

## HEYTHROP COLLEGE, UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

### Programme Specification

<b>1. Title: MRes Philosophy</b>	
2. Awarding institution	University of London
3. Teaching institution	Heythrop College, University of London
4. Final Award	Masters in Research, Philosophy
5. Interim Awards (if applicable)	
6. Mode(s) of study	Full-time or part-time
7. Normal duration of Programme	11-23 months
8. UCAS or JACS code	
9. External reference points used to develop this programme	QAA documents: Framework for Higher Education qualifications: framework for Master's degree characteristics, 2009.
10. Date of production or revision of this specification	May 2013
11. Programme Convenor	Dr Michael Lacewing
<b>12. Brief description of this programme</b>	
<p>The MRes Philosophy is a Master's degree that builds on an undergraduate qualification in Philosophy and aims to prepare students for further research in philosophy. To this end, study of philosophical research skills and methods and the core disciplines of epistemology and metaphysics are compulsory, as is a 12,000-15,000 word dissertation. Students may choose two of five courses on central contemporary philosophical areas. To assist students to move from undergraduate work to research, each course covers a selection of the fundamental issues within that area.</p>	
<b>13. Relationship to staff research</b>	
<p>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.</p>	
<b>14. Programme Aims</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To promote critical understanding and knowledge of the core aspects of philosophy</li> <li>• To explore and evaluate selected contemporary trends in philosophy, with special emphasis on this discipline within the English-speaking world</li> <li>• To develop the analytical, interpretative, and communicative skills appropriate to this area of study</li> <li>• To develop an understanding of the nature and methods of philosophical research</li> <li>• To provide those who do have a first degree in philosophy with a path to the PhD degree and to further research in philosophy</li> </ul>	
<b>15. Learning outcomes</b>	
<p>The <b>MRes Philosophy (Level 7)</b> provides opportunities for students to achieve and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:</p>	
<b>Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<p>By the end of the programme, successful students can expect to attain the following:</p>	

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 competent knowledge of the content of current philosophical debates, with due attention to their historical sources
LO3	An understanding of the relevant links between philosophy and its neighbouring disciplines, such as psychology, natural science, linguistics, political theory, and theology
LO4	An understanding of the nature and methods of philosophical research
<b>Intellectual and Cognitive Skills</b>	
The cognitive skills which are fostered are:	
LO5	The ability to analyse and synthesise key concepts and ideas
LO6	The ability to apply, with insight, key concepts in particular situations
LO7	The ability to identify, gather and analyse material from a range of sources to inform research
LO8	The ability to conduct advanced research in philosophy
<b>Practical and transferable skills</b>	
The practical and transferable skills which are fostered are:	
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
LO12	The ability to write research proposals
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

To achieve an MA, students must pass four taught modules and a dissertation. Each whole module is equivalent to 30 credit points. The dissertation is equivalent to 60 credit points. The programme comprises two compulsory modules, and a choice of two optional modules from the following list.

Module Title	Code	Level	Credit tariff
<b>Compulsory Core Module:</b>			
Knowledge and Reality	PHH410	7	30
Research skills in Philosophy	RES402	7	30
<b>Optional Modules – choose from:</b>			
Ethics	PHH412	7	30
Political Philosophy	PHH411	7	30
Logic and Language	PHH503	7	30
Mind and Psychology	PHH504	7	30
Reason and Religion	PHH505	7	30
<b>Compulsory Dissertation on an approved topic</b>		7	60
<i>The topic of the dissertation is chosen by the student, subject to approval by the supervisor.</i>			

**17. Admissions requirements**

Applicants must hold a 1st or high 2.1 BA honours degree or equivalent in Philosophy, or, exceptionally, another subject appropriate to the field of study. As the degree is intended for students continuing into doctoral study, applicants should demonstrate this intention in their application. Applicants whose first language is not English should normally have an IELTS score of at least 7.0, with not less than 7.0 in Listening, Academic Reading and Academic Writing.

**18. Indicative Learning and Teaching activities**

May include:

Lectures, incl. interactive lectures, seminars and group discussion, individual tutorials, individual learning, research and study, seminar presentation and peer feedback, set reading, online tutorial

**19. Assessment strategy and indicative activities**

With the exception of Research Skills in Philosophy, each module is assessed by a combination of coursework tasks completed during or shortly after the period of module teaching, and an end-of-year essay of 4,000 words. Indicative coursework tasks include article reviews and essays. Research Skills in Philosophy is assessed by a combination of coursework tasks, a 1,500-word research proposal, and a 3,000-word 'editor's introduction' to four pieces of contemporary philosophy. Indicative coursework tasks include a brief research proposal and a seminar presentation using PowerPoint. The pass mark for each module is 50%.

**20. Support for students and their learning**

Each taught module includes 22 hours of group sessions. For Research Skills in Philosophy, a programme of skills training is included. For the other modules, the sessions are typically lectures and presentations and seminars, which are interactive with students. Course material is placed on Helios. Directed reading and other tasks guide independent learning. Additionally, students receive tutorials, normally on a one-to-one basis, to discuss work completed or in progress, and meetings with a supervisor in relation to the dissertation. Students receive a Programme Handbook and module outlines. Students have access to computing resources, and to the specialist Heythrop Library resources in Philosophy and Theology.

**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 issues with the College on behalf of individuals or groups or students.

Formal module evaluations are carried out, and student representatives can attend a student staff liaison committee for undergraduate students. Occasional consultations or evaluation exercises gain views on aspects of the student experience, and the College participates in external surveys.

**22. Indicative time commitments**

Each 30 credit module represents approximately 300 student effort hours. For Research Skills in Philosophy, this includes training in research skills and a student research seminar. For other modules, students receive two hours of teaching per week for 11 weeks.

**23. Opportunities for graduates of this programme**

This programme is specifically designed for students intending to go on to doctoral study. But if your intentions change, then the analytical and critical thinking skills acquired are useful for many career paths and appealing to a very wide range of employers.