

DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY



GUIDE FOR TAUGHT MA STUDENTS 2020/21

# PHILOSOPHY DEPARTMENT GUIDE FOR MA STUDENTS

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# 1 INTRODUCTION

## Welcome to the Department

Welcome to the Department of Philosophy. We’re delighted that you are joining us to undertake work leading to an MA degree. 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 including teaching fellows, 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 Department, the English Department, and the Department of Health Sciences. It is one of the constituent Departments of the Humanities Research Centre, housed in the Berrick Saul Building, where space is available for postgraduates to work and meet other postgraduates in the humanities.

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

## Academic Staff and their Research Interests

**Keith Allen** (BA (Cambridge), MPhil, PhD (London)) Senior Lecturer

Email [keith.allen@york.ac.uk](mailto:keith.allen@york.ac.uk)

His interests include colour, perception, and Early Modern Philosophy. He is the author of *A Naïve Realist Theory of Colour* (2016).

**Jamie Buckland** (BA, MA (Kent), PhD (Reading))Associate Lecturer

Email [jamie.buckland@york.ac.uk](mailto:jamie.buckland@york.ac.uk)

Jamie’s primary interests are in ethics, metaethics, and reasons theory; particularly the distinction between agent-neutrality and agent-relativity. He is also interested in the relationship between normative ethics and political theory.

**Hannah Carnegy-Arbuthnot** (MPhil, PhD (London)) Lecturer

Her interests include political, moral and feminist philosophy.

**James Clarke** (BA (Leeds Metropolitan), MA (Sussex), PhD (Durham)) Senior Lecturer

Email [james.a.clarke@york.ac.uk](mailto:james.a.clarke@york.ac.uk)

His research interests are in Post-Kantian practical philosophy (especially that of Fichte and Hegel), Rousseau’s moral psychology and political philosophy, and Contemporary Critical Theory.

**Greg Currie** (BSc, PhD (London School of Economics)) Professor

Email [gregory.currie@york.ac.uk](mailto:gregory.currie@york.ac.uk)

He works on many aspects of the arts: literature, film and painting, the narrative arts and their role in learning, the place of the aesthetic in archaeological explanation, the nature of adaptation, irony in pictures and in language.

**Stephen Everson** (BA, MA (Oxford), PhD (London)) Lecturer

Email [stephen.everson@york.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.everson@york.ac.uk)

His interests are in ancient philosophy, philosophy of mind, metaphysics and the philosophy of language.

**Johan Gustafsson** (BA, MA (Stockholm), PhD (Royal Institute of Technology, Stockholm)) Senior Research Fell

Email [johan.gustafsson@york.ac.uk](mailto:johan.gustafsson@york.ac.uk)

His interests include decision theory, value theory, normative ethics, personal identity and Locke.

**Stephen Holland** (MA, DPhil (Oxford), MA (London), PhD (York)) Professor

Email [stephen.holland@york.ac.uk](mailto:stephen.holland@york.ac.uk) (on leave Autumn 2017)

Stephen's main research interests are in applied philosophy, especially bioethics, public health ethics, and death studies.

**Owen Hulatt** (BA, MA, PhD (York)) Lecturer,

Email [owen.hulatt@york.ac.uk](mailto:owen.hulatt@york.ac.uk)

His interests include Frankfurt School critical theory (particularly Adorno), aesthetics, anti-humanist political philosophy, Spinoza and post-Kantian idealism.

**Dave Ingram** (BA, MA, PhD (Nottingham)) Lecturer

Email [david.ingram@york.ac.uk](mailto:david.ingram@york.ac.uk)

His primary research interests are in metaphysics and the philosophy of time. He is interested in the metaphysics of x for almost all values of x. He is also interested in questions that arise in the philosophy of mind and the philosophy of physics, particularly when the best answers to those questions force him to think a bit harder about his background metaphysics.

**Christopher Jay** (BA Philosophy (London), MPhil. Stud., PhD (UCL)) Associate Lecturer

Email [christopher.jay@york.ac.uk](mailto:christopher.jay@york.ac.uk)

Most of his current research is in metaethics and related areas of philosophy (especially other areas of philosophy where the sorts of commitments a person can or ought to have are at issue). Other areas of interest are fictionalism and realism, Kant’s moral philosophy and philosophy of religion. He is also working on what sorts of reasons a person can have.

**Peter Lamarque** (MA (UEA), BPhil (Oxford)) Professor

Email [p.v.lamarque@york.ac.uk](mailto:p.v.lamarque@york.ac.uk)

His interests centre on aesthetics and the philosophy of literature. He is the author of *Truth, Fiction, and Literature* (with S. H. Olsen), *Fictional Points of View*, and *The Philosophy of Literature.*

**Barry Lee** (BA (Newcastle), MA (York), PhD (London)) Senior Lecturer

Email [barry.lee@york.ac.uk](mailto:barry.lee@york.ac.uk)

His main research interests are in the metaphysics of time and the semantics of our talk about time.

**Mary Leng** (BA (Oxon), PhD (Toronto)) Professor

Email [mary.leng@york.ac.uk](mailto:mary.leng@york.ac.uk)

Her research has primarily been in the philosophy of mathematics and science. More recently, she has become interested in overlaps in debates over realism and anti-realism in the philosophy of mathematics and in metaethics.

**Daniel Morgan** (BA, BPhil, DPhil (Oxford)) AssociateLecturer

Email [d.morgan@york.ac.uk](mailto:d.morgan@york.ac.uk)

His current interests are mainly in philosophy of mind and moral psychology – especially in indexicality, in the nature of addiction and desire, and in praise-and-blame-worthiness.

**Paul Noordhof** (BA (Oxford), PhD (London)) Anniversary Professor

Email [paul.noordhof@york.ac.uk](mailto:paul.noordhof@york.ac.uk)

He has interests in various kinds of sensuous states – for example, perception, sensuous imagination and memory (sometimes known as experiential or episodic memory) and sensations such as pain – causation and related topics in mind and metaphysics; and belief, self-deception and delusion.

**Martin O’Neill** (BA (Oxon), PhD (Harvard)) Senior Lecturer

Email: [martin.oneill@york.ac.uk](mailto:martin.oneill@york.ac.uk)

He works on a variety of topics in moral and political philosophy. In recent years he has been especially interested in freedom, autonomy and responsibility; social justice; equality and inequality; and various issues at the intersection of political philosophy, political economy and public policy, including taxation, monetary policy, finance and money, corporations and economic governance, work and labour unions.

**Christian Piller** (Mag Phil (Graz), MA, PhD (Princeton)) Professor

Email [christian.piller@york.ac.uk](mailto:christian.piller@york.ac.uk)

He is working in ethics (theoretical and applied), in reasons and rationality, and in epistemology.

**Matthew Ratcliffe** (BA (Durham), MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)), Professor

Email [matthew.ratcliffe@york.ac.uk](mailto:matthew.ratcliffe@york.ac.uk)

Most of his research falls within the areas of phenomenology, philosophy of mind, and philosophy of medicine and health. In particular, he has sought to show how phenomenological research can be brought into dialogue with psychiatry, in ways that are mutually illuminating. In so doing, he has addressed puzzling forms of experience associated with diagnoses such as depression, schizophrenia, and post-traumatic stress disorder.

**Louise Richardson** (MA (Durham), PhD (Warwick)) Senior Lecturer

Email [louise.richardson@york.ac.uk](mailto:louise.richardson@york.ac.uk)

Her research is concerned with questions about perception and the senses. She has published papers on seeing empty space, smell, taste, touch, bodily awareness, cross-modal perception and Molyneux’s question.

**Fiora Salis** (MA, PhD (Barcelona), MA (Turin), Associate Lecturer

Email fiora.salis@york.ac.uk) [fiora.salis@york.ac.uk](mailto:fiora.salis@york.ac.uk)

Her main research focus in on the nature and varieties of imagination, and on its distinct uses inartistic fictions, scientific models, and thought experiments.

**Tom Stoneham** (MA (Oxon), MPhil, PhD (London)) Professor

Email [tom.stoneham@york.ac.uk](mailto:tom.stoneham@york.ac.uk)

His research interests lie in the following areas: 17th century British philosophy (Herbert to Berkeley; Methodology in metaphysics (e.g. recombination, ontological commitment, truthmaking); Perceptual consciousness, imagination, and dreaming.

**Alan Thomas** (BA (Cambridge), D.Phil. (Oxford)) Professor

Email [ap.thomas@york.ac.uk](mailto:ap.thomas@york.ac.uk)

His research interests are in political philosophy; political economy; moral philosophy; and social epistemology.

**Rob Trueman** (BA, MPhil, PhD (Cambridge)) Lecturer

Email [rob.trueman@york.ac.uk](mailto:rob.trueman@york.ac.uk)

His main areas of research are philosophical logic, metaphysics and the history of early analytic philosophy. He is especially interested in Frege, Wittgenstein and Ramsey

**David Worsley** (BA, MA, PhD (York)) Associate Lecturer

Email [david.worsley@york.ac.uk](mailto:david.worsley@york.ac.uk)

He is interested in epistemology, ethics, philosophy of religion, and philosophical theology.

**Annette Zimmerman** (BA (Free University Berlin) MPhil, DPhil (Oxon))Lecturer

Her research interests are political philosophy and the ethics and politics of AI and machine learning.

## Administrative Staff

**Jane Bertram**

Email [jane.bertram@york.ac.uk](mailto:jane.bertram@york.ac.uk)

Feedback Administrator, supervision and office hours, attendance, contact for Head of Department’s diary

**Carol Dixon**

Email [carol.dixon@york.ac.uk](mailto:carol.dixon@york.ac.uk)

Taught MA and Graduate Diploma Admissions; Assessments and Exceptional Circumstances for Taught MA and Graduate Diploma students; Taught Programme Co-ordinator and Office Manager; Module changes; Elective modules; Visiting student administration; Timetabling enquiries

**Janet Eldred**

Email janet.eldred@york.ac.uk

Postgraduate research admissions; Research Student Administration; Departmental research Administration

**Julie Kay**

Email [julie.kay@york.ac.uk](mailto:julie.kay@york.ac.uk)

Department Manager; Administrator for First Year Admissions; Finance management and planning; Member of Senior Management Team; Support for Board of Studies and Teaching Committee; HR matters, including recruitment

**Karen Norris**

Email [karen.norris@york.ac.uk](mailto:karen.norris@york.ac.uk)

Undergraduate Assessments Administrator, Undergraduate Exceptional Circumstances

# 2 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 term, usually in Weeks 2 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 the Autumn term, MA students will elect student representatives for the year. Course representation is a partnership between YUSU and the Departments of the University of York. Together, we aim to ensure that students play an essential role in guaranteeing and driving the quality of the academic experience at York. If you would like to represent the views of your fellow students and have a say in how your course is run, please consider applying to be a course rep. You can find details of how to stand on the [YUSU academic representatives](https://yusu.org/your-voice/academic-reps) webpages.

## Contacts for MA Students

### Supervisor

The MA programme has its own Convenor, [Dr David Ingram](mailto:david.ingram@york.ac.uk), who will act as your personal supervisor, and you should, in the first instance, direct any specific queries about the programme to him.

### 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, at the next beginning of term supervision with the MA Convenor.

### Taught Postgraduate Administrator

The Taught Postgraduate Administrator communicates with students about procedure and assessment and can answer any questions related to those aspects of your course. The Taught Postgraduate Administrator is Carol Dixon and her email address is: [carol.dixon@york.ac.uk](mailto:carol.dixon@york.ac.uk).

### Student Representatives

In the Autumn Term MA students will elect a student representative who will attend Departmental Teaching Committee meetings twice a term and Board of Studies meetings twice a term. 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.

### Philosophy Colloquium

As part of the Postgraduate Research Skills module students are required to attend some of the Department’s **Philosophy Colloquia** which provide a programme of internal and external speakers who talk on a wide range of topics. The Colloquium normally meets on Wednesdays during term-time at 4.00pm. For Autumn Term 2020 the Colloquium will take place via Zoom. If you have any suggestions for speakers please contact Paul Noordhof (paul.noordhof@york.ac.uk).

### 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 MA Convenor (who is also your supervisor) or (c), the Chair of Board of Studies - [Louise Richardson](mailto:louise.richardson@york.ac.uk).

### Graduate Student Association

The Graduate Student Association is the primary representative body for all registered

postgraduate students at the University of York, and you are automatically a member. The GSA aims to provide a social community for postgraduates through regular events, trips and free sport. They also represent postgraduate views on a variety of university committees, provide academic & welfare support and offer advice on all postgraduate matters. You can find out about them at the [Graduate Students Association](https://www.yorkgsa.org/) website.

### Additional Contacts for International MA 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 MA students are encouraged to discuss any problems they encounter during their study with their supervisor.

International Student support is provided by the University through [International Student Support](https://www.york.ac.uk/students/support/international/) based in the Student Support Hub in Market Square.

## 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 email 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](https://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/current/) 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 Admin Team will be contactable on 01904 323251 between 10:00 and 12:30 and 13:30 and 16:00 Monday to Friday during term-time. Hours may differ outside of term-time.
* **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@york.ac.uk](mailto:philosophy@york.ac.uk) which is checked regularly during the week by admin staff.

# 3 THE MA IN PHILOSOPHY

## Course Overview

The MA in Philosophy course lasts for 12 months (full-time), or 24 months (part-time) and carries a total of 180 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.

General Aims: This course is intended to provide training in philosophical research. Whilst primarily aimed at those who are hoping to progress to a research degree in philosophy, it will be of interest and benefit to those who simply want to study the subject in greater depth. The taught modules aim to provide students with a detailed knowledge of current debates in the core areas of philosophy, as well as grounding in the skills needed to engage in those debates.

General Objectives**:** By the end of the course, students should have acquired:

a critical knowledge of current debates on core issues in philosophy, and

an understanding of how to apply their knowledge and research skills in order to engage constructively in those debates.

Through engaging in the Research Skills module and the Research Training Project, they will

be better able to understand the demands of advanced research in Philosophy, and to engage with work at this level,

have developed their understanding of good practice in philosophical research,

have improved their academic skills and research abilities.

They will also have conducted an independent and extended piece of research (a Dissertation) on a topic of their choice.

By the end of the course, students should have demonstrated the ability to:

* engage critically with major works of philosophy;
* conduct a literature survey;
* initiate and develop their own lines of thought in the context of the study of these works; and
* compare the treatment of philosophical questions offered by philosophers working in different traditions.

More generally, students should have demonstrated the ability to:

* marshal a complex body of information;
* construct cogent arguments in the evaluation of this material;
* construct an extended piece of writing;
* present, in both oral and written forms, a clear and well-structured assessment of relevant considerations; and
* present an argument, articulate its relevance and defend it against criticism.

Course Structure:

The 180 credits of the MA in Philosophy are made up as follows:

### Taught Modules (80 credits)

The taught modules are designed to provide students with a detailed knowledge of the core areas of Philosophy. They comprise the following:

Two Core Modules:

Autumn Term - PHI00020M Topics in Theoretical Philosophy (20 credits)

Spring Term - PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy (20 credits)

Two 20-Credit Option Modules, one taken in each of the Autumn and Spring Terms and chosen from the modules below. **Please note** that returning students must not choose a module closely linked to a module they took in the third year of their undergraduate degree.

#### Autumn Term 2020

* PHI00027M Philosophy of Christianity
* PHI00058M Philosophy of Psychology
* PHI00064M Phenomenology and Psychiatry
* PHI00049M Philosophy of Art from Hume to Tolstoy
* PHI00051M Contemporary Issues in Bioethics
* PHI00062M Theories of Social Justice
* PHI00060M From Marx to Critical Theory
* PHI00013M Project Essay (the topic must be approved by the MA Convenor by Friday, Week 1 of the Autumn Term)

#### Spring Term 2021

* PHI00037M Consciousness
* PHI00032M Foundations of Maths
* PHI00039M German Idealism
* PHI00060M From Marx to Critical Theory
* PHI00067M Cognitive Anomalies
* PHI00069M Philosophy of the Spiritual Life
* PHI00052M Value and the Meaning of Life
* PHI00013M Project Essay (the topic must be approved by the MA Convenor by Friday Week 1 of the Spring Term)

Students also take three skills-based modules in addition to the Dissertation:

### **Postgraduate Research Skills (PHI00008M) (10 credits**)

This module runs in the Autumn and Spring Terms, and aims to introduce students to the skills necessary to carry out successful postgraduate research. As part of this module students are required to attend regular Philosophy Colloquium meetings which normally take place on Wednesdays at 4.00 or 4.30 pm

### Dissemination Practice (PHI00023M) (10 credits)

In this module students gain experience of all aspects of the dissemination of philosophical research. Students organize a small, internal conference at which they chair presentations, give and defend their own paper, and write up a collaborative team report describing the organization and running of the event.

### Dissertation Preparation PHI00022M (20 credits)

This module runs in the Autumn, Spring and Summer Terms. It aims to teach students to learn how to identify, prepare and plan a research project in philosophy.

### The Dissertation (PHI00017M) (60 credits)

As an application of the core knowledge, skills and experience gained in the previous stages of the course, the Dissertation enables students to produce a sustained piece of critical writing on a topic previously defined and developed through the Dissertation Preparation module. Students write up their dissertation under the guidance of a dissertation supervisor during the summer vacation.

## Course Structure for Full-time Students

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term 1 | PHI00020M  Topics in Theoretical Philosophy | PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills | PHI00022M  Dissertation Preparation |
| Option module |
| Term 2 | PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy |
| Option module |
| Term 3 | PHI00023M  Dissemination Practice | |
| Summer Vacation | PHI00017M  Dissertation (Writing up) | | |

## Course Structure for Part-time Students

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Term 1 | PHI00020M Topics in Theoretical Philosophy | | PHI00008M Postgraduate Research Skills |
| Term 2 | PHI00019M Topics in Practical Philosophy | |
| Term 3 and  Summer Vacation | PHI00013M Project Essay | | |
| Term 4 | Option Module | PHI00022M  Dissertation Preparation | |
| Term 5 | -------------------- |
| Term 6 | PHI00023M  Dissemination Practice |
| Summer Vacation | PHI00017M  Dissertation (Writing up) | | |

## Module Information

Individual module descriptors are available on the University’s [**online module catalogue**](https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/manage/programmes/module-catalogue/module).

Ongoing information and updates about module readings and content can be found on the module [Yorkshare VLE](https://vle.york.ac.uk/) sites.

## Assessment Information

All information relating to assessments (when, what, where, how and what if) can be found on our [assessment pages](https://www.york.ac.uk/philosophy/current/taught-postgraduates-and-graduate-diploma-students/taught-pg-assessment/).

## Roger Woolhouse Prize

Professor Roger Woolhouse was an eminent scholar, known especially for his work on Locke and Leibniz, who taught at the University of York from 1969 until his retirement in 2001. He died in 2011 and his widow decided to give the royalties from his books to the Department, in perpetuity, to fund a prize for students on the taught MA in Philosophy programme. The Fund has since been added to by members of his family.

The Roger Woolhouse Prize is annual and is worth £500. It is awarded to the student on the MA in Philosophy programme who gets the highest mark on an essay submitted as part of their assessment in January (excluding the Dissertation Research Proposal) and with the proviso that the mark must be a first attempt mark and be greater than 72. In the event of a tie the Prize will normally be shared.

# 4 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. The **University handbook for taught postgraduate students 2020/21** outlining these services is available on the [New Postgraduate](https://www.york.ac.uk/students/new/postgraduate/) website.

## 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](https://www.york.ac.uk/it-services/) 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 MA students are offered within the University. You should ask your **superviso**r 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**](http://www.york.ac.uk/it-services/) run a wide range of courses for staff and graduates throughout the year. Visit their website for further details.

[**Languages for All**](http://www.york.ac.uk/inst/ltc/lfa/) 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**](https://www.york.ac.uk/students/studying/skills/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](https://www.york.ac.uk/library/info-for/new-students/).

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, close to the Campus North car park and Alcuin College. Access to the Raymond Burton Library and the Borthwick Institute is via the J.B. Morrell Library entrance.

You should begin by reading the University guide ‘Philosophy’ in the Library which lists the basic resources and provides a brief guide to the main classification.

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

[Daniel Morgan](mailto:d.morgan@york.ac.uk) 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 its website: [the library's website.](http://www.york.ac.uk/library/)

### 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](https://www.york.ac.uk/library/borrowing/interlending/#tab-1).

#### 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 BLDSC is normally available. Contact the [library](https://www.york.ac.uk/library/other-libraries/british-library/) for 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](https://www.york.ac.uk/library/other-libraries/sconul/#tab-2)

## Humanities Research Centre

Philosophy postgraduate Students have access to the [Humanities Research Centre](http://www.york.ac.uk/hrc/) (HRC) in the Berrick Saul Building.   
The HRC is the central study and social space for postgraduate students in the humanities at York, and it houses the interdisciplinary centres that run many research events and conferences through the year. We are proud of the HRC, as it provides one of the best of facilities of its kind for postgraduate students in the UK.

The large postgraduate work area has bright and attractive spaces designed for hot desking, with Wi-Fi throughout the building. Some secure locker cabinets may be available. Facilities also include a printer/photocopier/scanner. There is a café area on the ground floor with vending machines and a small kitchen.

# 5 BEYOND THE MA

## Applying for a PhD

Many MA students consider progressing onto further research for the award of PhD. If you would like to begin PhD research in the year directly after your MA, it is advisable to begin thinking about a potential project quite early in your MA year, and to familiarise yourself with the relevant application procedures. Please raise your interest with your supervisor, David Ingram, initially.

When it comes to funding, the [Arts and Humanities Research Council](http://www.ahrc.ac.uk/) (AHRC) has devolved the awarding of doctoral grants to consortia of universities. York is part of the AHRC-funded [White Rose College of the Arts and Humanities](http://wrocah.ac.uk/) (WRoCAH) along with the Universities of Sheffield and Leeds. Each arts and humanities department at the three universities is allowed to put forward a particular number of candidates for these awards each year, which are then awarded centrally by a body made up of representatives from each of the universities.

While you can apply for acceptance to a PhD programme at any time during the academic year, the application deadline for WRoCAH is the end of January. (Most doctoral consortia will have similar date, but you should consult the criteria for each consortium individually). You should therefore have your project and prospective supervisor worked out early in the month to allow for a strong application. The Department recommends that potential candidates make contact with potential supervisors before Christmas. [Janet Eldred](mailto:janet.eldred@york.ac.uk), the Department’s Research Administrator, can offer guidance on the application process.

## Careers/employability

For students who do not wish to continue academic study after their MA, the University offers an excellent [Careers Service](https://www.york.ac.uk/students/work-volunteering-careers/) which can help you to build on your postgraduate education and develop your employability before (re-)entering the jobs market.