

Welcome to York



**DEPARTMENT OF PHILOSOPHY
POSTGRADUATE TAUGHT
HANDBOOK**

2024/25

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1. Introduction

Introduction to the department

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.

“Welcome to those of you who are new to York and welcome back to those of you who have studied with us before.

The Department of Philosophy is a friendly, inclusive, and intellectually vibrant environment. Our research covers a broad range of areas and approaches within the discipline. This is reflected in the range of taught postgraduate programmes we offer, and in the diverse selection of option modules from which you can choose. Whether you are studying on the MA in Philosophy, Analytic Theology, Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence, Political and Legal Philosophy, or Applied Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy, you will have the opportunity to learn more about the areas of philosophy you are already interested in, and hopefully also discover new philosophical questions and ideas.

As a Department, we combine excellent teaching, world-leading research, and engagement with socially relevant issues. In the most recent assessment of research within UK universities (REF2021), we were ranked 2nd in the UK for Philosophy, and equal 1st amongst philosophy departments for Research Impact, a measure of the social benefit of the research we do. We also pride ourselves on a working culture that supports Equality, Diversity and Inclusion. In 2020 we received a Bronze Athena Swan award in recognition of our commitment to advancing gender equality.

As a postgraduate student you are an important and valued member of our philosophical community, and we really hope you enjoy your time with us.”

Professor Keith Allen, Head of Department

Together York

The University [Together York](#) community statement articulates our values, priorities and expectations, and invites all members of our community to join together in upholding and developing them.

- **We are a community of scholarship**, where independent critical thinkers explore their area of study with passion and diligence.
- **We are a community of respect**, fairness and compassion. We hold each other to these expectations and call out inappropriate behaviour.
- **We are a community of purpose** that cultivates personal growth and supports each student in developing a vision for their future.

The purpose of this handbook

This handbook provides a comprehensive introduction to your department and information on all aspects of your degree programme. It outlines what you should expect of your department and what we expect from you, and clarifies the policies and procedures relevant to your area of study.

General information can also be found on the [student pages](#) of our website. There is also a [section dedicated to the current PGT students](#) on the departmental website.

Disclaimer

We have tried to ensure that the information contained in this document is accurate as of July 2024. Please check york.ac.uk for any changes to this information.

2. Your department

Welcome to Philosophy!

Your department is made up of staff who teach, supervise and undertake research, student services staff and other students like you.

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, where space is available for postgraduates to work and meet other postgraduates in the humanities.

Departmental office

The Philosophy Departmental Office is based in room I/A/021 in Block A of the Sally Baldwin Building. You will find it to the right when you come in from the front door of the building. During term-time, the office is open for enquiries between 10 am and 12.30 pm, 13.30 pm and 4 pm, Monday to Friday.

You can phone the office on 01904 323251 or send an email to philosophy-postgrad@york.ac.uk

Staff contacts

Up-to-date contact details of all staff (academic, Graduate Teaching Assistants, Professional Support Staff) can be found on our [People](#) page. In addition, Office Hours and other contact details can be found on our [Contacts](#) webpage.

Communicating with you

Our main point of contact with you is through your University of York email address (for example, ab1234@york.ac.uk) so you must check this account regularly.

[Download the MyUoY app](#) to help you manage day-to-day university life, featuring your timetable, campus map, Library card and loans, study space availability, events, news and more.

Our main point of contact with you is through your University of York email address, so you must check this account regularly. Please note that, for security reasons, we will only reply to emails sent from your University email account.

We will also communicate with you via VLE announcements. More general information will be added to our social media site [Facebook](#).

If you wish to contact us, please look at our [People](#) page. If you are unsure who to contact, please come to the Reception office, email philosophy-postgrad@york.ac.uk or ring 01904 323251 and we will do our best to answer your questions or point you in the right direction.

You could also find the answers to some of your questions by visiting our information page for [MA and Graduate Diploma students](#).

Please include your full name and student number so that we can identify you more easily. There can be many students with the same first name and it's not always possible to work out your name from your email address

Seminar rooms and offices

Although some of your classes may take part in the departmental seminar room, I/A/009, others may take place elsewhere on campus. Your timetable should give you details of your classroom room number and you can also use the [online campus map](#) to find your way around.

Departmental facilities

The departmental foyer has wifi available and you are welcome to spend time there during weekdays. Feel free to use the water cooler and have a look at the free books bookcase. Tea and coffee are available in the kitchen. There is also a microwave you can use to heat up your lunch. Please

remember to put your used dishes in the dishwasher afterwards and make use of the various recycling bins - including the food caddy.

Health and safety

The doors to the building are open between the hours of 08:45 and 17:15, Monday to Friday. If you need to arrive a little earlier, your University card should allow you access. Just wave it at the keypad to the right of the door and then move towards the centre of the door opening. Please note, only your physical card will operate the door. The card app on your phone won't work on this door.

There are currently three First Aiders in the department. If you need help, go to Philosophy Reception or ring Security on 01904 323333.

The Philosophy building does not have a lift. If it is difficult for you to use the stairs in order to visit your supervisor, or if you need a Personal Emergency Evacuation Plan (PEEP), please contact your supervisor to discuss your requirements.

See more information about the [University's Health and Safety policy](#).

Your supervisor

Your department will allocate you an academic supervisor who offers support and advice throughout your degree programme.

You will meet your supervisor two times per semester, plus three times in the summer period, to discuss your academic progress and to check that all is well with you and your studies. This is an important point of academic contact for all students. Your supervisor will encourage you to develop your academic and personal skills and can also act as a referee for any applications you might make in the future. They can advise what to do if things go wrong and refer you to the right people in the University for help with more personal matters.

Your supervisor will also be the convenor of your programme:

- MA Philosophy - Dr Owen Hulatt (owen.hulatt@york.ac.uk)
- MA Political and Legal Philosophy - Dr Hannah Carnegie-Arbuthnott (hannah.carnegy-arbuthnott@york.ac.uk)
- MA Analytic Theology - Dr David Worsley (david.worsley@york.ac.uk)
- MA Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence - Dr Mike Stuart (mike.stuart@york.ac.uk)
- MA Practical Ethics and Government of Data Privacy - Professor Tom Stoneham (tom.stoneham@york.ac.uk)
- Graduate Diploma in Philosophy - Dr Owen Hulatt (owen.hulatt@york.ac.uk)

Sometimes a student may prefer to have a different supervisor. If you would like to change your supervisor, please email Mrs Jo Hawksworth, Student Services Manager (jo.hawksworth@york.ac.uk), with your request.

Departmental committees

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 members of the academic staff, Jo Hawksworth as Secretary to the Board, one Department representative, two academic representatives (UG) and two postgraduate representatives (one doing a taught course and one doing a research degree). It normally meets twice a semester, usually in Teaching 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. The current Chair of Board of Studies is Dr Jamie Buckland (jamie.buckland@york.ac.uk) .

Departmental Teaching Committee

This sub-committee of the Board of Studies deals with all issues relating to the teaching of taught programmes (Undergraduate and MA). 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 Teaching Weeks 4 and 8 of both semesters. The current Chair of Departmental Teaching Committee is Dr Hannah Carnegie-Arbuthnott (hannah.carnegy-arbuthnott@york.ac.uk)

Course reps/ Student Action Groups

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.

There are three types of academic reps:

- **Course Reps** act as the voice of their cohort and work with staff to make improvements to their course. By gathering student opinion, Course Reps become specialists in course-based issues, helping to identify and tackle problems that arise.
- **Department Reps** take on a leadership role and support Course Reps to make positive change to the department as a whole. Department Reps are also invaluable contacts at the University of York Students' Union and take part in University-wide projects that improve the student experience.
- **Faculty Reps** work behind the scenes ensuring that the student voice is heard at all levels. By sitting on high-level committees, they influence University-wide decisions as well as pushing forward their own manifesto projects.

You can [apply to be a course rep](#) if you'd like to represent the views of your fellow students and have a say in how your programme is run. If you interested in getting involved, please contact Mrs Jo Hawksworth, Student Services Manager (jo.hawksworth@york.ac.uk).

Student evaluation of modules/ Student perceptions of teaching

Towards the end of a module, you will be invited to complete an evaluation form, anonymously, which will give you the opportunity to say how well you thought the module ran, what you liked about it and where you feel there could be room for improvement. After the end of teaching, the information will be collated and fed back to the Board of Studies via the Departmental Teaching Committee where any necessary action will be discussed. In addition, individual module tutors will respond to the feedback on the module VLE site. Although it is tempting to ignore yet another request for feedback, your feedback is essential to us to help us improve our teaching. Please take a few minutes to complete the evaluation forms when asked.

Please remember that any feedback you provide should be honest but respectful.

Equality, diversity and inclusion

We are committed to the creation of a fair, welcoming and inclusive environment for all, where everyone is treated with dignity and respect.

We are proud receivers of the Athena Bronze Award which we achieved in recognition of our commitment to gender equality.

Hannah Carnegie-Arbuthnott (hannah.carnegy-arbuthnott@york.ac.uk) is our Equality Champion, Chair of the Departmental Athena Swan Committee, and a member of University Athena SWAN forum.

See more information about [equality, diversity and inclusion at the University](#).

3. Your Programme of Study

Studying Philosophy at York

We offer five taught MA programmes.

MA Philosophy

Programme Aims

The MA is designed to give you a command of the central areas of philosophical inquiry, the space and support to pursue a research project of your own choosing, and transferable skills which will be of benefit to whatever career you pursue. Above all, however, the primary goal of our MA is to help you move from studying philosophical problems to investigating them as a researcher in your own right. During your study, you will engage in research-led enquiry, focussing on contemporary problems and scholarship. You will receive encouragement, support and guidance in selecting and independently studying ideas of personal interest to you, as well as studying what we take to be core areas of modern philosophical thought. You will develop transferable skills in presenting your own ideas, conference organisation, and collaborative work. You will leave the MA programme with a firm, broad grounding in contemporary philosophy. You will have had support in developing your skills as a researcher, and as a thinker more generally. You will have explored the philosophical ideas of greatest interest to you in detail, with high-level supervision from professional philosophers. By the close of the MA you will have been prepared, in both skills and research, to take your study further, or to apply your knowledge and capabilities to a professional and persuasive standard in the world of work.

Programme Learning Outcomes

1. Critically review current scholarship and research on key problems, issues, and debates across a wide range of areas of philosophy.
2. Apply critical perspectives to current research in their field in a technically proficient yet accessible and clear manner informed by current practice, scholarship, and research.
3. Work effectively and collaboratively in the planning, organisation, and delivery of significant research events and reports (in a manner continuous with best practice at a professional level).
4. Take full ownership of their own development as researchers and professionals, continually reflecting on their own practice, progress, and received feedback, and seeking assistance where appropriate.
5. Give presentations of their ideas and arguments at a professional level (aligned with best practice) to varied audiences.
6. Create detailed and persuasive project proposals at a high level (continuous with best practice in professional research proposals), and initiate, develop, and complete substantial independent projects.

Programme structure

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

- 4 x 20 credit option modules

- Core module: PHI00074M Reading Philosophy (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00017M Dissertation (60 credits)

Course structure for full-time students

Semester 1	Semester 2	PGT Semester 3/Vacation
PHI00074M Reading Philosophy (core) (20)	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core) (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core) (60)
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	

Course structure for part-time students

Year 1		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
PHI00074M Reading Philosophy (core, 20)	Option Module 1 (20)	
Option Module 2 (20) in one of these semesters		
Year 2		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
Option Module 3 (20)	Option Module 4 (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core, 60)
	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core, 20)	

MA Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence

Programme aims

This MA is designed to give you a command of the central and cutting-edge philosophical questions surrounding artificial intelligence and machine learning, as well as the space and support to pursue an

independent research project of your own choosing. Above all, the primary goal of our MA is to help you move from studying philosophical problems to investigating them as a researcher in your own right. During your study, you will engage in research-led enquiry, exploring the ways in which AI is shaping our lives and raising complex new conceptual and normative questions. You will receive encouragement, support and guidance in selecting and independently studying ideas of personal interest to you. You will develop transferable skills in presenting your own ideas, conference organisation, and collaborative work, which will be of benefit for a wide range of career paths—including, but not limited to, further academic work on the philosophy of AI, technology ethics and policy, and technology consulting. We have a lively postgraduate community, and you will be invited to participate in the broad and diverse research culture of our department. You will leave the MA programme with a firm, broad grounding in the fast-growing, interdisciplinary field of philosophy of AI. You will have had support in developing your skills as a researcher, and as an independent, original thinker more generally. You will have explored the philosophical ideas of greatest interest to you in detail, with high-level supervision from professional philosophers. By the close of the MA you will have been prepared, in both skills and research, to take your study further, or to apply your knowledge and capabilities to a professional and persuasive standard in the world of work.

Programme Learning Outcomes

1. Critically review current scholarship and research on key problems, issues and debates across a wide range of topics within the philosophy of artificial intelligence and related fields.
2. Apply critical perspectives to current research in their field in a technically proficient yet accessible and clear manner informed by current practice, scholarship and research.
3. Work effectively and collaboratively in the planning, organisation, and delivery of significant research events (in a manner continuous with best practice at a professional level).
4. Take full ownership of their own development as researchers and professionals, continually reflecting on their own practice, progress and receiving feedback, and seeking assistance where appropriate.
5. Give presentations of their ideas and arguments at a professional level (aligned with best practice) to varied audiences.
6. Create detailed and persuasive project proposals at a high level (continuous with best practice in professional research proposals), and initiate, develop and complete substantial independent projects.

Programme structure

- The 180 credits of the MA Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence are made up as follows:
- 4 x 20 credit option modules
- Core module: PHI00077M Topics in the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00017M Dissertation (60 credits)

Course structure for full-time students

Semester 1	Semester 2	PGT Semester 3/Vacation
PHI00077M Topics in the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (core) (20)	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core) (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core) (60)
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	

Course structure for part-time students

Year 1		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
PHI00077M Topics in the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (core, 20)	Option Module 1 (20)	
Option Module 2 (20) in one of these semesters		
Year 2		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
Option Module 3 (20)	Option Module 4 (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core, 60)
	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core, 20)	

MA Political and Legal Philosophy

Programme aims

This MA, which is a collaboration between the Department of Philosophy and the School of Law, is designed to give you a command of the central areas of political philosophy and legal theory, the space and support to pursue a research project of your own choosing, and transferable skills which will be of benefit to whatever career you pursue. Above all, however, the primary goal of our MA is to help you move from studying problems in political and legal philosophy to investigating them as a researcher in your own right. During your study, you will engage in research-led enquiry, focussing on contemporary problems and scholarship. You will receive encouragement, support and guidance in selecting and independently studying ideas of personal interest to you, as well as receiving a solid

foundation in central areas of political philosophy and philosophy of law. You will develop transferable skills in presenting your own ideas, conference organisation, and collaborative work. We have a lively postgraduate community across the two departments of Philosophy and Law, and you will be invited to participate in the broad and diverse research culture of the two departments. You will leave the MA programme with a firm, broad grounding in political and legal philosophy. You will have had support in developing your skills as a researcher, and as a thinker more generally. You will have explored the philosophical ideas of greatest interest to you in detail, with high-level supervision from professional philosophers and/or legal theorists. By the close of the MA you will have been prepared, in both skills and research, to take your study further, or to apply your knowledge and capabilities to a professional and persuasive standard in the world of work.

Programme learning outcomes

1. Critically review current scholarship and research on key problems, issues and debates in political philosophy and the philosophy of law.
2. Apply critical perspectives to current research in their field in a technically proficient yet accessible and clear manner informed by current practice, scholarship and research.
3. Work effectively and collaboratively in the planning, organisation, and delivery of significant research events and reports (in a manner continuous with best practice at a professional level).
4. Take full ownership of their own development as researchers and professionals, continually reflecting on their own practice, progress and received feedback, and seeking assistance where appropriate.
5. Give presentations of their ideas and arguments at a professional level (aligned with best practice) to varied audiences.
6. Create detailed and persuasive project proposals at a high level (continuous with best practice in professional research proposals), and initiate, develop and complete substantial independent projects.
7. Attain a sophisticated understanding of the relationship of both political philosophy and philosophy of law to practical real world legal and political problems.

Programme structure

The 180 credits of the MA Political and Legal Philosophy are made up as follows:

- 3 x 20 credit option modules
- Core module: PHI00083M Advanced Topics in Political Theory (20 credits)
- Core module: LAW00026M Foundational Issues in Legal Theory (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00017M Dissertation (60 credits)

Course structure for full-time students

Semester 1	Semester 2	PGT Semester 3/Vacation
PHI00083M Advanced Topics in Political Theory (core) (20)	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core) (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core) (60)

LAW00026M Foundational Issues in Legal Theory (20)	Option Module (20)	
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	

Course structure for part-time students

Year 1		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
PHI00083M Advanced Topics in Political Philosophy (core, 20)	Option Module 1 (20)	
Option Module 2 (20) in one of these Semesters		
Year 2		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
LAW00026M Foundational Issues in Legal Theory (core) (20)	Option Module 3 (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core, 60)
	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core, 20)	

MA Analytic Theology

Programme aims

This MA is designed to give you a command of the central areas of analytic theology, the space and support to pursue a research project of your own choosing, and transferable skills which will be of benefit to whatever career you pursue. Above all, however, the primary goal of our MA is to help you move from studying philosophical and theological problems to investigating them as a researcher in your own right.

During your study, you will engage in research-led enquiry, focussing on contemporary problems and scholarship in philosophy and theology. The Department boasts a strong research profile in analytic theology, and students will be able to access the expertise of the programme staff as they engage in their study. The programme provides a unique opportunity to focus on Philosophy and comparative analytic theology, that is, a study of Jewish, Christian, and Islamic analytic theology in conversation with each other, informed by engagement with and analysis of the spiritual practices that these faiths incorporate. This will allow you to apply the study of philosophy to theology which will allow you to engage with some of the most complex and historically significant questions that have shaped Western civilization.

As you progress through the programme, you will receive encouragement, support and guidance in selecting and independently studying ideas of personal interest to you, as well as studying what we take to be core areas of modern philosophical thought and how they help to articulate and solve problems in theology. You will develop transferable skills in presenting your own ideas, conference organisation, and collaborative work. This will enable you to pursue not only opportunities for further

research, such as a PhD in philosophy and theology, but also opportunities for employment, such as secondary school teaching.

You will leave the MA programme with a firm, broad grounding in analytic theology, and you will have been prepared, in both skills and research, to take your study further, or to apply your knowledge and capabilities to a professional and persuasive standard in the world of work."

Programme learning outcomes

1. Address complex issues and debates in the modern world by critically reviewing current theological and philosophical scholarship and research and thereby identifying critical concepts and arguments.
2. Apply critical perspectives to current research in their field in a technically proficient yet accessible and clear manner informed by current practice, scholarship, and research.
3. Work effectively and collaboratively in the planning, organisation, and delivery of significant research events and reports (in a manner continuous with best practice at a professional level).
4. Develop and apply skills of self-evaluation, use of feedback, self-management, and reflection in order to take full ownership of their own development as researchers and professionals.
5. Give presentations of their ideas and arguments at a professional level (aligned with best practice) to varied audiences.
6. Create detailed and persuasive project proposals at a high level (continuous with best practice in professional research proposals), and initiate, develop, and complete substantial independent projects.

Programme structure

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

- 4 x 20 credit option modules
- Core module: PHI00080M Comparative Analytic Theology (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00017M Dissertation (60 credits)

Course structure for full-time students

Semester 1	Semester 2	PGT Semester 3/Vacation
PHI00080M Comparative Analytic Theology (core) (20)	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core) (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core) (60)
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	

Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	
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Course structure for part-time students

Year 1		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
PHI00080M Comparative Analytic Theology (core) (20)	Option Module 1 (20)	
Option Module 2 (20) in one of these Semesters		
Year 2		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
Option Module 3 (20)	Option Module 4 (20)	PHI00017M Dissertation (core, 60)

	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core, 20)	
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MA Applied Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy

Programme aims

The MA is designed to give you a practical and theoretical grasp of the privacy issues surrounding the collection, analysis, storage and end use of user data, as well as the space and support to pursue an independent research project of your own choosing. Above all, the primary goal of our MA is to help you move from studying abstract concepts and problems of ethics, rights and privacy to addressing practical issues for business and society in principled and ethical ways. During your study, you will engage in research-led enquiry, exploring the ways in which data is collected and used by business and government and the normative principles which are often violated but need to be respected. You will engage in problem-based learning as part of a team under the oversight of a specialist. You will receive encouragement, support and guidance in selecting and independently studying ideas of personal interest to you. You will develop transferable skills in presenting your own ideas, conference organisation, and collaborative work, which will be of benefit for a wide range of career paths—including, but not limited to, human rights activism, policy and business practice around data privacy, and technology consulting. We have a lively postgraduate community, and you will be invited to participate in the broad and diverse research culture of our department. You will leave the MA programme with a firm, broad grounding in the fast-growing, interdisciplinary field of philosophy of data privacy. You will have had support in developing your skills as a researcher, and as an independent, original thinker more generally. You will have explored the privacy issues of greatest interest to you in detail, with high-level supervision from experts. By the close of the MA you will have been prepared, in both skills and research, to take your study further, or to apply your knowledge and capabilities to a professional and persuasive standard in the world of work.

Programme learning outcomes

1. Critically review current scholarship and research on key problems, issues and debates in the Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy.
2. Apply critical perspectives to current research in their field in a technically proficient yet accessible and clear manner informed by current practice, scholarship and research.
3. Work effectively and collaboratively in applying philosophical analysis to concrete problems of the Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy.
4. Take full ownership of their own development as researchers and professionals, continually reflecting on their own practice, progress and received feedback, and seeking assistance where appropriate.
5. Give presentations of their ideas and arguments at a professional level (aligned with best practice) to varied audiences.
6. Create detailed and persuasive project proposals at a high level (continuous with best practice in professional research proposals), and initiate, develop and complete substantial independent projects.

Programme structure

The 180 credits of the MA Applied Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy are made up as follows:

- 3 x 20 credit option modules
- Core module: PHI00077M Topics in the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00104M Data Privacy Problem Based Learning 2: Surveillance Capitalism (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (20 credits)
- Core module: PHI00017M Dissertation (60 credits)

Course structure for full-time students

Semester 1	Semester 2	PGT Semester 3/Vacation
PHI00077M Topics in the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (core) 20	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core) 20	PHI00017M Dissertation (core)
Core Module (20)	PHI00104M Data Privacy Problem Based Learning 2: Surveillance Capitalism) 20	
Option Module (20)	Option Module (20)	

Course structure for part-time students

Year 1		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
PHI00077M Topics in the Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence (core) 20	Option module	
Option Module (20) in one of these Semesters		
Year 2		
Semester 1	Semester 2	Summer Vacation
One Option module in Semester 1	PHI00085M Research Skills and Dissemination Practice (core) 20 <hr/> PHI00104M Data Privacy: Data Privacy Problem Based Learning 2:	PHI00017M Dissertation (core, 60)

	Surveillance Capitalism (core) 20	

Programme Specifications

Current and past programme specifications can be viewed at [Programme specifications](#).

Progression

When we calculate your degree classification, different stages will be weighted differently. More information on this can be found under ‘Your final degree classification’ in the [Assessment, Progression and Award](#) section.

Modules

Each stage is made up of modules. You study and are assessed on three modules each semester and each taught module you take is worth 20 credits. You will achieve the credit for a module by passing the module assessments. Modules are assessed by a range of methods which will result in a numerical module mark out of 100.

If you fail a module there are two possible ways in which you might still be able to progress. These are compensation and reassessment, and are explained in more detail in the [Assessment, progression and award section](#) below.

Individual module descriptors are available on the University’s [online module catalogue](#).

Ongoing information and updates about module readings and content can be found on the module [Yorkshire VLE](#) sites.

Optional modules running in 2024/25 are:

Semester 1:

PHI00064M Phenomenology and Psychiatry

PHI00070M Time, Tense, and Existence

PHI00086M Medieval Jewish Philosophy

PHI00097M Freedom, Right, and Revolution

PHI00107M Freedom and Metaphysics

PHI00108M Thinking About Happiness

Semester 2:

PHI00071M Social Justice and Political Economy

PHI00084M Advanced Topics in Ethics

PHI00087M Topics in Consciousness and Representation

PHI00091M Topics in Perception and Emotion

PHI00104M Data Privacy Problem Based Learning 2: Surveillance Capitalism

PHI00105M Ethics and Epistemology of Digital Methods in Science

Semester 3 (PGT only) - Summer vacation

- PHI00017M Dissertation (compulsory for students on all Philosophy Taught MA programmes.)

Please note, occasionally, option modules have to be withdrawn or changed at short notice. Modules which are compulsory for any of the programmes will **always** run.

- **Module catalogue** - All modules currently available, or which ran in recent years, can be viewed on the University's [Module Catalogue](#).
- **Choosing modules** - You will be contacted in August before the start of your programme and asked to select your option modules. You may be asked to give alternative choices in the event that your preferred option(s) are not available.
- **Module registration** - You will be informed in early September which option modules you have been registered on. The classes for the modules will be added to your [timetable](#).
- **Core modules and Option modules** - Core modules are integral to your programme and are compulsory. Option modules are those you may select, subject to availability.

- **Changing modules** - Should you wish to to change an Option module, provided that there are places available, you may do so until **5 pm on the Friday of the second week of teaching of the semester in which the module is being taught**
- **Elective modules** - are those modules offered by other departments which are not listed among the Option modules normally available. At present, only the Applied Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy programme allows students to take an [elective module](#) and only in consultation with Professor Tom Stoneham, Programme Convenor.
- **Reading lists** - Nearer the start of Semester 1 you will be given access to module information and reading lists on the Virtual Learning Environment - known at York as the [Yorkshare VLE](#).

Capstone project module

Students on all Philosophy Taught MA programmes will undertake the compulsory dissertation PHI00017M during the summer vacation. In the case of part-time students, the dissertation will take place during their second summer vacation.

The Dissertation is 10,000 words long, is worth 60 credits and is submitted in September. Although students write up the dissertation during the summer vacation, work on it begins in Semester 2 as part of the Research Skills and Dissemination Practice PHI00085M module. In this module, students will be helped to identify a suitable dissertation topic and supervisor. The final assessment for this module is a Dissertation Outline of 2,000 words for which students will receive feedback.

Reading lists

Near the start of Semester 1 you will be given access to module information and reading lists on the Virtual Learning Environment - known at York as the [Yorkshare VLE](#).

You can find further information on your reading lists in the [Teaching and Learning](#) section below.

Credit-weighting

Credit-weighting means that, in calculating your average mark, each module mark will be given more or less weighting in proportion to the volume of credit (i.e. workload) that is associated with it.

For further information on credit-weighting, including how you can use it to calculate your marks, consult the [Student Guide to Progression and Award](#).

Further information on calculating your final degree mark is available under 'Your final degree classification' in the [Assessment, Progression and Award section](#).

Elective modules

[Elective modules](#) are modules offered by departments to students from outside that department. You can replace non-compulsory modules within your programme with elective modules. It is an opportunity for you to study outside your programme, broaden your knowledge, make new academic connections and boost your employability. We offer York Interdisciplinary Modules (YIMs) exploring sustainability, York language electives so you can learn a language alongside your degree, plus other elective modules on various topics across a wide range of departments.

At present, only the Applied Ethics and Governance of Data Privacy programme allows students to take an [elective module](#) and only in consultation with Professor Tom Stoneham, Programme Convenor.

Please note that it may not always be possible to grant your request to undertake an elective module because of timetabling or other constraints.

Global Programmes

It may be possible to work, study or volunteer abroad during your course. We offer [postgraduate global opportunities](#) through the [Global Opportunities team](#).

Problems with your programme

If you are having problems with your programme you should seek help and advice as soon as possible. In the first instance you may wish to talk to your supervisor.

Change your plan – leave of absence, transferring or withdrawal

There are many occasions when personal circumstances may make it necessary for you to change aspects of your course. However, the decision to [make changes to your course](#) should not be taken lightly and it is essential that you understand the implications that any changes may have. You should discuss any proposed changes with your supervisor.

Transferring to another programme of study

If you are unhappy with your programme of study, you should talk to your supervisor and discuss the options available to you. One option is to [transfer to a different programme of study](#) within the University. Transfers cannot be guaranteed, and are dependent on you meeting the academic

requirements of the new programme and there being space on your preferred programme. If you are considering transferring, you should speak to your supervisor as soon as possible.

We can also advise you if you wish to transfer from York to a programme of study at another university.

Leave of absence

A [leave of absence](#) allows you to take an authorised break in your studies for a maximum of one calendar year in the first instance. This can be on a variety of grounds including medical or compassionate grounds.

Withdrawal

[Withdrawal](#) is the term used when a student decides to leave the University permanently prior to completion of the award for which they are registered, whether for personal or academic reasons.

If you wish to withdraw from the University, you may wish to talk this through first with your supervisor, or with Lucy Akturk, [Student Welfare Adviser](#).

4. Teaching and Learning

Studying at university

At university we expect you to take responsibility for your own learning. This means being self-motivated and independent when it comes to your studies and your personal development.

Teaching methods

Most MA teaching within the department is conducted by means of seminars. Collaborative group work is expected within some modules such as the two Data Privacy modules, and Research Skills and Dissemination Practice. In the latter, students work together to put on a small conference at which they will each give a presentation.

Code of conduct – teaching sessions

You should remain respectful of your fellow students and teaching staff, and engage in discussions in the spirit of constructive debate. To ensure that you arrive at teaching sessions ready to participate constructively, please make sure that you have allowed sufficient time to do all your required reading and any other required preparation, and bring copies of your readings (and notes) with you. Seminar tutors reserve the right to send students away if they arrive to teaching sessions late or underprepared (without good reason).

Attendance

You should attend all scheduled teaching sessions that we set for you, either in person or online, and use the student [Check-In](#) system, if required. Regular attendance is vital to your progression through your degree programme. If it looks like you're not engaging with your studies, we will reach out with guidance and support.

[University Regulations](#) state that you should be present at any time at which teaching or other academic engagements have been arranged for your programme (including Saturdays).

Absence

If you are ill during teaching weeks, please notify the University via your [e:Vision](#) account (in the 'Your Support' section). You can self-report your illness for a maximum of ten days in any one academic year, with a maximum of seven days for any one period of illness.

An absence of more than seven days, but no longer than four weeks, can be approved by your Chair of the Board of Studies. Any longer absence requires the approval of [Special Cases](#). See information on taking a [Leave of Absence](#).

If you stop attending scheduled teaching sessions without saying you are withdrawing and do not respond to our efforts to make contact with you within a specified time-scale, the Board of Studies will assume that you have [withdrawn from your studies](#).

Feedback on Learning and Assessment

Feedback at a University level can be understood as any part of the learning process which is designed to guide your progress through your degree programme by providing commentary on your work to date. We aim to help you to reflect on your own learning and help you feel clearer about your progress through clarifying what is expected of you in both formative and summative assessments.

The University guidelines for feedback are available in the [Guide to Assessment, Standards, Marking and Feedback](#).

Feedback on **formative** (non-assessed) work can be provided in different formats such as via a feedback form, an annotated script, or verbally during a tutorial. The arrangement for submitting formative work is made directly between you and your tutor.

Feedback on **summative** (assessed) work will be provided to you largely via the submission site you submitted your work to. Unless there are unforeseen circumstances, you should receive it within 25 working days after submission

What do I need to do to succeed in my programme?

The [Student Guide to Rules for Progression and Award](#) explains what you need to do to progress through your degree programme and how you can calculate your current classification marks along the way.

Academic integrity

[Academic integrity](#) represents a set of values and behaviours which members of the academic community abide by. To be a trusted member of this academic community you must understand and demonstrate academic integrity in your studies and the work you produce. Such values include honesty, trust, fairness, respect and responsibility.

Online Academic Integrity Tutorial

You are required to successfully complete the [University Online Academic Integrity Tutorial](#), preferably within the first few weeks of your programme. The tutorial relates to your individual programme so you must complete it even if you have studied at York before.

The tutorial is on the VLE and will take you through key principles around integrity and how to avoid things like plagiarism and collusion. It also covers guidance on using artificial intelligence (AI). If you do not uphold the values and conventions of academic integrity, you may be subject to the University's academic misconduct procedures.

Referencing

Referencing is a key aspect of academic writing and is used to clearly identify information and ideas that come from source materials. It is essential to acknowledge other people's ideas in this way so that you can avoid committing plagiarism. Incorrect or non-existent referencing can constitute misconduct.

You should consistently use **either** the Harvard **or** MLA style referencing in the body of the text (not in footnotes). [An online guide to both reference styles is available here.](#)

Turnitin

Turnitin is a text-matching software designed to help students integrate material into assignments correctly. All students can use Turnitin once you complete the online Turnitin tutorial on the [VLE](#).

Academic misconduct

Academic misconduct means breaking the rules of academic integrity and this is why we regard any form of academic misconduct as a very serious offence. See the University policy for what we consider to be [academic misconduct](#).

Our guidance on [Artificial Intelligence \(AI\) use in assessment](#) states that we expect you not to use AI to generate assessment answers, unless you have been explicitly told that you may or must do so.

Students facing academic misconduct issues can contact [York SU Advice and Support](#) for help.

Study skills and support

Departmental study support

Many of the skills you need to carry out research and presentations are taught within the Research Skills and Dissemination Practice module.

Any student who feels they need extra support with their studies should speak to their supervisor.

Managing your workload through independent study

You are responsible for researching, studying and managing your own learning. You will need to plan your time carefully and be aware of timescales and deadlines for assessments, projects and exams.

Your tutors and supervisor can advise and we have further support in place through the [Academic Skills Community](#) to help you gain any additional skills you might need with maths, academic writing, referencing, IT skills and languages.

Online resources – IT facilities, VLE and others

There are computer rooms across the campus available for student use, and the Department Foyer in Sally Baldwin A has Wi-Fi access and a laptop bar if you would like to bring your own laptop to work there.

We will usually communicate with you via email to your university account, so check that account regularly. We also expect students to make full use of the online teaching materials on the VLE.

See information on the [facilities and services IT Services provides](#). If you have any problems, you can [contact IT Services](#) for help.

Library

The University Library provides a vast array of high quality online resources, books, and spaces to work. Staff are here to help, whether that's in person at the Help Desk or via email, phone, chat or social media. Find out more about where to start with the [Library Essentials guide](#). This includes information on using the library catalogue, your library account, online induction resources and opening hours. For general help, contact the [Library Help Desk](#).

Your reading list

Your online [reading lists](#) are designed to help you get started with reading for your module. Your lecturer might have structured your lists by topic or by week to help you navigate them more easily, and you'll find that items are tagged as essential, recommended or background so that you know which to read first.

The online system provides information about where items are in the Library and it also tells you if books are out on loan. If we have electronic resources they will link directly to the reading so it is really easy for you to access it.

Your Faculty Librarian

Your Faculty Librarians are Kirsty Whitehead & Olivia Else. They can help you to search effectively for resources, understand how to use and evaluate these and how to reference your work correctly. They can be contacted at lib-philosophy@york.ac.uk. Further details on your Faculty Librarian and your subject guide can be found at [at Philosophy Subject Guide](#)

Study spaces

There are [over 1000 places to work](#) across the three sections of the Library: the Morrell, the Fairhurst and the Burton, plus more [study spaces across campus](#). These include a variety of quiet and silent areas, IT rooms, and bookable group and individual study rooms. There are study areas designed especially for postgraduate students in the Morrell and the Fairhurst; ask at the Library Help Desk to

get access to these spaces. There is also library space on the 1st floor of Piazza Building on Campus East, and a 24/7 Library Study Area in Vanbrugh College (V/N/058).

Philosophy students are also able to study in the Humanities Research Centre. Visit the [HRC](#) website for further information.

The Borthwick Institute for Archives

Few universities have archives with the range and quality of those at the [Borthwick Institute for Archives](#). It supports teaching across a wide range of departments and provides work experience and skills teaching across archive and archive conservation work, ranging through digital archives, parchment codices, photographic prints and negatives and reel-to-reel tapes.

Study skills

Our [Academic Skills Community](#), based in the Fairhurst Library, helps students develop their academic and communication skills to a high standard. Through online resources, workshops and one-to-one consultations, academic skills staff work with students to develop skills in:

- academic reading and writing including critical thinking
- communication and self development - time management and study skills
- planning academic assignments, capstone projects and theses
- maths and statistics
- academic language
- integrating sources and data effectively into their writing
- developing a more critical stance and developing academic argument.

Skills guides

Learn how to follow good academic practice and develop your digital skills for effective reading, note-making, essay writing and problem solving. Consult our online [skills guides](#) to find tips and interactive resources.

Digital skills training

We offer [workshops to help you enhance your academic and digital skills](#). Training includes reference management, critical skills, presentations and digital creativity.

Writing Centre

The [Writing Centre](#) offers academic writing guidance and online resources for all students. They offer face-to-face and online appointments throughout the year.

Maths Skills Centre

The [Maths Skills Centre](#) provides online resources, one to one appointments and workshops to develop skills and competencies in mathematics and statistics.

Languages for All (LfA)

The University's [Languages for All](#) courses are a perfect opportunity to broaden your horizons and learn about a new culture. Courses are available in a range of different languages and at different levels so you can take part whether you are a beginner or nearly fluent. Two types of courses are available: year-long courses running from October to May and short courses in Semester 2. There may be a charge for these courses.

Prizes

We offer the following Prizes based on performance:

Roger Woolhouse Prize - £500 awarded to the student on a Philosophy Masters programme for a 4,000-word assessed essay which is deemed the best submitted during the Semester 1 assessment period. Students may only be awarded the prize once.

David Eford Student Prize - £300 is awarded to the student on the MA Analytic Theology or MA Philosophy who achieves the highest essay mark >72 on a topic in the field of philosophy of religion, or on a contemporary issue or theme using a philosophy of religion perspective. Students may only be awarded the prize once.

5. Assessment, progression and award

Guide to assessment

The University's [Guide to Assessment Standards, Marking and Feedback](#) contains the University's formal procedures relating to the conduct of assessment. It provides clear and detailed information on each aspect of student assessment and is a useful resource if you want to know more about how your work is assessed.

Assessment methods

You will encounter two types of assessment during your time at University: formative and summative.

Formative assessment is there to help you develop. While it does not contribute to your final degree mark, it will help you to learn more effectively – you will be provided with feedback which will help you to review and improve your performance.

Summative assessment indicates the extent of your success in meeting the assessment criteria and how well you have fulfilled the learning outcomes of a particular module or programme. The marks from this type of assessment will contribute to your final degree result or towards progression decisions.

Formal examination requirements

See the [Students Guide to Examinations](#). Individual examination arrangements may be approved for students who are unable to sit formal University examination conditions as a result of a disability or other condition. It is important to note that such arrangements must be in place at least 11 weeks prior to the exam in question, so it is essential that students requiring individual arrangements contact [Disability Services](#) as soon as possible to ensure that adjustments can be made. You need to contact Disability Services even if you have had a Student Support Plan in place in the past, either at York or another university.

Assessment format and submission of work

Information about assessments can be found in the [Philosophy assessment pages](#). Details of how to submit your assessments will be provided on the VLE or by email. If you have any questions about your assessments, please contact PGT assessments at Philosophy-PGT-Assessments@york.ac.uk

Penalties

Knowing how to manage your time, write succinctly and provide a complete and comprehensive piece of work to a strict deadline are skills you will develop at university. In the interests of fairness,

transparency and to be equitable we have strict rules around deadlines and the quality or quantity of work submitted, and have clear penalties where these rules are not followed.

All work submitted late, without an approved extension of [Exceptional Circumstances affecting Assessment](#), will have a percentage of the available marks deducted for each day (or part of each day) that the work is late, up to a total of five days, including weekends and bank holidays, e.g. if work is awarded a mark of 30 out of 50, and the work is up to one day late, the final mark is 25.

After five days, the work is marked at zero. The penalty cannot result in a mark less than zero.

Submitted	Penalty
Up to one hour late	5% deducted from mark
1 day	10% deducted from mark
2 days	20% deducted from mark
3 days	30% deducted from mark
4 days	40% deducted from mark
5 days	50% deducted from mark
Over 5 days	Work marked at zero

In addition to the University's standard lateness penalties, the Department of Philosophy applies penalties for exceeding the upper word length for assessed essays. If you declare a word count which exceeds the word limit you will also be penalised. If we think that the word count is inaccurate, we will check your essay; in addition, we may select some essays for random checking. These penalties are as follows:

Over-run greater than	Over-run less than or equal to	Penalty applied to agreed mark for essay
0% of upper word limit	15% of upper word limit	5 marks
16% of upper word limit	50% of upper word limit	10 marks
51% of upper word limit	100% of upper word limit	a final mark of 0 awarded

Failure to submit

If you, with no approved claim of Exceptional Circumstances affecting Assessment, fail to submit an assessment by the deadline after five days or fail to attend an examination, a mark of zero will be awarded. You may be given the opportunity for reassessment – see ‘Feedback on Learning and Assessment’ in the [Teaching and Learning](#) section above. However, the zero will be used to calculate your degree classification, and if the examination or assessment missed is already a resit or re-assessment to redeem an initial failure, no further re-assessment opportunities will be available without proof of exceptional circumstances.

If you are struggling to meet deadlines, submit a piece of work or will miss an exam due to personal circumstances you will need to inform the University as soon as possible and apply for [Exceptional Circumstances affecting Assessment](#).

How is my work marked?

A full description of our marking criteria can be downloaded from our [Assessment website](#).

What happens if I fail a module?

There are two possible ways in which you may still be able to pass your taught modules and progress to the next stage.

Compensation

For Masters level modules, the pass mark for module assessments is 50. However, if your mark for a module is in the 40 – 49 range, you may still be able to get the credits for the module if your performance in other modules is good enough to compensate. In other words, ‘marginal’ failure in one module may be compensated by achievement in others.

Reassessment

If you get a module mark below 40, or if you have too many modules with failing marks to be allowed to compensate them all, you will have to be reassessed. However, there is a limit to the number of credits in which you can be reassessed.

If you need to be reassessed to pass a module, it is important to note that it will be your mark on your original attempt that will be used to calculate your degree classification. We will not use your resit mark.

Please note that not all modules can be reassessed or compensated

For further information on compensation and reassessment, see the [Student Guide to Progression and Award](#).

Resits, repeats and readmission

If you make a successful claim that an assessment is affected by medical or compassionate circumstances, you may be permitted to sit the assessment again 'as if for the first time'. This means that the original attempt will not be considered for progression decisions or your degree classification.

Repeat study will only be considered in cases where a student can show that they had truly exceptional circumstances which did not allow them to benefit from the teaching on their first attempt, and that there was a good reason why the student could not have informed the University of the circumstances at the time.

You will need to submit evidence of mitigating circumstances to qualify for resits and repeats. See further information on [resits, repeats and readmission](#).

Programme extensions and termination

A programme extension can be recommended where a student cannot complete the programme within a normal timescale because of exceptional circumstances. If you find yourself in this situation, talk to your supervisor.

In some circumstances, the Board of Studies can recommend that your programme is ended before its normal end date. This may be due to reasons such as poor attendance (without good reason) or through having failed so much of the programme that it is no longer possible to graduate.

See further information on [programme termination, extensions and transfers](#).

Exceptional Circumstances affecting Assessment

Sometimes things happen beyond your control that either have an impact on your performance during an assessment or prevent you from undertaking the assessment at the scheduled time. If these events are truly exceptional, i.e. serious, unusual and unpredictable, they may be classed as exceptional circumstances and you may be able to defer or resit an assessment.

There are three possible ways to claim exceptional circumstances:

1. Student Support Plans (for students with a disability) sometimes have the option to request an extension on a piece of work as part of their Plan's adjustments or to defer an examination attempt.
2. Self-certification can be used for short-term, acute illnesses or short-term unforeseen circumstances prior to submission of an open assessment or commencement of an examination. Students may use self-certification for a maximum of 3 assessments per academic year. (This is not to be confused with [self-certification of illness](#) if you are ill during term time and miss teaching).
3. You can apply to the Exceptional Circumstances Committee for assessments where the start time (exams) or deadline (open assessments) has passed or where the self-certification may not be possible due to the severity of the circumstances/impact on assessment.

If such exceptional circumstances do occur, you must seek support from your supervisor and provide evidence as soon as possible at the time they occur. You can find the [Exceptional Circumstances affecting Assessment](#) claim form online, along with further information on submitting a claim.

Submitting an appeal

You can [submit an appeal](#) if you can establish there was a procedural error in arriving at an academic decision, or on the basis that you can provide evidence that you had exceptional circumstances which you could not have raised at the time. You cannot appeal against academic judgement of your work. Seek support from your supervisor and/or [York SU Advice and Support](#) before deciding whether to submit an academic appeal.

For information on making a complaint, see the [Rules and responsibilities](#) section below.

External examiners

The External Examiner for Philosophy taught postgraduate programmes is Dr Jennifer Corns (University of Glasgow).

It is inappropriate to make direct contact with external examiners. If you have any issues or concerns you can register these through [appeal](#) or [complaint](#).

The purpose of the external examiner is to review our programme content and assessment

practices, to ensure fairness and assure the quality of our degree awards. The examiner reviews samples of student work and attends meetings of the Board of Examiners to confirm fairness and consistency in decision-making processes. The external examiner produces a written report annually reviewing the year's assessment arrangements, commenting on the integrity of the assessment process and the standard of student attainment. The Board of Studies is asked to respond to any issues raised

by the external examiner as part of its Annual Programme Review (attended by course reps) in the following semester.

Your final degree classification

The University applies the following mark scale to postgraduate work:

- Distinction: 70-100
- Merit: 60-69
- Pass: 50-59
- Marginal fail (potential to compensate): 40-49
- Fail: 0-39

For information on calculating your degree classification, see the [Student Guide to the University's Rules for Progression and Award](#).

6. Rules and responsibilities

Regulations and student discipline

When you enrol, you agree to accept and abide by the [University Regulations](#). You should make sure you are familiar with [Regulation 7: Student Discipline](#), and the associated procedures, which details the sorts of behaviour which are unacceptable in our community and explain our procedure for taking disciplinary action. We aim to maintain a community of respect in which students and staff can study, work and live safely together. We hope that your time at the University will not be affected by problems of [student misconduct](#).

Campus rules

Our [Rules for the Use of Campus Grounds](#) set out the standards we expect to ensure that the grounds of the University remain inclusive, sustainable and an inspirational environment to be enjoyed by all.

Complaints

If you are dissatisfied with your experience of a service you have received as a student you should let us know. In the first instance you should speak to someone within the department or service where the issue occurred. If you are dissatisfied with their response, you can find more information on [how to make a complaint](#) on our website.

Data protection

The University collects, uses, stores and shares certain types of personal data, in various formats, about its current and past students in order to fulfil its functions as an education provider and to maintain its lifelong relationship with its alumni community. In doing so, it complies with the UK General Data Protection Regulation and Data Protection Act 2018. See further information on [how the University uses your data and the various rights you have](#) on our website.

7. Support and wellbeing

Our [health and wellbeing web pages](#) detail the wide range of [help and support](#) available for all students to help you get the most out of your university experience.

Your department

You have a Student Wellbeing Officer for your department who will be able to offer advice, guidance and support with personal or academic issues that may affect your ability to fully engage with student life. They offer a non-judgemental space for you to talk through the challenges you might be facing and where appropriate, help you to navigate University services as well as signposting to other external sources of support.

[Lucy Akturk](#) who is the Student Wellbeing Officer is based in the department on Tuesdays. Lucy also brings Milo, her therapy dog, along with her.

Kate Rose is our [Open Door Practitioner](#) and is based in Philosophy on Thursdays.

Your college

York is one of a handful of UK universities with a college system. Your [college](#) provides you with a support network and a calendar of events and activities to help you settle in, develop your skills and explore your interests.

Each college community is supported by a dedicated staff team. The College Team provides pastoral and practical support, hosting a wide range of events to support student wellbeing and offering one-to-one coaching to guide students through the challenges of life at university.

Whether you are an on-campus resident or not, your college is ready to listen.

University of York Students' Union

There are many opportunities to get involved with groups and projects outside of your course with York Students' Union. Join clubs and societies, campaign to make change, volunteer - and so much more. With over 250 societies and over 65 sports clubs, there's something for everyone.

Philosophy students are particularly encouraged to seek out the [Philosophy Society \(PhilSoc\)](#) and to attend the events organised by them and/or the philosophy department. For details of upcoming departmental events and news about the department keep an eye on our [News and Events](#) web page and follow us on [Facebook](#)

Head to the [University of York Students' Union website](#) to see all of the clubs and societies on offer.

Student Hub

The [Student Hub](#) is a first point of contact for support and advice. Chat to our Student Support and Advice Team about issues regarding financial support and money management, housing advice, academic progress issues and more.

Financial support

If you face financial difficulty, you may be eligible for [assistance funding](#) in the form of an emergency loan and/or a non-repayable award.

Support for international students

Our [International Student Support](#) team provides advice and guidance for international students on issues such as immigration and visas, accessing healthcare entitlements, opening a bank account, scams and signposting for emotional support.

Disability support

[Disability Services](#) can provide support, advice and guidance for those with a diagnosed disability, including specific learning difficulties such as dyslexia, dyspraxia and ADHD, autism, visual and hearing impairment, physical disabilities, medical conditions and mental health difficulties, amongst others. All students with disabilities are encouraged to contact the service via the online registration form to discuss your individual needs and to recommend academic adjustments in a Student Support Plan (SSP). Contact Disability Services even if you have had a previous SSP at York or another university.

Please let your department know as soon as possible if you have a disability and may require support. You can discuss this with your supervisor.

Each department has a disability representative. The representative for Philosophy is [Daniel Morgan](#).

You may also require individual arrangements for formal examinations. See the information provided on formal examinations in the [Assessment, progression and award](#) section for further information.

Mental health support

We have a team of [Mental Health Practitioners based on campus](#) in our Open Door and Student Wellbeing team. Get in touch for free, confidential support if you experience psychological or mental health difficulties.

24/7 support

Download the free [TalkCampus](#) app to connect anonymously with other students from around the world about the ups and downs of student life or if you're struggling and worried about your mental health. You can also access a 24/7 helpline - staffed by clinicians - if you need someone to talk to.

Campus Safety

The [Campus Safety](#) team is a first point of contact for security, medical, social and wellbeing related issues, providing advice and guidance on safety and security related issues. They provide a friendly and high visibility presence to help keep everyone safe. Contact them easily via the [SafeZone app](#).

Faith contacts

Whilst the University is a secular institution, we have information about [faith communities](#) to signpost students to faith and spiritual support in the local area. We also provide spaces for prayer and reflection on campus.

Sexual Violence Liaison Officers

Our [Sexual Violence Liaison Officers \(SVLOs\)](#) can work one-to-one with those who have experienced sexual violence at any time in their lives. They can talk you through support options and reporting options, both within the University and externally. They will support you through whatever choices are right for you.

Report + Support

[Report+Support](#) is the University's tool to report serious misconduct such as harassment, sexual violence or physical violence. You can also find lots of information on all of the support available, both within the University and in the local community. You can also choose to report anonymously to help the University to understand the issues affecting our students.

8. Personal development and employability

Careers

Our [Careers and Placements](#) team is based on Campus West next to the Spring Lane Building and there is always someone to talk to during opening hours.

The team covers:

- Information, advice and support - from our professional team of accredited careers consultants and the wider support team
- Experience - including Placement Years, volunteering, community engaged learning and short term internships with our network of local employers
- Skills and development - including our award-winning York Strengths programme, York Leaders and York Award
- Events and networking - linking you up with future employers and showcasing the diverse graduate opportunities available

Working during your studies

Our [Careers and Placements](#) team can help you to find a part-time job and provide information on your legal rights and obligations. We advise that you work no more than 20 hours a week during the semester as anything over this may interfere with your studies and affect your health and wellbeing. If you are a [student visa holder](#) you will need to be aware of any working restrictions placed on you by your visa.

9. Graduation and beyond

After you submit all your final assessments, your overall degree classification will be agreed and ratified by your departmental Examinations Board and then approved by University Senate. You will receive an email from the University's Progression and Awards Team confirming that your results can be viewed on [e:Vision](#).

When the time comes, we will contact you with full information about [graduation](#), including ceremony dates and important deadlines. It is important to keep your information up to date on [e:Vision](#), including your personal email address.

Access to University services

Your borrowing rights at the University Library end on the last day of your studies.

Access to most IT Services facilities (including email) are automatically withdrawn approximately 90 days after you finish your studies. The data in your University Google account and your files in your personal filestore are saved for one year after expiry. IT Services recommend you save or transfer account data before they close - see [IT information for student leavers](#).

References and transcripts

If you require a reference, you should contact your Academic Supervisor or an academic member of staff who is familiar with you.

You can [purchase transcripts and other documents](#) from the Transcripts Office.

Keep in touch

Once you graduate, you will officially become a York alum and will be able to access our careers support - for life. Whether you want to further your professional life with courses that will enhance your skills, prepare yourself for a promotion with career support and advice, or stay connected with York and the friends you made whilst being here, we can help with [York for Life](#).