

HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

Programme Specification

1. Title: MPhil Stud (Master of Philosophical Studies)	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	MPhilStud
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	PG Certificate, PG Diploma
6. Mode(s) of study	Full time and part-time
7. Normal duration of Programme	2 years full time, 3-4 years part time
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9. External reference points used to develop this programme	QAA Quality Code, Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, Bologna HE requirements, Congregation of Catholic Education requirements for the STL
10. Date of production or revision of this specification	December 2012
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Peter Gallagher
12. Brief description of this programme	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The MPhilStud is a 2 year full time (3-4 years part time) Masters degree, aimed at students who obtained a very good result in their undergraduate degree (typically a good 2nd upper or 1st class) in which philosophy was at least a major component and who want to undertake further in depth study and possibly research in the subject • Although the MPhilStud contains an element of taught courses and guided tuition, it provides a deeper grounding in philosophy than the MA Philosophy and allows students time to think out a PhD topic should they wish to undertake a research degree. • Students who pass the MPhilStud can apply directly for the PhD which ordinarily then takes one year less than for students without an MPhilStud. • The MPhilStud is designed to give an in-depth knowledge of three areas of philosophy as well the opportunity to engage seriously in philosophical research by writing papers, by presenting one's own work in research seminars, and by writing a thesis. 	
13. Relationship to staff research	
A very substantial proportion of staff are active researchers within the disciplines in which they teach. Many optional modules directly reflect the research interests of the module teacher	
14. Programme Aims	
The programmes aim to:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To promote critical understanding and knowledge of the core aspects of philosophy • To explore and evaluate selected contemporary trends in philosophy, with special emphasis on such trends within the English-speaking world • To understand, gain and develop the analytical, interpretative and communicative skills appropriate to this area of study • To provide those who do have a first degree in philosophy with a strong base from where to proceed for the PhD degree in this area 	
15. Learning outcomes	
Knowledge and Understanding	
By the end of the programme, competent and diligent students can expect to attain the following:	

LO1	a critical appreciation of the variety of approaches to the study of philosophy and of key assumptions and arguments characteristic of its core subjects.
LO2	a demonstrably deep and competent knowledge of the content of current philosophical debates, with due attention to their historical sources.
LO3	an understanding of the relevant links between this area of debate and its neighbouring disciplines, such as psychology, natural science, linguistics, political theory.
LO4	The ability to engage seriously in research in philosophy.
<p>Intellectual and Cognitive Skills</p> <p>A student will be able to:</p>	
LO5	Analyse and synthesise key concepts and ideas
LO6	Apply, with insight, key concepts in particular situations
LO7	Identify, gather and analyse material from a range of sources to inform research
LO8	Make sound judgments concerning research findings and the relevance of their application
<p>Practical and transferable skills</p> <p>A student will be able to demonstrate:</p>	
LO9	The ability for independent thought, expressed in writing
LO10	The ability to discuss in groups, in an open-minded way, issues where there are deeply held differences of opinion
LO11	The ability to analyse, evaluate and present clearly both one's own and others' ideas, including the work of original philosophical thinkers who deal with religion
LO12	The ability to use bibliographical resources, including electronic resources, and to conduct research (the dissertation is the main instrument for training in this area)
LO13	The ability to act autonomously in planning and implementing tasks where there are a wide variety of resources and approaches available

16. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

Module Title	Code	Level	Credit tariff
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Compulsory Core Modules

Research Skills in Philosophy	RES402	7	30
Philosophy Essays	PHH509	7	30
Oral Examination	TBA	7	30
Dissertation	TBA	7	60

The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.

Optional Modules

These are normally chosen from the following list:

Knowledge and Reality	PHH410	7	30
Ethics (offered in alternative years)	PHH412	7	30
Political Philosophy (offered in alternative years)	PHH411	7	30
Logic and Language	PHH503	7	30
Mind and Psychology	PHH504	7	30
Reason and Religion	PHH505	7	30

Any other MA module available at Heythrop College can be chosen as an optional module, but this is possible **ONLY** on condition that the module is in line with the overall aims of this degree and the choice is approved by the Degree Convenor.

1. During their **first year**, full-time students take the three optional modules. All end-of-year essays for these modules are due by mid-June, as stipulated by the College.
2. During their **second year**, full-time students take the two compulsory modules during the Michaelmas Term: RES402 Research Methods in Philosophy and PHH509 Philosophy Essays. This allows them to concentrate fully on their thesis during Lent and Summer Terms. For PHH509, the essays are submitted on or before the first day of Lent term.
3. The Thesis is written during the final year of study (25,000 - 30,000 words). Two bound copies must be submitted by 15th May of the final year of study.
4. For part-time students, the overall study plan is worked out in consultation with the Degree Convenor.

17. Admissions requirements

An applicant is normally required to have a UK bachelors degree in a relevant subject with a pass at 2.1 (Upper second) or above, or an equivalent award from an overseas institution.

Any student whose first language is not English is required to have passed an English Language proficiency test at 6.5 IELTS or the equivalent.

For mature students, academic ability to undertake the programme may be considered on the basis of other evidence, including learning from experience, evidence of prior study or work at an appropriate level, references and interview.

18. Indicative Learning and Teaching activities

May include:

Lectures, interactive lectures, seminars enabling group work and group discussions, individual or small group academic tutorials, individual learning, research and study, use of film or other audio visual aids, group activities, external visits, guest speakers.

This programme employs three key learning and teaching methods:

- Lectures and other input from lecturers provide an overall perspective on the subject and enable students to engage with the material with a variety of different understandings;
- Directed reading and investigation contribute to the completion of seminars and assessment tasks;
- Tutorials contribute to deepening and widening understanding.

19. Assessment strategy and indicative activities

Book reviews, portfolio of studies, essays, dissertation, final oral examination.

The pass mark for all assessments is 50%. Students are assessed by means of a range of tasks, including an oral examination, which are structured to allow students to demonstrate that they have acquired appropriate knowledge and understanding. The way that students pursue original thoughts and ideas and question opinions, and the organisational skills used to structure answers allows the transferable skills to be assessed. There are learning outcomes for the programme, and assessment criteria indicate the level at which these skills have been achieved. Students submit coursework through the Virtual Learning Environment (Helios) and receive on-line feedback. Tutorials are an opportunity for face-to-face feedback and with a specialist in the subject. In some cases students may receive feedback in advance of submitting the final version of their work. This applies mainly to longer essays submitted at the end of an academic year. All coursework is moderated in accordance with College published procedures. A selection of essays/script is sent to the external examiner.

20. Support for students and their learning

Students can also access a range of support mechanisms through the college. Academic staff can offer guidance and refer the students to more specific support. The Student Development Manager can offer personal and academic support, including study skills and access to a range of student welfare provision, either in College or through the University of London. Support and guidance on academic matters is available from module convenors and programme convenors and also from the Heythrop Students' Union.

21. Student evaluation opportunities

Students have a range of opportunities, both formal and informal, to evaluate their learning experiences. Informal means includes consulting individual members of staff, including their personal tutor, module leader, programme convener or staff in the Student Services Centre. Issues can be raised with the Heythrop Students' Union who can raise matters with the College on behalf of individuals or groups or students. Formal module evaluations are carried out, and student representatives are elected for all programmes. Occasional consultations or evaluation exercises gain views on aspects of the student experience, and the College participates in external surveys

such as the NSS, PRES and PTES.

22. Indicative time commitments

Full time students will spend approximately 2 hours per week per module in scheduled classes. In addition students will undertake directed personal study – e.g. preparing for seminars, and some coursework tasks – and self-directed work – e.g. wider reading, some coursework tasks, the dissertation, and preparing for examinations.

23. Opportunities for graduates of this programme

This programme will enable students to undertake a range of careers, and also prepare students for academic research.