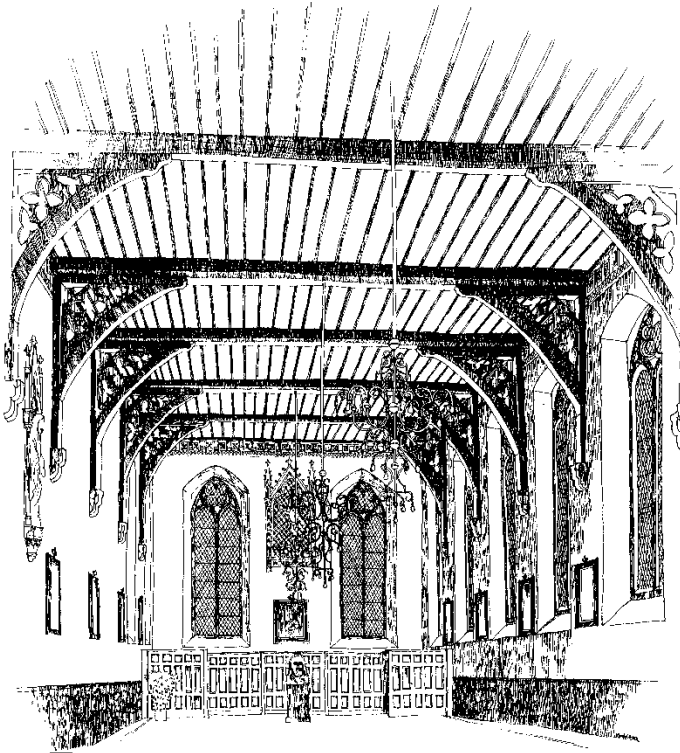


Chapter VII

Faculty of Philosophy



Pugin Hall is the principal Dining Room at Saint Patrick's College, Maynooth

Degrees and Diplomas offered by the Faculty of Philosophy

Diploma in Philosophy

Higher Diploma in Philosophy

Baccalaureate in Philosophy

Licentiate in Philosophy

Masters in Philosophy

Doctorate in Philosophy

Dean of the Faculty

Vacant

Lecturers

Dr Gaven Kerr, BA, MPhil, PhD (QUB)

Dr Colm Shanahan, B.A, M.Litt, PhD (TCD)

Dr Jordan McFadden, B.A, M.A, MPhil, PhD (CUA)

Reverend Dr Patrick Gorevan, DPh (UCD)

Dr Michael O'Gorman, BA, MA (MIC), PhD (TCD)

Understanding Modules and Credits

Modules of courses required for the courses taught in the Faculty of Philosophy are described in the following pages.

Each course is divided into units known as *modules*. Module descriptions follow the quality conventions of the Holy See, through the auspices of the Dicastery for Culture and Education along with the National Framework for Qualifications (NFQ), which divides awards into distinct levels with appropriate learning outcomes. The frameworks offer objective measures for educational attainment in order to permit recognition of qualifications and facilitate movement of students.

Module Name: Each module has a formal name or description.

Module Code: For administrative purposes, each module has a code made up of letters and numbers. The first number of the code signifies the NFQ level, e.g. 08 signifies an NFQ level 8 module; the letters are abbreviations of subject-areas, e.g. PY (courses with PY in the module code are taught by Faculty of Philosophy in Saint Patrick's Pontifical University). The final set of digits are for identification purposes.

Module Lecturer or Co-ordinator: The person teaching the module. Where there is more than one lecturer, the co-ordinator is responsible for the direction of the course.

Faculty: The Faculty of Philosophy responsible for this module.

Module Level: This indicates the NFQ level for the module.

Credit rating: Each module carries a number of CREDITS or ECTS (European Credit Transfer System). Credit rating is calculated by the amount of time devoted to the module where one credit represents 20-25 hours estimated student input. Thus, a 5 credit module equates to 100 – 125 hours of work for the semester inclusive of classes, reading, private study, assessment preparation etc. One year of full time study is the equivalent of 60 ECTS Credits or 12.

Diploma in Philosophy

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level Holy See QF	7 1 st Cycle
Programme Duration	2 Year(s) Full Time/ 4 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	120

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate knowledge of the main branches of philosophy and its history
2. Demonstrate knowledge of the primary and secondary sources, and the influence of one branch of philosophy on another.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate a knowledge of philosophical analysis.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements in various philosophical domains.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to work independently on philosophical reading, analysis, and writing.
2. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others on a philosophically contentious issue.
3. Exercise personal responsibility in adapting knowledge and skills acquired to address novel questions and problems in varying contexts.

Admission Requirements

1. In order to register for courses leading to the Degree of Diploma in Philosophy, a student must have obtained a pass grade in five subjects of the Leaving Certificate or its equivalent: three of these must be academic subjects in the Maynooth University matriculation syllabus.
2. Students who do not qualify under 1 (a) may be considered for admission by the Faculty:
 - (a) if they are of mature age, i.e. if they have reached the age of 23 on or before 1st January of the year of entry into the programme;
 or
 - (b) if they present a transcript of particular merit from an appropriate institute of Third Level education, containing full details regarding subjects studied, approximate number of lectures, and level of achievement in each subject.

Courses for the Diploma in Philosophy

The programme is comprised of modules combined to a total 120 credits; these involve modules exclusive to each year of study as well as cyclical modules common to both first and second year.

Below is the programme structure for the Diploma in Philosophy (subject to change):

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]				Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]			
First Year		Second Year		First Year		Second Year	
Semester 1				Semester 1			
PY07125	Fides et Ratio	PY07302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence	PY07125	Fides et Ratio	PY07216	Philosophy of Woman
PY07139	Academic Writing and Research	PY07215	Foundations of Analytic Philosophy	PY07139	Academic Writing and Research	PY07302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence
PY07145	Introduction to Philosophy	PY07152	The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel	PY07145	Introduction to Philosophy	PY07146	Epistemology
PY07130	General Ethics	PY07130	General Ethics	PY07121	Classical Metaphysics	PY07121	Classical Metaphysics
PY07214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY07214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY07154	History of Ancient Philosophy	PY07154	History of Ancient Philosophy

PY07153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY07153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY07155	Philosophy of Mind	PY07155	Philosophy of Mind
Semester 2				Semester 2			
PY07124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	PY07148	Philosophical Theology	PY07124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	PY07141	Philosophy of Science and Nature
PY07150	Issues in Ethics	PY07150	Issues in Ethics	PY07140	History of Medieval Philosophy	PY07140	History of Medieval Philosophy
PY07151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY07151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY07142	The Philosophy of Augustine	PY07142	The Philosophy of Augustine
PY07149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY07149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY07147	The Philosophy of the Human Person	PY07147	The Philosophy of the Human Person
PY07134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY07134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY07126	Aesthetics	PY07126	Aesthetics
PY07156	Bonaventure	PY07156	Bonaventure	PY07135	Phenomenology	PY07135	Phenomenology

Progression

On successful completion of the Diploma in Philosophy, students may be considered for entry into the Baccalaureate in Philosophy programme.

Higher Diploma in Philosophy

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level Holy See QF	8 1 st Cycle
Programme Duration	2 Year(s) Full Time/ 4 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	120

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the core theories, concepts and methods which underpin the discipline of philosophy.
2. Communicate a comprehensive knowledge of diverse theories and research findings across a range of philosophical subjects and thinkers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate mastery in philosophical analysis and critical evaluation.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements and draw conclusions in various philosophical domains.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to work independently on philosophical reading, analysis, and writing.
2. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others on a philosophically contentious issue.
3. Exercise personal responsibility in adapting knowledge and skills acquired to address novel questions and problems in varying contexts.

Admission Requirements

1. In order to register for courses leading to the Degree of Higher Diploma in Philosophy, a student must have a third-level qualification in any subject or combination of subjects at ordinary or honours bachelor level.
2. Students who do not qualify under 1 (a) may be considered for admission by the Faculty:
 - (a) if they are of mature age, i.e. if they have reached the age of 23 on or before 1st January of the year of entry into the programme;
 - or
 - (b) if they present a transcript of particular merit from an appropriate institute of Third Level education, containing full details regarding subjects studied, approximate number of lectures, and level of achievement in each subject.

Courses for the Higher Diploma in Philosophy

The programme is comprised of modules combined to a total 120 credits; these involve modules exclusive to each year of study as well as cyclical modules common to both first and second year.

Below is the programme structure for the Diploma in Philosophy (subject to change):

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]				Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]			
First Year		Second Year		First Year		Second Year	
Semester 1				Semester 1			
PY08125	Fides et Ratio	PY08302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence	PY08125	Fides et Ratio	PY08216	Philosophy of Woman
PY08139	Academic Writing and Research	PY08215	Foundations of Analytic Philosophy	PY08139	Academic Writing and Research	PY08302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence
PY08145	Introduction to Philosophy	PY08152	The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel	PY08145	Introduction to Philosophy	PY08146	Epistemology
PY08130	General Ethics	PY08130	General Ethics	PY08121	Classical Metaphysics	PY08121	Classical Metaphysics
PY08214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY08214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY08154	History of Ancient Philosophy	PY08154	History of Ancient Philosophy

PY08153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY08153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY08155	Philosophy of Mind	PY08155	Philosophy of Mind
Semester 2				Semester 2			
PY08124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	PY08148	Philosophical Theology	PY08124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	PY08141	Philosophy of Science and Nature
PY08150	Issues in Ethics	PY08150	Issues in Ethics	PY08140	History of Medieval Philosophy	PY08140	History of Medieval Philosophy
PY08151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY08151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY08142	The Philosophy of Augustine	PY08142	The Philosophy of Augustine
PY08149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY08149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY08147	The Philosophy of the Human Person	PY08147	The Philosophy of the Human Person
PY08134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY08134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY08126	Aesthetics	PY08126	Aesthetics
PY08156	Bonaventure	PY08156	Bonaventure	PY08135	Phenomenology	PY08135	Phenomenology

Progression

On successful completion of the Higher Diploma in Philosophy, students may be considered for entry into the Baccalaureate in Philosophy programme.

Baccalaureate in Philosophy

(1 Year Full Time)

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level Holy See QF	8 1 st Cycle
Programme Duration	1 Year(s) Full Time/ 2 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	60

The Baccalaureate in Philosophy 1 Year Full Time is a top up programme which takes the learning from the previous Diploma or Higher Diploma in Philosophy (120 ECTS) adding to that 60 ECTS to bring the student up to 180 ECTS of philosophy thereby satisfying the requirement of the Baccalaureate in Philosophy.

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the core theories, concepts and methods which underpin the discipline of philosophy.
2. Communicate a comprehensive knowledge of diverse theories and research findings across a range of philosophical subjects and thinkers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate mastery in philosophical analysis and critical evaluation.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements and draw conclusions in various philosophical domains.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to work independently on philosophical reading, analysis, and writing.

2. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others on a philosophically contentious issue.
3. Exercise personal responsibility in adapting knowledge and skills acquired to address novel questions and problems in varying contexts.

Admission Requirements

1. In order to register for courses leading to the Degree of Baccalaureate in Philosophy (1 Year Full Time), a student must have successfully completed either a Diploma or Higher Diploma in Philosophy.

Courses for the Baccalaureate in Philosophy (1 Year Full Time)

The programme is comprised of modules combined to a total 60 credits; these modules occur within the cycle outlined below. Students undertake modules within the relevant cycle.

Below is the programme structure for the Baccalaureate in Philosophy (1 Year Full Time) subject to change:

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]		Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]	
Semester 1		Semester 1	
PY08302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence	PY08216	Philosophy of Woman
PY08215	Foundations of Analytic Philosophy	PY08302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence
PY08152	The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel	PY08146	Epistemology
PY08130	General Ethics	PY08121	Classical Metaphysics
PY08214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY08154	History of Ancient Philosophy
P08Y153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY08155	Philosophy of Mind

Semester 2		Semester 2	
PY08148	Philosophical Theology	PY08141	Philosophy of Science and Nature
PY08150	Issues in Ethics	PY08140	History of Medieval Philosophy
PY08151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY08142	The Philosophy of Augustine
PY08149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY08147	The Philosophy of the Human Person
PY08134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY08126	Aesthetics
PY08156	Bonaventure	PY08135	Phenomenology

Baccalaureate in Philosophy

(3 Years Full Time)

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level Holy See QF	8 1 st Cycle
Programme Duration	3 Year(s) Full Time/ 6 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	180

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the core theories, concepts and methods which underpin the discipline of philosophy.
2. Communicate a comprehensive knowledge of diverse theories and research findings across a range of philosophical subjects and thinkers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate mastery in philosophical analysis and critical evaluation.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements and draw conclusions in various philosophical domains.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to work independently on philosophical reading, analysis, and writing.
2. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others on a philosophically contentious issue.
3. Exercise personal responsibility in adapting knowledge and skills acquired to address novel questions and problems in varying contexts.

Admission Requirements

1. In order to register for courses leading to the degree of Baccalaureate in Philosophy, a pass grade is required in five subjects of the Leaving Certificate or its equivalent.
2. Students who do not qualify under 1 (a) may be considered for admission by the Faculty:
 - (a) if they are of mature age, i.e. if they have reached the age of 23 on or before 1st January of the year of entry into the programme;
 - or
 - (b) if they present a transcript of particular merit from an appropriate institute of Third Level education, containing full details regarding subjects studied, approximate number of lectures, and level of achievement in each subject.

Courses for the Baccalaureate in Philosophy

The programme is comprised of modules combined to a total 180 credits; these involve modules exclusive to each year of study as well as cyclical modules common to both first and second year.

Below is the programme structure for the Diploma in Philosophy (subject to change):

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]				Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]			
First Year		Second Year		First Year		Second Year	
Semester 1				Semester 1			
PY08125	Fides et Ratio	PY08302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence	PY08125	Fides et Ratio	PY08216	Philosophy of Woman
PY08139	Academic Writing and Research	PY08215	Foundations of Analytic Philosophy	PY08139	Academic Writing and Research	PY08302	Reading Proofs of God's Existence
PY08145	Introduction to Philosophy	PY08152	The Philosophy of Gabriel Marcel	PY08145	Introduction to Philosophy	PY08146	Epistemology

PY08130	General Ethics	PY08130	General Ethics	PY08121	Classical Metaphysics	PY08121	Classical Metaphysics
PY08214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY08214	Philosophy, Politics, and Religion	PY08154	History of Ancient Philosophy	PY08154	History of Ancient Philosophy
PY08153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY08153	History of Modern Philosophy	PY08155	Philosophy of Mind	PY08155	Philosophy of Mind
Semester 2				Semester 2			
PY08124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	PY08148	Philosophical Theology	PY08124	Logical Reasoning and Critical Thinking	PY08141	Philosophy of Science and Nature
PY08150	Issues in Ethics	PY08150	Issues in Ethics	PY08140	History of Medieval Philosophy	PY08140	History of Medieval Philosophy
PY08151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY08151	The Philosophy of Aquinas	PY08142	The Philosophy of Augustine	PY08142	The Philosophy of Augustine
PY08149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY08149	The History of Contemporary Philosophy	PY08147	The Philosophy of the Human Person	PY08147	The Philosophy of the Human Person
PY08134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY08134	Atheism and Philosophy	PY08126	Aesthetics	PY08126	Aesthetics
PY08156	Bonaventure	PY08156	Bonaventure	PY08135	Phenomenology	PY08135	Phenomenology

Third Year	
Semester 1	
PY08144	The Philosophy of Soren Kierkegaard
PY08304	Extended Essay (2 semesters)
EL08249	Good and Evil I
MR08342	No Escaping Fundamental Questions
MR08228	Catholic Social Ethics
PS08202	Primary Text Seminar II/A/B/C TITLE
Semester 2	
PY08303	Reading the <i>Summa Theologiae</i>
PY08304	Extended Essay [continued from previous semester]
EL08248	Good and Evil II
MR08343	Contemporary Ethical Issues in a Global Society
PY08601	Philosophy of Religion and Secular Thought
PS08202	Primary Text Seminar II/A/B/C

Licentiate in Philosophy

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level Holy See QF	9 2nd Cycle
Programme Duration	2 Year(s) Full Time/ 4 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	120

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the main historical and systematic areas of philosophy as informed by the work of thinkers at the forefront of the field.
2. Communicate and critically evaluate knowledge of diverse theories and research findings across a range of contemporary philosophical subjects and thinkers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate mastery in philosophical analysis and critical evaluation in extended pieces of writing and oral examination.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements and draw conclusions in various contemporary philosophical domains; this will often involve knowledge of several languages in order to engage with contemporary thinkers.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others in writing, discussion, and oral examination, in particular, the ability to engage critically when put under pressure.
2. Demonstrate an ability to initiate and lead seminar discussion.

3. Exercise skills in acquiring new languages for research, locating research materials, and preparation for oral examination.

Admission Requirements

1. In order to register for courses leading to the Degree of Licentiate in Philosophy, a student must have received a Baccalaureate or Bachelor's degree in Philosophy at least upper second class or equivalent.
2. Applicants should provide a letter of recommendation showing evidence of their character and integrity. In the case of seminarians or priests, this letter should be provided by their Ordinary or College Rector; in the case of religious or consecrated persons, this should be provided by their Superior or Study Director; in the case of lay students, this should be provided by an ecclesiastical person who knows the candidate well.
3. Applicants should provide a personal statement accompanying their application, in which they provide reasons for applying to study for a Licentiate, the prior preparation (undergraduate study) and skills (e.g. knowledge of philosophy, organizational and critical thinking abilities, etc.) they possess, and the goals they have, including both short-term aims for the programme, and long-term goals for their work after the proposed degree.
4. Applicants undergo an interview with two members of staff, which will normally be based on the personal statement they have submitted as well as upon their academic history.

Courses for the Licentiate in Philosophy

The programme is comprised of modules and a minor dissertation combined to a total 120 credits. The modules run on a cycle and students choose 9 modules out of the list below in the relevant cycle. This minor dissertation should be between 25,000 and 30,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and appendices).

Below are the modules offered on the Licentiate in Philosophy (subject to change); students undertake 9 of these modules over the course of the programme:

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]		Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]	
First Year	Second Year	First Year	Second Year
Semester 1		Semester 1	
PY09406	Texts in Modern Philosophy	PY09401	Philosophical Themes in Ancient and Medieval Thought: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics
PY09408	Political Theology	PY09403	Mind and World
PY09411	Ancient Philosophy	PY09410	Females Voices in Religious Philosophy
Semester 2		Semester 2	
PY09407	Themes from the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas	PY09404	Philosophy, Science, and Nature
PY09409	Philosophy of God	PY09402	Perspectives on Selfhood
PY09412	Medieval Philosophy	PY09405	Creation and Desire

Special requirements for being awarded the Licentiate in Philosophy degree:

- If candidates do not already have some proficiency in a second academic language, they must acquire at least a reading knowledge of the same, preferably an academic language that is relevant to their area of research.
- Candidates must complete all degree requirements within three years after their admission to the programme.
- The minor dissertation should be between 25,000 and 30,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and appendices).
- Candidates must pass the following examinations:
 1. The regular examinations required in each course.
 2. An oral examination of 30 minutes duration, based on their thesis, before two members of the Faculty.

Masters in Philosophy (MPhil) Research

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level	9
Programme Duration	2 Year(s) Full Time/ 4 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	120

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the main historical and systematic areas of philosophy as informed by the work of thinkers at the forefront of the field.
2. Communicate and critically evaluate knowledge of diverse theories and research findings across a range of contemporary philosophical subjects and thinkers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate mastery in philosophical analysis and critical evaluation in extended pieces of writing and oral examination.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements and draw conclusions in various contemporary philosophical domains; this will often involve knowledge of several languages in order to engage with contemporary thinkers.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others in writing, discussion, and oral examination, in particular, the ability to engage critically when put under pressure.
2. Demonstrate an ability to initiate and lead seminar discussion.
3. Exercise skills in acquiring new languages for research, locating research materials, and preparation for oral examination.

Admission Requirements

1. The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Philosophy comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I or equivalent overall.
2. Applicants undergo an interview with two members of staff.
3. The Faculty of Philosophy will also consider applications from candidates whose primary degree is in a subject cognate with philosophy and which comprises a significant philosophical component as determined by the admission board of the Faculty.

Mode A / Structured Research

The programme is comprised of modules and a minor dissertation combined to a total 120 credits. The modules run on a cycle and students choose 5 modules out of the list below in the relevant cycle. This minor dissertation should be between 25,000 and 30,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and appendices). The dissertation shall be examined by the dissertation supervisor and an external examiner chosen by the Faculty. Candidates may be examined on the subject matter of the dissertation if the above examiners so decide

Below are the modules offered on the Master in Philosophy Research (subject to change); students undertake 5 of these modules whilst preparing their minor dissertation:

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]		Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]	
First Year	Second Year	First Year	Second Year
Semester 1		Semester 1	
PY09406	Texts in Modern Philosophy	PY09401	Philosophical Themes in Ancient and Medieval Thought: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics
PY09408	Political Theology	PY09403	Mind and World
PY09411	Ancient Philosophy	PY09410	Females Voices in Religious Philosophy
Semester 2		Semester 2	
PY09407	Themes from the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas	PY09404	Philosophy, Science, and Nature
PY09409	Philosophy of God	PY09402	Perspectives on Selfhood
PY09412	Medieval Philosophy	PY09405	Creation and Desire

Mode B / Pure Research

The Masters in Philosophy (Mode B / Pure Research) consists of specialised research on a chosen topic culminating in the production of a 40,000 word thesis (excluding footnotes and bibliography)

Along with the writing of the thesis, students as a rule will be expected to (i) undertake a research and methodology module, (ii) participate in modules offered by the faculty, if relevant to the topic of research, and (iii) contribute to public speaking events in the life of the University.

The topic of research is determined in discussion with the Faculty of Philosophy and an appropriate supervisor is appointed.

Candidates must complete Postgraduate Induction week.

Candidates shall be required to submit their dissertations within two years. Extensions may be granted for one year in exceptional circumstances.

The dissertation shall be examined by the dissertation supervisor and an external examiner chosen by the Faculty. Candidates may be examined on the subject matter of the dissertation if the above examiners so decide.

Masters in Philosophy (MPhil) Taught

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level	9
Programme Duration	1 Year(s) Full Time/ 2 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	90

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate an understanding of the main historical and systematic areas of philosophy as informed by the work of thinkers at the forefront of the field.
2. Communicate and critically evaluate knowledge of diverse theories and research findings across a range of contemporary philosophical subjects and thinkers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate mastery in philosophical analysis and critical evaluation in extended pieces of writing and oral examination.
2. Evaluate theoretical and historical work in order to formulate judgements and draw conclusions in various contemporary philosophical domains; this will often involve knowledge of several languages in order to engage with contemporary thinkers.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Demonstrate an ability to engage critically with others in writing, discussion, and oral examination, in particular, the ability to engage critically when put under pressure.
2. Demonstrate an ability to initiate and lead seminar discussion.
3. Exercise skills in acquiring new languages for research, locating research materials, and preparation for oral examination.

Admission Requirements

1. The minimum entry requirement is an honours primary degree in which Philosophy comprises at least an equal joint honours component. Candidates should have obtained at least Second Class Honours, Grade I or equivalent overall.
2. Applicants undergo an interview with two members of staff.
3. The Faculty of Philosophy will also consider applications from candidates whose primary degree is in a subject cognate with philosophy and which comprises a significant philosophical component as determined by the admission board of the Faculty.

Courses for the Masters in Philosophy

The programme is comprised of modules and a minor dissertation combined to a total 90 credits. The modules run on a cycle and students choose 6 modules out of the list below in the relevant cycle. This minor dissertation should be between 15,000 and 20,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and appendices).

Below are the modules offered on the Master in Philosophy Taught (subject to change); students undertake 6 of these modules whilst preparing their minor dissertation:

Cycle A [beginning even numbered year]		Cycle B [beginning odd numbered year]	
First Year	Second Year	First Year	Second Year
Semester 1		Semester 1	
PY09406	Texts in Modern Philosophy	PY09401	Philosophical Themes in Ancient and Medieval Thought: Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics
PY09408	Political Theology	PY09403	Mind and World
PY09411	Ancient Philosophy	PY09410	Females Voices in Religious Philosophy
Semester 2		Semester 2	
PY09407	Themes from the Philosophy of Thomas Aquinas	PY09404	Philosophy, Science, and Nature
PY09409	Philosophy of God	PY09402	Perspectives on Selfhood
PY09412	Medieval Philosophy	PY09405	Creation and Desire

Doctorate in Philosophy

Programme Co-ordinator: Dr Gaven Kerr

Subject	Philosophy	NFQ Level	10
Programme Duration	3 Year(s) Full Time/ 6 Year(s) Part Time	Credits (ECTS)	180

Programme Learning Outcomes

On completion of the programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge (Breadth, Kind)

1. Demonstrate thorough knowledge of the history of philosophy and key philosophical debates, especially those within one's chosen specialisation, exhibiting the ability to critically engage with both primary and secondary literature.
2. Produce a significant contribution to the field of philosophy through original research, that is, a substantial, well-researched, and rigorously argued dissertation that addresses a specific philosophical question or problem, of a quality to satisfy review by peers.

Skills (Know-How, Range, Selectivity, Context)

1. Demonstrate philosophical analysis in both evaluating and constructing arguments and in putting forth plausible and nuanced exegesis of texts when applicable.
2. Communicate effectively, in oral and written form, results of research and innovation to peers, articulating complex ideas with clarity and precision, and engaging in scholarly dialogue through publications, presentations, and participation in academic conferences and seminars.

Competence (Role, Learning to Learn, Insight)

1. Exercise personal responsibility and independent initiative in conducting research by finding, reading, and understanding relevant sources and incorporating them into sustained written analysis and argumentation.
2. Demonstrate an awareness of the impact of philosophical research on society and culture.

Admission Requirements

1. Applicants should have received a Licentiate in philosophy from a recognized institution upper second class or above. Students who have done their philosophical studies in a civil Faculty of Philosophy can only be admitted if their preparation meets the requirements for an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy, typically 120 ECTs of study at postgraduate level.
2. Where a deficiency exists, e.g. a student has completed a 90 credit Masters, certain modules must be taken to satisfy the ecclesiastical requirements.
2. Applicants undergo an interview with two members of staff.
3. The Faculty of Philosophy will also consider applications from candidates whose primary degree is in a subject cognate with philosophy and which comprises a significant philosophical component as determined by the admission board of the Faculty.

Programme of Study for the Doctorate in Philosophy

The award of the Doctorate requires the submission of a substantial body of original research (80,000 – 90,000 words) which makes a real contribution to the progress of philosophy. This research takes the form of a thesis that is assessed by a committee of examiners appointed by the Pontifical University, and by an oral examination.

Candidates must normally complete at least three years of study, which may include several postgraduate seminar courses and some teaching.

As the DPh is a full-time academic programme, candidates are expected to be able to dedicate 35–40 hours per week to research and study. Candidates should be available on campus as course requirements and library work require, especially at the beginning of their studies. Candidates are also required to meet with their supervisor (in person or online) at least once per month during the semester to discuss their progress.

As circumstances permit, it is strongly recommended that doctoral candidates participate in important public events in the life of the faculty.

Candidates are expected to make at least two public presentations of their research prior to submission of their thesis.

At the end of the first year, doctoral students should provide sufficient evidence of progress in the preparation of the dissertation to warrant continuance.

Candidates must provide an annual written account of the progress of their study and research that is to be submitted to the director, reader, and dean.

Candidates must have their dissertation proposal approved by a director, and subsequently submitted to the dean and faculty for their approval. Once the proposal is accepted, candidates are free to pursue their chosen topic of research.

Requirements for being awarded the Doctorate in Philosophy (DPh) degree:

In order to obtain the doctorate in Philosophy a candidate:

- (i) Shall present a written dissertation which proves that he or she has the capacity for scientific investigation and which makes a real contribution to philosophy;
- (ii) Shall provide a summary of the arguments and the conclusions of the dissertation for each reader;
- (iii) Shall defend the dissertation for an hour before members of the Faculty and experts whom the Faculty may invite;
- (iv) Shall give a lecture for half-an-hour before members of the Faculty on a subject chosen by the Faculty and communicated to him or her not later than the previous day;
- (v) Shall be examined for half-an-hour before members of the Faculty on twenty-five propositions from general philosophy chosen by him and approved by the Faculty;
- (vi) Shall publish the thesis in whole or in part

The number of examiners from the Faculty in the case of (iii), (iv), and (v) above shall be at least five.

The dissertation shall be presented to the Faculty at least forty days before the candidate may be admitted to defend it. In exceptional cases the Faculty may shorten the period required.

The dissertation shall be examined and evaluated by at least three readers, two from the Faculty and one extern who is an expert in the matter of the dissertation.

Before the dissertation has been approved by these readers the candidate may not be admitted to defend it.

The academic community of the University may attend the defence of the dissertation.

Objections to the dissertation may be raised not only by those deputed to examine the candidate but also by other members of the academic staff and other scholars invited, subject to the moderation of the Dean or his/her delegate, who presides.