durham Philosophy graduates possess skills in critical thinking, logical analysis and the clear communication of complex information that make them much sought after in many professional walks of life. Our research-led teaching ensures that they are not only well informed about the latest developments in Philosophy, but also competent researchers in their own right, able to think for themselves and tackle problems imaginatively. Philosophy at Durham is not an 'ivory tower' subject and students are taught to relate theory to practice and see the relevance of their studies to everyday life. Our broad programme covers all major areas of Philosophy and includes modules in moral philosophy (e.g. *Applied Ethics* and *Biomedical Ethics*), *Political Philosophy*, *Science & Religion*, *History & Philosophy of Psychiatry* and *Theory, Literature and Society* which explicitly apply philosophical techniques to real-world problems.

All students in their final year write a long dissertation that provides an excellent opportunity for them to put the final edge on their analytical, research and presentational skills. Some Durham Philosophy graduates proceed to higher-degree study and an academic career; others enter a wide range of professions including the law and civil service, management, public relations, teaching, marketing, retail and financial services. In the 2012 Complete University Guide, Durham Philosophy graduates rank joint-second in the UK for 'graduate prospects'.



Of those students that left in 2017:

- 92% are in employment or further study six months after graduating

Of those in employment:

- 87% are in graduate level employment
- Median salary £25,500

(Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey of 2016/17 graduates. The DLHE

survey asks leavers from higher education what they are doing six months after graduation. Full definitions for the DLHE Record can be found here:www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions/destinations)

A significant number of students progress onto higher level study following their degree in Philosophy. Many remain within their academic field of interest and pursue a Masters, notably at Durham but also at other prestigious institutions including the London School of Economics and Cambridge. Others take a different route and pursue professional postgraduate programmes in law, finance and teaching to name but a few.

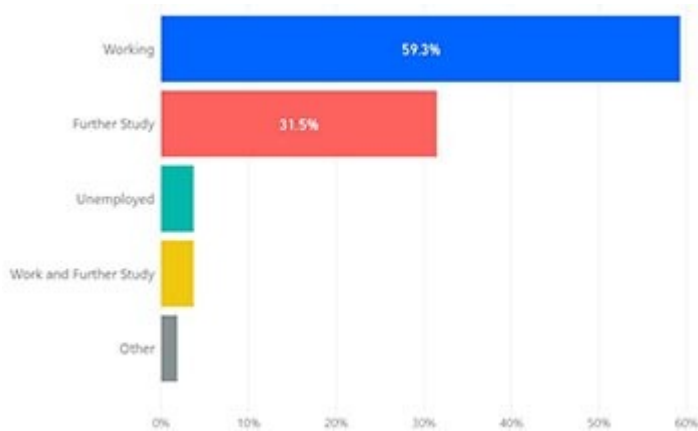
Employability development opportunities

The Careers, Employability and Enterprise Centre (www.durham.ac.uk/careers/) works closely with the Philosophy Department. The link Careers Adviser delivers presentations to each year group on topics relevant to that stage of their academic career. These cover career decision making, successful applications and interviews, and advice for those considering further study. Q & A sessions are also available in which students can ask the adviser anything about their future career plans or ideas.

Durham University Philosophy graduates enter a wide range of career areas including publishing, retail, marketing, business and finance. Our graduates find employment with leading employers in both the public and private sectors such as British Telecom, The Royal Society of Medicine, Goldman Sachs, Government Olympic Committee, KPMG, The Royal Navy and PwC. Specific roles our graduates have progressed into include marketing graduate, trainee accountant, international financial analyst, account manager and press publishing administrator.

Theology and Religion

“ Studying Theology and Religion I learnt how to develop and present my arguments and appreciate and critique those of others. Developing these communication and analytical skills has been really important in preparing me for my current role, as this includes working with colleagues on project teams, finding solutions to challenges and sometimes analysing complex data. Equally, studying a diverse range of topics during my degree, from Church History to the Anthropology of Religion, has prepared me to adapt to the varied nature of the graduate scheme. I also elected to study several ethics modules, which has undoubtedly informed my career path and choice of business: I knew that I wanted to work for a business which was commercially competitive, but shaped by its ethical values. ”



Of those students that left in 2017:

- **96%** are in employment or further study six months after graduating

Of those in employment:

- **77%** are in graduate level employment
 - Median salary £22,000

(Source: Destinations of Leavers from Higher Education (DLHE) survey of 2016/17 graduates. The DLHE survey asks leavers from higher education what they are doing six months after graduation. Full definitions for the DLHE Record can be found here: www.hesa.ac.uk/support/definitions/destinations)

A significant number of students progress onto higher level study following their degree in theology and religion. Some remain within their academic field of interest and pursue a Masters, notably at Durham but also other prestigious institutions. Others take a different route and pursue professional postgraduate programmes in law, finance and teaching at institutions including Manchester, King's College, Cambridge and Oxford.

Employment development opportunities

The Careers, Employability and Enterprise Centre (www.durham.ac.uk/careers/) collaborates closely with the Department of Theology and Religion. The link Careers Adviser delivers presentations to each year group on a range of areas including options with the subject, career decision making, successful applications and interviews, and advice for those considering further study. Student representatives also organise alumni events at which Durham Theology and Religion graduates return to speak about their career experiences, offering first hand advice and tips on how to enter different sectors.

Durham University theology and religion graduates enter a wide range of career areas including teaching, government, law, recreation and leisure, marketing, business and finance. Our graduates find employment with leading employers such as the Cooperative Group, Teach First, Samaritans, Legal Services Commission, National Health Service, Royal Placement Agency, National Theatre and Deloitte.

Specific roles our graduates have progressed into include project manager, teacher, clergy, communications researcher, events organiser, projects officer and civil servant.

Recruitment Consultancies

Using recruitment consultancies can be a very useful approach to help you find employment. You can identify consultancies using the Recruitment and Employment Confederation (www.rec.uk.com/jobseeker) website. Consultancies specialising in graduate opportunities, such as the Graduate Recruitment Bureau (www.grb.uk.com), can also be an excellent source of help.

Open days and visits

Pre-application open day

Pre-application open days are the best way to discover all you need to know about Durham University. With representatives from all relevant academic and support service departments, and opportunities to explore college options, the open days provide our prospective undergraduates with the full experience of Durham University.

Please see the following page for further details and information on how to book a place:
www.durham.ac.uk/opendays

Discover Durham Tours

Discover Durham tours offer a brief introduction to the University. The tour begins at one of our undergraduate colleges, where you will receive an introductory talk from a member of college staff, followed by a tour of the college by current students.

www.durham.ac.uk/undergraduate/live/visit/discoverdurham

Overseas Visit Schedule

www.durham.ac.uk/international/office/meetus

Department Information

Philosophy

Overview

Philosophy studies profound and important questions that arise in all areas of human life. At Durham University, we offer a distinctive, research-led Philosophy curriculum, incorporating considerable levels of variety and choice. Whatever you choose, you will be taught by internationally renowned experts in the field.

We are one of the UK's top philosophy departments. The exceptionally high-quality education you receive here will equip you with critical abilities that can be put to use in all sorts of ways and which are prized by employers.

Rankings

- World Top 100 in the *QS World University Subject Rankings 2020*.
- 5th in *The Guardian University Guide 2020*.

Staff

For a current list of staff, please see the Philosophy Department web pages (www.dur.ac.uk/philosophy/staff/).

Facilities

Durham is one of the larger Philosophy departments in the UK, with 20 permanent members of staff. We are known as a very friendly department where you will have a lot of contact with full-time academic staff. We have an excellent department library that complements the University and college libraries. There is an active Philosophical Society and a weekly research seminar which students are welcome to attend.

Website

www.durham.ac.uk/philosophy

Theology and Religion

Overview

Durham is a place of self-discovery, where 'belief' and 'beliefs' are taken seriously.

Human beings always have had, and always will have, worldviews and fundamental beliefs about the way the universe is, and their role in it. This is the part of the human condition that is studied in Theology and Religion at Durham, from a range of methodological and disciplinary perspectives: social scientific/anthropological; textual; historical; and philosophical/ethical.

Rankings

- World **Top 4** in the *QS World University Subject Rankings 2020*.

- 2nd in *The Times and Sunday Times University Guide 2020* and *The Complete University Guide 2020*.

Staff

For a current list of staff, please see the Theology & Religion Department web pages.

Facilities

Durham University has important museums including the Oriental Museum that houses many religious artefacts. Durham University students are given the opportunity to learn from, research and handle objects not normally on view to the public.

We are well placed for the study of living religious traditions and enjoy a strong relationship with the adjacent cathedral. We also have good links to other faith communities in the North East and run regular field trips to Durham's Muslim chapel, Newcastle's Hindu Temple and Newcastle's Gurdwara. The department has connections with the highly active societies for Theology and Religion, which are active in organising seminar series, field trips and social events.

We enjoy centrally located classrooms in historically important buildings that are comfortably furnished and fully integrated into the digital age. The new Centre for Teaching and Learning, located on Saint Mary's Field, is due to open for the 2019 academic year and will push forward the current boundaries of learning environments and technologies.

The Bill Bryson library is centrally located and well stocked with relevant Theology, Religion and Cultural Studies holdings with both the latest in academic research across these areas and a large collection of historical texts relating to Oriental religions. The Cathedral Sharp library has strong theological holdings and the nearby Ushaw library has around 30,000 early printed books and a major collection of archives and manuscripts, some of which formed part of the medieval monastic library of Durham Priory.

Website

www.durham.ac.uk/theology.religion

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