

Philosophy and Ethics (combined award) (Re-Design from Sept 2021)

Programme specification document

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Overview

Awarding institution	Bath Spa University
Teaching institution	Bath Spa University
School	Humanities
Department	Philosophy and Ethics
Main campus	Newton Park
Other sites of delivery	n/a
Other Schools involved in delivery	All
Name of award(s)	Philosophy and Ethics
Qualification (final award)	BA (Hons) or BSc (Hons) combined award
Intermediate awards available	CertHE, DipHE

Routes available	Joint
Sandwich year	Optional
Duration of award	3 years full-time, or 4 years with Placement year 6 years part time
Modes of delivery offered	Campus-based
Regulatory Scheme[1]	Undergraduate Academic Framework
Exemptions from regulations/framework[2]	Yes
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Body accreditation	None
Date of most recent PSRB approval (month and year)	None
Renewal of PSRB approval due (month and year)	None
UCAS code	VV65
Route code (SITS)	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements (including date of publication)	Philosophy, December 2019
Date of most recent approval	March 2021
Date specification last updated	January 2024

[1] This should also be read in conjunction with the University's Qualifications Framework

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions

The following exemptions are in place:

Programme /Pathway	Regulations /Framework	Brief description of variance	Approving body and date

BA Hons English Literature and Philosophy and Ethics Joint	Undergraduate Academic Framework	Variation from Fixed Level 4 to allow students combining two Humanities subjects to avoid taking the same module (PET4103 Worlds of Ideas) twice; and ensuring that all Humanities students take the project module, ENG4108 Thinking Together.	Curriculum Committee, 31 March 2021
BA Hons History and Philosophy and Ethics Joint	Undergraduate Academic Framework	As above.	Curriculum Committee, 31 March 2021

Programme Overview

Philosophy and Ethics is offered as one of the University's suite of courses in Applied Humanities. It has been designed to enable you to acquire specialised subject knowledge, develop practical and professional skills and apply both to current challenges, issues and debates.

We will support you in learning to interpret and represent the beliefs and values of others with respect, empathy and integrity. The course provides opportunities to become skilled in argument, analysis and evaluation; to become practised in working collaboratively, creatively and independently; to engage with unfamiliar worldviews; and to become self-reflective and self-critical. We place the study of philosophy in a variety of contexts, and will encourage you to draw on other disciplines and approaches in developing and refining your own philosophical thinking.

Above all, you'll be able to work on a series of projects which look out from the University and into the city and region – or further afield, in some instances. We want you to be able to develop demonstrable skills and experience, which may include leading a project team, evaluating and acting on alternative responses to a defined challenge, or pitching an idea to one of our many partner organisations, and wherever possible following this through to implementation.

Programme Aims

1. To provide a thorough understanding and application of a range of philosophical concepts and traditions to contemporary issues, challenges, and debates
2. To challenge assumptions about truth and meaning, beliefs and values, and build confidence in exploring unfamiliar methods of thinking
3. To make connections between the study of Philosophy and its conventions and broader cultural, intellectual and political contexts, including cognate areas of study and action
4. To create opportunities in which academic skills, knowledge and experience can be applied to practical projects, and then enhanced through the further development of professional practice, techniques and approaches;
5. To encourage a flexible, sceptical and enquiring mode of thought together with the confidence to work creatively and collaboratively with others.
6. To inculcate attitudes of respect, sensitivity and empathy in the rigorous analysis of different cultures, philosophies and perspectives.

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
A1	<i>Philosophical knowledge</i> Systematic and comparative knowledge of the complexity of philosophical enquiry, argument and analysis that draws on a range of philosophical traditions	<i>Philosophical knowledge</i> Critical understanding of the complexity of philosophical enquiry, argument and analysis as practised in diverse contexts and traditions	<i>Philosophical knowledge</i> Knowledge of different traditions of philosophical enquiry and analysis as practised in a variety of contexts
A2	<i>Philosophical debates</i> Systematic understanding and analysis of selected debates and theories in the study of philosophy, and their application to contemporary issues, challenges and problems	<i>Philosophical debates</i> Critical understanding and evaluation of core debates in the study of philosophy, engaging with issues and ideas prominent in contemporary debate and research	<i>Philosophical debates</i> An ability to identify, summarise and interpret different positions within key debates drawn from a range of different traditions
A3	<i>Ethical perspectives</i> Detailed comparative understanding, interpretation and application of ethical concepts and theories from a transcultural perspective, using contemporary examples	<i>Ethical perspectives</i> Ability to reflect critically on your own ethical values and those of others, providing an accurate and respectful evaluation of different opinions	<i>Ethical perspectives</i> Knowledge of the principal moral and ethical concepts encountered in a range of philosophical traditions
A4	<i>Theory and method</i> Integration, evaluation and application of concepts, theory, methods from different philosophical traditions in support of independent analyses of a diverse range of issues and problems	<i>Theory and method</i> Critical and comparative use of a range of philosophical concepts, theories and methods in order to address a range of examples, issues and problems	<i>Theory and method</i> The identification and use of relevant concepts, theories and methods in order to address selected issues and problems
A5	<i>Reasoning and argument</i> The ability to formulate, critique, defend and evaluate your own and others' philosophical positions with clarity, precision and intellectual rigour, leading to a sustained and independent line of argument	<i>Reasoning and argument</i> The ability to advance and evaluate persuasive arguments with clarity and precision, giving reasons for agreement and disagreement with particular thinkers and commentators	<i>Reasoning and argument</i> An ability to evaluate arguments with clarity, showing awareness of the nature and implications of scholarly disagreement
A6	<i>Contemporary problems</i> The systematic evaluation and application of relevant concepts, methods and approaches from diverse philosophical traditions to the understanding of contemporary problems, challenges and conditions	<i>Contemporary problems</i> Critical understanding and analysis of different philosophical contributions to areas of contemporary debate and action in local, national and international contexts	<i>Contemporary problems</i> Understanding the application of philosophical ideas to contemporary problems, challenges and situations

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1 <i>Argument</i> The ability to initiate, research and formulate rationally persuasive arguments that reflect on the outcomes of abstract, analytical and systematic thinking in response to specific problems	<i>Argument</i> The ability to undertake abstract and analytical thinking in order to evaluate the validity and coherence of your own and others' arguments	<i>Argument</i> The ability to undertake and analyse analytical arguments in a range of formats
B2 <i>Creativity</i> The ability to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate independent work that combines insights from a range of perspectives whilst recognising ambiguity, uncertainty and the limits of knowledge	<i>Creativity</i> The ability to make reasoned judgements based on the analysis of complex arguments, texts and evidence, and present your own argument in a clear and persuasive form	<i>Creativity</i> The ability to evaluate and communicate an analysis of selected philosophical texts and arguments
B3 <i>Application</i> The ability to initiate, plan and undertake detailed research, in dialogue with primary and secondary sources, in order to apply a diverse range of philosophical perspectives to the analysis of specific contemporary challenges and questions	<i>Application</i> The ability to select and evaluate relevant research from primary and secondary sources in order to produce philosophical hypotheses that respond to specific contemporary situations and challenges	<i>Application</i> The ability to locate and deploy relevant secondary sources in order to respond to set questions, with an awareness of your own assumptions, beliefs and values
B4 <i>Project planning and management</i> Independent and reflective approach to designing, implementing and evaluating sustained, substantial projects that demonstrate the ability to locate your own thinking in relation to broader social, cultural, political and historical frameworks	<i>Project planning and management</i> The identification and selection of relevant methods for carrying out a sustained piece of research, with an ability to reflect critically on your own philosophical assumptions, beliefs and values	<i>Project planning and management</i> The ability to plan, carry out and present research, analysis and evaluation of philosophical topic

C Skills for Life and Work

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4

C1	Autonomous learning[3] (including time management) that shows the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and enables decision-making in complex and unpredictable contexts.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Autonomous learning (including time management) as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility.
C2	Team working skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace with an ability both to work in and lead teams effectively.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making for effective work with others such that significant responsibility within organisations could be assumed.	Team work as would be necessary for employment requiring the exercise of personal responsibility for effective work with others.
C3	Communication skills that ensure information, ideas, problems and solutions are communicated effectively and clearly to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.	Communication skills commensurate with the effective communication of information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences in which key techniques of the discipline are deployed effectively.	Communication skills that demonstrate an ability to communicate outcomes accurately and reliably and with structured and coherent arguments.
C4	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate core competences and are commensurate with an ability to work at the interface of creativity and new technologies.	IT skills and digital literacy that demonstrate the development of existing skills and the acquisition of new competences.	IT skills and digital literacy that provide a platform from which further training can be undertaken to enable development of new skills within a structured and managed environment.

[3] i.e. the ability to review, direct and manage one's own workload

Programme content

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

If a particular status is greyed out, it is not offered for this programme.

Subject offered as combined award

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BA (Hons) / BSc (Hons) Philosophy and Ethics (Combined Award)	Status
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Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint	Joint with English Literature or History
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	20		C	C
4	PET4001-20	Ethics and Values	20		C	C
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	20		R	
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century	20			R
5	PET5010-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	20		C	C
5	PET5103-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	20		O	O
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	20		O	O
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	20		O	O
5	PET5104-20	Applying Philosophy	20		C	C
5	PET5001-20	Reading Philosophy	20		O	O
5	PET5100-20	Atheism and Unbelief	20		O	O
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	20		O	O
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	20		O	O
PPY	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120		O	O
6	PET6001-40	Philosophy Project	40		O	O
6	PET6106-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	20		O	O
6	PET6105-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	20		O	O
6	PET6100-20	Utopia and Dystopia	20		O	O
6	PET6102-20	Making Sex	20		O	O
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	20		O	O

6	PET6101-20	Comparative Philosophy	20		O	O
6	RPE6102-20	God & Genes	20		O	O
6	PET6101-20	Spiritual Revolution	20		O	O

Assessment methods

A range of summative assessment tasks will be used to test the Intended Learning Outcomes in each module. These are indicated in the attached assessment map which shows which tasks are used in which modules.

Students will be supported in their development towards summative assessment by appropriate formative exercises.

Please note: if you choose an optional module from outside this programme, you may be required to undertake a summative assessment task that does not appear in the assessment grid here in order to pass that module.

Work experience and placement opportunities

As an applied course, there are opportunities throughout to *use* and *reflect* on your subject knowledge, analysis and skills in a variety of different ways, including through project-related work inside and outside the University. The following modules have been explicitly designed to incorporate professional development (including collaborating with your peers who specialise in other subjects within the School of Humanities), opportunities for working with external partners, and placements of varying lengths and complexity. Your tutors and the University will support you in making the most of these opportunities, and in ensuring that they work for you in relation to the skills you want to develop, your ambitions and aspirations, and the needs of those with whom we work.

- ENG4108-20 Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century
- PET5102-20 Working Together
- PPY5100-120 Professional Placement Year
- PET6001-40 Philosophy Project

The option of non-dissertation project in the **Level 6 Philosophy Project module** has been designed as a culminating, 'capstone' project that allows you to develop an idea for an event, product, or service in any sector of work and industry. You will be supported by your supervisor and the Careers team in designing your project at the end of your second year so that you can develop your ideas and contacts over the intervening summer break. The final project is a negotiated assessment that you design and agree in collaboration with your academic supervisor.

You can also opt for the one-year **Professional Placement Year** module (YP5100-120), which you take between Levels 5 and 6. This alternative 'Sandwich' degree programme is studied over 4 years including a year-long work placement in a sector of your choice. During this time, you will be able to utilise knowledge gained as part of your studies in a real work environment to gain 'hands on' experience. The University's Careers and Employability team will assist you in finding and preparing for a placement. Following your placement year, you will return to University to complete your final year of study (Level 6).

Additional Costs Table

There are no additional costs associated with this programme.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes

	Bath Spa Graduates...	In Philosophy and Ethics, we enable this by...
1	Will be employable: equipped with the skills necessary to flourish in the global workplace, able to work in and lead teams	Helping you to become confident communicators and collaborators, providing opportunities to work with partners outside the University, applying subject knowledge and insight to a wide range of projects and tasks
2	Will be able to understand and manage complexity, diversity and change	Helping you to manage your own learning, investigating processes of change and complexity through your research in programmes that explore complexity and value a diversity of perspectives and traditions
3	Will be creative: able to innovate and to solve problems by working across disciplines as professional or artistic practitioners	Recognising and valuing creativity within all Humanities subjects, enabling problem solving, and facilitating work across disciplines to produce novel perspectives on contemporary problems
4	Will be digitally literate: able to work at the interface of creativity and technology	Embedding digital materials, tools and approaches in our research, learning and teaching, including training to enable you to create your own digital work
5	Will be internationally networked: either by studying abroad for part of the their programme, or studying alongside students from overseas	Offering a curriculum which crosses continents and cultures, explores different perspectives and values, and acknowledges the value of our own situatedness and links with international partners
6	Will be creative thinkers, doers and makers	Providing opportunities to work in a variety of different ways, individually and collaboratively, that combine imaginative and intellectual problem-solving in a wide range of projects, and with a mix of partners and audiences
7	Will be critical thinkers: able to express their ideas in written and oral form, and possessing information literacy	Embedding critical thinking and self-reflection in everything we do, challenging conventional thinking and orthodox practices, with an emphasis on developing your own arguments and to reflect upon your own practices of thinking, and promoting effective communication in a variety of formats

8	Will be ethically aware: prepared for citizenship in a local, national and global context	Encouraging you to engage with a wide variety of ethical issues, including environmental, existential and political topics, foregrounding engagement with inter-cultural philosophies and providing opportunities to work with partners within and outside the University, and applying your subject knowledge and insight to a wide range of projects and tasks
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Modifications

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
PET40 01	Ethics and Values	Assessment change Covid change made permanent	approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22
RPE51 03-20	Transformative Communities	Added optional module	approved by Curriculum Committee 15th December 2021	2022/23

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
RPE6102-20 God & Genes added as an Optional module	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
RPE6103-20 Spiritual Revolution added as an Optional module	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25

Attached as appendices:

1. Programme structure diagram
2. Map of module outcomes to level/programme outcomes
3. Assessment map
4. Module descriptors

Appendix 1: Programme Structure Diagrams - Philosophy and Ethics (Combined Award)

Joint Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	Semester 2
Core Modules	
PET4000-20 Truth and Reality	PET4001-20 Ethics and Values
Required Modules	
PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas	ENG4108-20 Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century
<p>Rule Notes: Students combined with History or English are Required to take ENG4108-20 Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century. All other combinations are required to take PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas.</p> <p>Students take the remaining 60 credits from the second subject at Level 4.</p>	
Level 5	
Core Modules	
PET5010-20 Ethics in the Contemporary World	PET5104-20 Applying Philosophy
Optional Modules	
PET5103-20 Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	PET5100-20 Atheism and Unbelief
PET5101-20 Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	PET5001-20 Reading Philosophy
HIS5115-20 Digital Humanities	PET5102-20 Working Together
	RPE5103-20 Transformative Communities
<p>Rule Notes: Joint students must take 40 credits in each subject. The remaining 80 credits can be made up of Optional modules from either subject.</p>	
Optional Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Optional Modules	
PET6001-40 Philosophy Project (year-long)	PET6001-40 Philosophy Project (year-long)
PET6106-20 Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	PET6101-20 Comparative Philosophy
PET6105-20 Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	PET6104-20 Life and Meaning
PET6100-20 Utopia and Dystopia	RPE6102-20 God & Genes
PET6102-20 Making Sex	RPE6103-20 Spiritual Revolution

Joint Honours

Rule Notes: Joint students MUST take 40 credits in each subject. The remaining 80 credits can be made up of Optional modules from either subject.

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O)[4]	Intended Learning Outcomes															
				Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work					
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4		
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	PET4001-20	Ethics and Values	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	R		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century	R		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	RPE5010-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5103-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5104-20	Applying Philosophy	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5001-20	Reading Philosophy	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5100-20	Atheism and Unbelief	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
PPY	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	O												*	*	*	*	
6	PET6001-40	Philosophy Project	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	PET6106-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	PET6105-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	PET6100-20	Utopia and Dystopia	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	PET6102-20	Making Sex	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	PET6101-20	Comparative Philosophy	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	RPE6102-20	God & Genes	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	
6	RPE6103-20	Spiritual Revolution	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	

[4] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C, R, R*, O)[5]	Assessment method														
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination			
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)	

4	PET40 00-20	Truth and Reality	C			1						1			
4	PET40 01-20	Ethics and Values	C			1						1			
4	PET41 03-20	Worlds of Ideas	R				1			1					
4	ENG41 08-20	Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century	R			1				1					
5	RPE50 10-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	C			1			1						
5	PET51 03-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	O			1						1			
5	PET51 01-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	O			1				1					
5	HIS512 5-20	Digital Humanities	O							1					
5	PET51 04-20	Applying Philosophy	C			1				1					
5	PET50 01-20	Reading Philosophy	O				1			1					
5	PET51 00-20	Atheism and Unbelief	O			1				1					
5	PET51 02-20	Working Together	O							1		1			
5	RPE51 03-20	Transformative Communities	O						1			1			
P PY	PPY51 00-120	Year in Professional Practice	O				1	1							
6	PET60 01-40	Philosophy Project	O				1								
6	PET61 06-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	O						1			1			
6	PET61 05-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	O			1			1						
6	PET61 00-20	Utopia and Dystopia	O						1			1			
6	PET61 02-20	Making Sex	O			1			1						
6	PET61 04-20	Life and Meaning	O			1				1					
6	PET61 01-20	Comparative Philosophy	O			1	1								
6	RPE61 02-20	God & Genes	O							1		1			
6	RPE61 03-20	Spiritual Revolution	O			1				1					

[5] C = Core; R = Required; R* = Required*; O = Optional