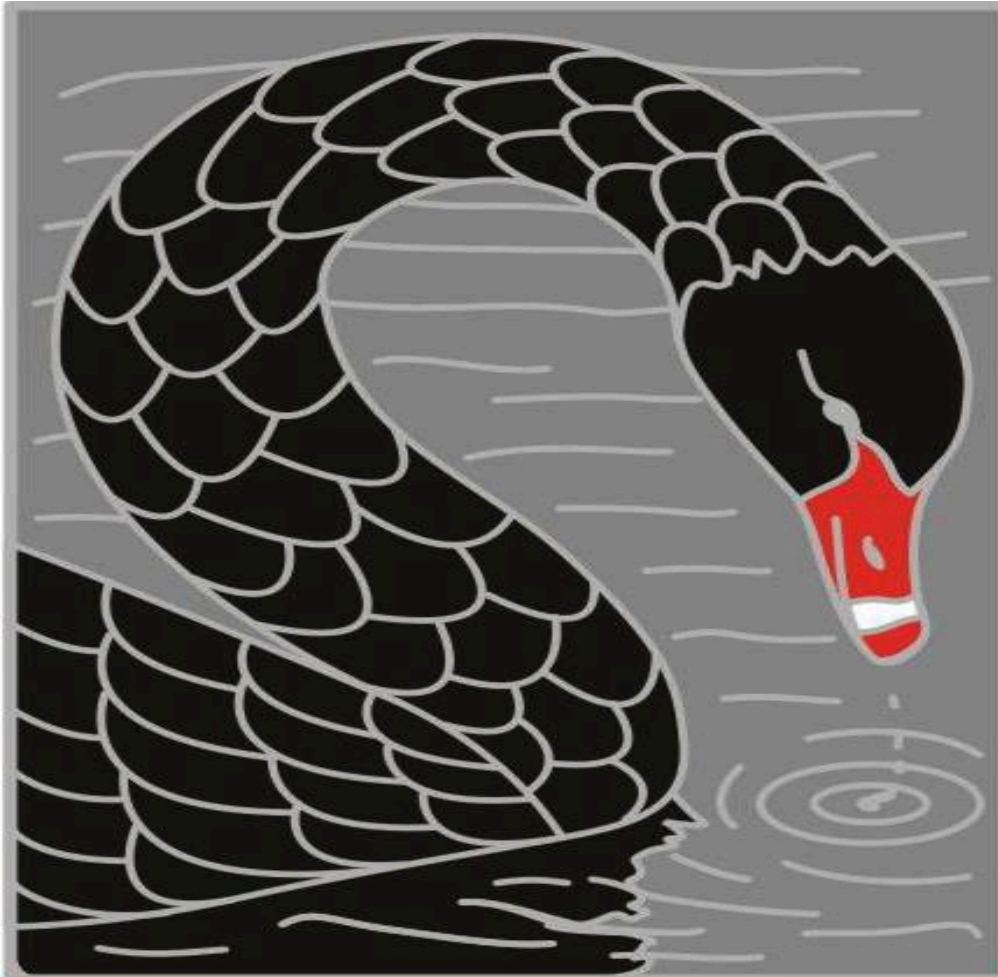


# **Welcome to York**



**PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT**

**GUIDE FOR GRADUATE DIPLOMA STUDENTS**

**2024/25**

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# INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to the Department

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy. We're delighted that you are joining us to undertake work leading to a Graduate Diploma. This guide is intended to offer you information and advice, so that you can become familiar with our procedures and make the best use of your time here. We hope that you, as members of the Philosophy Department, will take full advantage of what we have to offer.

The Department of Philosophy has around 25 members of academic staff, offering a wide range of areas of research interest, including the history of philosophy (ancient, early modern, late modern and early twentieth century), metaphysics, epistemology, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, philosophy of logic, philosophy of religion, ethics, applied ethics, aesthetics, and continental philosophy. The library provision is strong in all these areas. The Department has links with a number of other Departments in the university, in particular with the Politics, English, Law, and the Department of Health Sciences. It is one of the constituent Departments of the Humanities Research Centre, housed in the Berrick Saul Building.

The Department is based in the Sally Baldwin Buildings, Block A. The offices of the academic and Professional Services staff are here. The staff seminars and Philosophy Colloquia are typically held in the departmental seminar room I/A/009.

## YOUR DEPARTMENT

### Structure of the Department

#### The Board of Studies

The Board of Studies in Philosophy is the governing academic committee of the Department. It determines and co-ordinates all matters of academic policy and practice and comprises all full-time members of the academic staff, plus two postgraduates (one doing a taught course and one doing a research degree) and at least three undergraduate representatives. It normally meets twice a semester, usually in Weeks 3 and 6.

Board business is divided into two categories: reserved and unreserved. Issues affecting individual named students or staff are reserved matters, as are data and reports relating to admissions. Student representatives sit on the Board of Studies for all unreserved business. They are allocated a separate slot on the agenda to raise any issues that they want the Board to discuss. Student representatives have the same voting rights as staff members.

#### Departmental Teaching Committee

This sub-committee of the Board of Studies deals with all issues relating to taught programme (Undergraduate and MA) teaching. The committee comprises academic and administrative staff along with student reps. The committee discusses policy initiatives, including new programmes and

modules; it monitors current teaching including module evaluations and addresses issues raised by members. The Committee recommends proposals to the Board of Studies. Meetings are normally held in Weeks 4 and 8 of each term.

### **Student Representatives**

In Semester 1, students will elect student representatives for the year. Academic representation is a partnership between the University of York Students' Union and University departments. Together, we aim to ensure that students contribute directly to the processes of reviewing, maintaining and enhancing the quality of the academic experience here. You can go to academic reps with any feedback about best practice, concerns or suggestions about how the department or aspects of your programme are run.

### **Contacts for Graduate Diploma Students**

#### **Supervisor**

The Graduate Diploma has its own Convenor, Dr Owen Hulatt, who will act as your personal supervisor, and you should, in the first instance, direct any specific queries about the programme to him. You may also see him at his office hours or at any other time (by arrangement).

#### **Module Tutor**

Each module is taught by a tutor, sometimes in collaboration with other tutors. All queries about the module itself should be directed to the tutor. Your tutor will normally be the first marker on your assessment(s) for the module and should be the person you discuss the assessment with at the planning stage. The tutor will provide you with written or oral feedback on any procedural work you submit by an agreed deadline. The module tutor will also provide you with written summative feedback on assessed work.

You can discuss the feedback reports, should you wish to, with your supervisor/Graduate Diploma Convenor.

#### **Philosophy Student Services Staff**

The Student Services Staff communicate with Graduate Diploma and MA students about procedure and assessment and can answer questions related to those aspects of your course. You can contact staff during the Reception opening hours: 10:00-12:30 and 13:30-16:00, Monday to Friday. You can also email them at [philosophy-postgrad@york.ac.uk](mailto:philosophy-postgrad@york.ac.uk)

#### **Student Representatives**

In the Semester 1 students will elect student representatives who will normally attend Departmental Teaching Committee meetings and Board of Studies meetings twice a semester each. Student reps can bring forward proposals for changes to procedure at these committee meetings, and can highlight any student concerns. You will be emailed with the contact details of your representatives after their election, and you can bring your queries and initiatives to them.

#### **Student Staff Forum**

Each semester the Department holds a Forum to which all Philosophy students are invited. This is an opportunity for students to raise any issues and suggestions about their programme or the Philosophy Department in general.

## Student Welfare Officer

Lucy Akturk is the Student Welfare Officer (SWO) associated with the Department of Philosophy. Lucy works for the Open-Door Team but is not a counsellor or mental health practitioner. She says:

"Whether it's deadline stress, social anxiety, relationship problems, financial struggles, health concerns, or anything in between, please don't feel like you have to deal with it alone. We are lucky in the University to have so many support services in place, but sometimes it can be overwhelming and difficult to know where to start. As your SWO, I'll be able to point you in the right direction to make sure you know how to access the support you need. You can [book an appointment with me](#) for a time that suits you, and we can have an informal chat about what's going on and what you feel like you need in order to move forwards."

## Problems, Concerns, Complaints

If you want to raise a concern about any aspect of your course, please direct that concern to the relevant contact in the department. Most concerns about module teaching or procedure are best directed to (a) student representatives, (b) the Graduate Diploma Convenor (who is also your supervisor) or (c), the Chair of Board of Studies, [jamie.buckland@york.ac.uk](mailto:jamie.buckland@york.ac.uk)

## University of York Students' Union

The University of York Students' Union is the primary representative body for all registered postgraduate students at the University of York. It aims to provide a social community for postgraduates through regular events, trips and free sport. You can find out about the Union from the [University of York Students' Union](#) website.

## Additional Contacts for International Graduate Diploma Students

The Department is very pleased to welcome postgraduate students from overseas. We know that students from other countries may face particular challenges when studying far from home in an unfamiliar culture and environment and perhaps in a second language. All students are encouraged to discuss any problems they encounter during their study with their supervisor.

International Student support is provided by the University through the [International Student Support Team](#).

## Communicating with the Department

There are a number of lines of communication between you, the Philosophy Department and the University. These include:

- Your **York email address** – this is our main means of communicating with you. Please check your emails on a regular, if not daily, basis. **Please note that we will only use your @york.ac.uk email to communicate with you.**
- **Yorkshare VLE** – this is used by your module tutors to support week-by-week classroom teaching. It is also where admin staff will post information about summative assessment arrangements.

- **Timetable** – every student has their own, individualised online timetable. This allows you to see your timetabled activities across the year. Sometimes times and venues can change so please check it daily.
- **Philosophy Department website.** On the front page you can see news, events, Twitter updates and Facebook. You will also find assessment and course information on the [Current Student](#) webpages.
- **Phone** – in case we need to contact you urgently please keep your phone numbers and your contact address up-to-date on evision. A member of the Student Services Team will normally be contactable on 01904 323251 between 10:00 and 16:30 Monday to Friday during teaching and assessment weeks. Hours may differ at other times.
- **Feedback forms** – we will give you formative and summative feedback on the work you submit
- **Evaluation forms** – towards the end of each module we will ask you to complete a short, anonymous evaluation form to help us evaluate how successfully the module was run. This information will help to shape our teaching in the future.
- **Office Hours** – teaching staff will provide a regular time each week during term when students can discuss matters affecting or relating to their studies
- If you are unsure who to email about an issue please email the **departmental email address:** [philosophy-postgrad@york.ac.uk](mailto:philosophy-postgrad@york.ac.uk) which is checked regularly during the week by a member of the Student Support Staff.

## Graduate Diploma in Philosophy (Course Convenor: Dr Owen Hulatt)

### General Overview

The Graduate Diploma in Philosophy course lasts for 9 months (full-time), or 18 months (part-time) and carries a total of 120 credits. You should be doing about 18 hours of work per week for **each** 20-credit module you are taking throughout the total length of the course (not merely during term-time). You should expect your tutors to provide guidance for study and recommendations for reading sufficient for these hours.

**Aims:** This course is intended to provide an opportunity for students with no background in Philosophy to carry out advanced work in the subject and to obtain an Honours-level qualification. Accordingly, students will take selected undergraduate courses in Philosophy, being taught and examined in the same manner as BA students. The first part of the programme aims to provide students with a knowledge of important topics in Philosophy and also an opportunity to develop essential skills to engage critically with those topics. The second part of the programme aims to give students experience in applying research skills to a well-defined problem under the guidance of an expert in the area. To achieve this aim, students will prepare a written Project based on independent research that is supervised by a member of staff.

**Objectives:** By the end of the course, students should have acquired (a) a critical knowledge of current debates in philosophy, and (b) an understanding of how to apply their knowledge and research skills in

order to engage constructively in those debates. They should have also conducted an independent piece of research on a topic of their choice.

**Students should have demonstrated the ability to:**

- engage critically with some major pieces of philosophy
- develop their own lines of thought in the context of this engagement
- construct an extended piece of philosophical writing.

**More generally, students should have demonstrated an ability to:**

- organise lines of enquiry involving use of bibliographical databases
- prepare draft essays quickly and then improve them in the light of comments
- plan and carry out a lengthy piece of sustained exposition and argument.

**Programme Structure:**

The 120 credits of the Graduate Diploma are made up as follows:

- 5 x 20-credit taught modules
- 1 x 20-credit Independent Study Module (Project)

The taught modules are designed to provide students with a detailed knowledge of the core areas of Philosophy. Students take 60 credits of taught modules in each of Semesters 1 and 2. With the exception of Philosophical Analysis which is a First Year module, all modules taken are at third year level and are assessed by a single 4,000-word essay.

Reason and Argument introduces some key concepts and skills that are widely used in philosophy. It considers the ways in which formal logic can be applied to understanding and evaluating arguments and claims expressed in everyday language. It is assessed by exam and a 2,000-word essay.

The final 20 credits are taken in the Summer Term in the form of the Graduate Diploma Project - an independent study module supervised by an academic member of staff. This module is also assessed by a 4,000-word essay.

**Course Structure for Full-time Students**

<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<a href="#">PHI000015C Philosophical Analysis</a> (core, 20)	<a href="#">Option Module 3</a> (20)
<a href="#">Option Module 1</a> (20)	<a href="#">Option Module 4</a> (20)
<a href="#">Option Module 2</a> (20)	<a href="#">PHI00043H Graduate Diploma Project</a> (20)

## Course Structure for Part-time Students

<b>Year 1</b>	
<b>Semester 1</b>	<b>Semester 2</b>
<a href="#">PHI00015C Philosophical Analysis (20)</a> (core)	<a href="#">Option Module 1</a>
<a href="#">Option Module 2 in Semester 1 or Semester 2</a>	
<b>Year 2</b>	
<a href="#">Option Module 3</a>	<a href="#">PHI00043H Graduate Diploma Project (20)</a> (core)
<a href="#">Option Module 4 in Semester 1 or Semester 2</a>	

### Assessment Information

All information relating to assessments (when, what, where, how and what if) can be found on our assessment pages at:

<https://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/current/taught-postgraduates-and-graduate-diploma-students/>

## FACILITIES AND SUPPORT

There are a number of services and agencies across the University that can support you with living and studying at the University. Please look at the [Student Homepage](#) for more information.

### Technical Support

New students are automatically registered to use the University's IT Services' facilities (computing, email, Internet etc).

Hardware facilities available are networked PCs, UNIX workstations, Apple Macintoshes, and printers. A wide range of software is also available.

IT Services are located within the main University Library. Visit the [IT Services website](#) for further information or call in at their information desk for help and advice on all operational matters.

### Training

A variety of resources and courses relevant to the particular needs of individual students are offered within the University. You should ask your **supervisor** for guidance, and should discuss what your **training needs** might be. In the normal course of your work your tutors will give substantial help on bibliographical sources and study methods. But there are other more formal training courses available to you:

[IT Services](#) run a wide range of courses for staff and graduates throughout the year. Visit their website for further details.



[Languages for All](#) run courses in French, German and other modern languages. To see what's available have a look at their website.

The [Writing and Language Skills Centre](#) provides a range of courses aimed at improving academic language and writing skills.

## Libraries

### The University (J.B. Morrell) Library

For an introduction to using the University library and its resources, including information on using the library catalogue, your library account, virtual tours of its facilities, various guides to its services and opening hours, visit the [information for new students webpage](#).

The J.B. Morrell Library, the Raymond Burton Library for Humanities Research, the Harry Fairhurst Building, and the Borthwick Institute for Archives are situated on University Road, over the road from Market Square and the Information Centre. Access to the Raymond Burton Library and the Borthwick Institute is via the J.B. Morrell Library entrance.

You should begin by visiting the Library's online [Subject Guide for Philosophy](#) which is a source of key resources.

The Library keeps a number of bibliographical guides that will be helpful in your work. There are the following electronic guides:

- The Philosopher's Index - available electronically
- British Humanities Index – available electronically
- Arts and Humanities Index - available electronically
- Humanities Index - available electronically

The following bibliographical journals are also available:

- Philosophical Books
- Bibliography of Philosophy

[Owen Hulatt](#) is responsible for the Department's liaison with the library and suggestions for book buying should be made to him. Further information about the library opening times etc can be obtained from: [the library's website](#).

### Other sources of books

Although the J.B. Morrell Library has a very good collection of books in Philosophy, it is very possible that you will find that a book or journal that you need is not stocked. There are a number of other sources available to you.

## **The Interlending and Document Supply Service (ILDS)**

This enables you to order books from any library in the country. You can find more details about the Service at the [Interlending and Document Supply Service](#).

## **The British Library at Boston Spa**

A few miles from York is the central national repository for the Inter-Library Loans service. Details of reference facilities are available in the J.B. Morrell Library. A good strategy is for you to make your literature searches in York to identify what you need to consult, and then to pay a personal visit to consult these works in the Reading Room. If you order at least two weeks in advance (forms are available at the J.B. Morrell Library Help and Information desk) you will be able to get almost immediate access to all you can manage in a day. This will enable you to identify those works which you would like to be able subsequently to borrow and so make the most efficient use of the Inter-Library Loans service. A minibus service to BLDS is normally available. Please see [British Library, Boston Spa](#) for more details.

## **The Society of College, National and University Libraries (SCONUL)**

The SCONUL Access scheme allows University of York Library users to borrow or use books and journals at other libraries belonging to the scheme. Further information about the scheme is available at: [SCONUL](#)

## **BEYOND THE GRADUATE DIPLOMA**

### **Applying for an MA**

Many Graduate Diploma students consider going on to take a Masters degree in Philosophy. Please raise your interest with your supervisor, David Ingram, initially. We will be offering five MA degrees:

- MA Philosophy
- MA Analytic Theology
- MA Political and Legal Philosophy
- MA Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence
- MA Applied Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy

You can find more details about these programmes and how to apply for them on our [Postgraduate study in the Department of Philosophy webpage](#) along with details of any funding opportunities.

### **Careers/employability**

For students who do not want to continue academic study after their Graduate Diploma, the University offers an excellent Careers Service which can help you to build on your postgraduate education and develop your employability before (re-)entering the jobs market. Please visit the [Careers Service website](#) to find out more.