Philosophy and Ethics (combined award)

Programme specification document 🔗

Contents 🔗

Overview 🔗

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

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

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

[2] See section on 'Exemptions'

Exemptions 🔗

The following exemptions are in place:

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

Programme Overview 🔗

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

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

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

Programme Aims 🔗

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

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) 🔗

A Subject-Specific Skills and Knowledge

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

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

	Contemporary problems	Contemporary problems	Contemporary problems
A6	The systematic evaluation and application of relevant concepts, methods and approaches from diverse philosophical traditions to the understanding of contemporary problems, challenges and conditions	Critical understanding and analysis of different philosophical contributions to areas of contemporary debate and action in local, national and international contexts	Understanding the application of philosophical ideas to contemporary problems, challenges and situations

B Cognitive and Intellectual Skills

	Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs) On Achieving Level 6	On Achieving Level 5	On Achieving Level 4
B1	*Argument* The ability to initiate, research and formulate rationally persuasive arguments that reflect on the outcomes of abstract, analytical and systematic thinking in response to specific problems	*Argument* The ability to undertake abstract and analytical thinking in order to evaluate the validity and coherence of your own and others' arguments	*Argument* The ability to undertake and analyse analytical arguments in a range of formats
B2	*Creativity* The ability to initiate, plan, implement and evaluate independent work that combines insights from a range of perspectives whilst recognising ambiguity, uncertainty and the limits of knowledge	*Creativity* The ability to make reasoned judgements based on the analysis of complex arguments, texts and evidence, and present your own argument in a clear and persuasive form	*Creativity* The ability to evaluate and communicate an analysis of selected philosophical texts and arguments
B3	*Application* The ability to initiate, plan and undertake detailed research, in dialogue with primary and secondary sources, in order to apply a diverse range of philosophical perspectives to the analysis of specific contemporary challenges and questions	*Application* The ability to select and evaluate relevant research from primary and secondary sources in order to produce philosophical hypotheses that respond to specific contemporary situations and challenges	*Application* The ability to locate and deploy relevant secondary sources in order to respond to set questions, with an awareness of your own assumptions, beliefs and values

	B4	*Project planning and management*	*Project planning and management*	*Project planning and management*
		Independent and reflective approach to designing, implementing and evaluating sustained, substantial projects that demonstrate the ability to locate your own thinking in relation to broader social, cultural, political and historical frameworks	The identification and selection of relevant methods for carrying out a sustained piece of research, with an ability to reflect critically on your own philosophical assumptions, beliefs and values	The ability to plan, carry out and present research, analysis and evaluation of philosophical topic

C Skills for Life and Work

Programme Intended Learning Outcomes (ILOs)	On achieving Level 6 you will be able to:	On achieving Level 5 you will be able to:	On achieving Level 4 you will be able to:
C1	**Work Independently** Exercise initiative, independence and personal responsibility to manage your own learning and time.	**Work Independently** Exercise independence and personal responsibility to manage your own learning and time.	**Work Independently** Manage your own learning and time.
C2	**Work with Others** Work collaboratively with others to achieve individual and common goals, solve problems creatively and build interpersonal relationships to flourish in a global workplace.	**Work with Others** Work collaboratively with others to achieve individual and common goals, solve problems creatively.	**Work with Others** Work collaboratively with others.
C3	**Communicate with Impact** Communicate clearly, effectively and impactfully with specialist and non-specialist audiences.	**Communicate with Impact** Communicate clearly and effectively with others.	**Communicate with Impact** Communicate accurately and reliably with others.
C4	**Demonstrate Digital Fluency** Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically to enhance creativity and communication.	**Demonstrate Digital Fluency** Use digital skills productively, critically and ethically.	**Demonstrate Digital Fluency** Use digital skills productively.

Programme content 🔗

This programme comprises the following modules

Key:

Core = C

Required = R

Required* = R*

Optional = O

Not available for this status = N/A

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

Subject offered as combined award

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BA (Hons) / BSc (Hons) Philosophy and Ethics (Combined Award)				Status		
Level	Code	Title	Credits	Single	Joint	Joint with English Literature or History
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	20		C	C
4	PET4001-20	Ethics and Values	20		C	C
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	20		R	
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century	20			R
5	PET5010-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	20		C	C
5	PET5103-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	20		O	O
5	PET5101-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	20		O	O
5	HIS5125-20	Digital Humanities	20		O	O

5	PET5104-20	Applying Philosophy	20		C	C
5	PET5105-20	Political Philosophy	20		O	O
5	PET5102-20	Working Together	20		O	O
5	RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	20		O	O
PPY	PPY5100-120	Professional Placement Year	120		O	O
6	PET6001-40	Philosophy Project	40		O	O
6	PET6106-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	20		O	O
6	PET6105-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	20		O	O
6	PET6107-20	Philosophy of Health	20		O	O
6	PET6102-20	Making Sex	20		O	O
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	20		O	O
6	PET6101-20	Spiritual Revolution	20		O	O

Assessment methods 🔗

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

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

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

Work experience and placement opportunities 🔗

As an applied course, there are opportunities throughout to *use* and *reflect* on your subject knowledge, analysis and skills in a variety of different ways, including through project-related work inside and outside the University. The following modules have been explicitly designed to incorporate professional development (including collaborating with your peers who specialise in other subjects within the School of Humanities), opportunities for working with

external partners, and placements of varying lengths and complexity. Your tutors and the University will support you in making the most of these opportunities, and in ensuring that they work for you in relation to the skills you want to develop, your ambitions and aspirations, and the needs of those with whom we work.

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

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

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

Additional Costs Table 🔗

There are no additional costs associated with this programme.

Module Code & Title	Type of Cost	Cost

Graduate Attributes 🔗

Graduate Attribute	While at Bath Spa, I will develop my ability to:	This programme will help me to do this through:
Confidently Self-Aware	Reflect on and recognise my unique skills, strengths, and values and be able to apply and articulate them in a range of different contexts.	You will be empowered to critically reflect on your beliefs, practices and values, exploring the reasons why you possess them and their relationship with the beliefs, practices and values of others from diverse cultural and historical contexts.

Emotionally Attuned	Be mindful of how my actions and emotions impact those around me so I can better navigate difficult situations and build effective interpersonal relationships.	You will be provided with the opportunities and ethical skills to critically and respectfully think, debate and argue with others as part of a diverse collaborative community of inquiry.
Inclusive Collaborator	Contribute independently to collaborative projects while working effectively with others, valuing diversity and respecting individual differences.	You will enjoy multiple opportunities to work with teams of students from diverse disciplines and academic backgrounds, often as a part of collaborative community or via externally-facing projects and partnerships.
Adaptable Innovator	Embrace challenges, taking risks where needed and applying individual and collective problem solving.	You will encounter teaching and learning opportunities that enable you to step outside your personal comfort zone, actively engaging with a range of alternative communities, collaborative projects, consciousness-raising practices, and difficult ethical conversations.
Critical Thinker	Keep an open mind, ask curious questions and think creatively to gain a deeper and broader understanding of global perspectives and the world around me.	You will study and practice critical analysis, argumentation and evaluation in everything you do. The programme requires you to explore and critically interrogate a wide array of responses to fundamental questions about the nature and meaning of the world and your place within it. You will examine how anything and everything is open to philosophical enquiry.
Forward Thinker	Set goals, plan ahead and utilise resources to support my personal ambitions and achieve my own version of success.	You will be encouraged to explore different concepts and theories of meaning, purpose and value, advancing your capacity to make informed and wise choices about the future and your emergent role within it.

Ethical Leader	Act with empathy, making decisions grounded in ethical principles while advocating for sustainability and positive social change.	You will study the meanings, nature and practice of ethics, moral decision-making and empathy through each level of the programme, enabling you to make more well-informed choices and value-based judgements about society, the world and your actions.
Responsible Self-Starter	Be accountable for my actions and decisions while demonstrating creativity, proactivity, and a focus on solutions.	You will reflect on and study the meanings and nature of the self, freedom and accountability, enabling you to take more authentic, reflexive and responsible actions.
Compassionately Resilient	Respond to setbacks with a reflective and positive attitude, flexibility and a self-caring approach.	You will study philosophy as a lived-practice and way of life, enabling you to explore, develop and understand such existential capacities and skills as self-care, mindfulness and flourishing.
Digitally Resourceful	Utilise and responsibly leverage existing and emerging technologies to solve problems and communicate.	Digital literacy is a requirement of many elements of the course, but the programme also promotes ongoing critical assessment of existing and emerging technologies, including their costs, affordances and their ethical value to society and the world.

Modifications 🔗

Module-level modifications

Code	Title	Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
PET4001	Ethics and Values	Assessment change Covid change made permanent	approved Chair's Action on behalf of SQMC June 2021	2021/22

RPE5103-20	Transformative Communities	Added optional module	approved by Curriculum Committee 15th December 2021	2022/23

Programme-level modifications

Nature of modification	Date(s) of approval and approving bodies	Date modification comes into effect
RPE6102-20 God & Genes added as an Optional module	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
RPE6103-20 Spiritual Revolution added as an Optional module	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2023	2024/25
PET5001-20 Reading Philosophy (optional) removed	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
PET5100-20 Atheism and Unbelief (optional) removed	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
PET5105-20 Political Philosophy (optional) added	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
PET6100-20 Utopia and Dystopia (optional) removed	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
PET6101-20 Comparative Philosophy (optional) removed	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
RPE6102-20 God and Genes (optional) removed	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
PET6107-20 Philosophy of Health (optional) added	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26
PET6101-20 Spiritual Revolution change of semester	Curriculum Approval Panel December 2024	2025/26

Attached as appendices:

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

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

Joint Honours	
Level 4	
Semester 1	**Semester 2**
Core Modules	
PET4000-20 Truth and Reality	PET4001-20 Ethics and Values
Required Modules	
PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas	ENG4108-20 Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century
Rule Notes: Students combined with History or English are Required to take ENG4108-20 Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century. All other combinations are required to take PET4103-20 Worlds of Ideas. Students take the remaining 60 credits from the second subject at Level 4.	
Level 5	
Core Modules	
PET5010-20 Ethics in the Contemporary World	PET5104-20 Applying Philosophy
Optional Modules	
PET5103-20 Asian Philosophies (Level 5) PET5101-20 Ecology and Nature (Level 5) HIS5115-20 Digital Humanities	PET5105-20 Political Philosophy PET5102-20 Working Together RPE5103-20 Transformative Communities
Rule Notes: Joint students must take 40 credits in each subject. The remaining 80 credits can be made up of Optional modules from either subject.	
Optional Professional Placement Year 120 credits	
Level 6	
Optional Modules	
PET6001-40 Philosophy Project (year-long) PET6106-20 Asian Philosophies (Level 6) PET6105-20 Ecology and Nature (Level 6) RPE6103-20 Spiritual Revolution PET6102-20 Making Sex	PET6001-40 Philosophy Project (year-long) PET6104-20 Life and Meaning PET6107-20 Philosophy of Health
Rule Notes: Joint students MUST take 40 credits in each subject. The remaining 80 credits can be made up of Optional modules from either subject.	

Appendix 2: Map of Intended Learning Outcomes 🔗

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) [4]	Subject-specific Skills and Knowledge						Cognitive and Intellectual Skills				Skills for Life and Work			
				A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	PET4001-20	Ethics and Values	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	R		*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century	R		*	*	*			*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	RPE5010-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

5	PET 5103-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	PET 5101-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
5	HIS 5125-20	Digital Humanities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	PET 5104-20	Applying Philosophy	C	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
5	PET 5105-20	Political Philosophy	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
5	PET 5102-20	Working Together	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
5	RPE 5103-20	Transformative Communities	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
PPY	PPY 5100-120	Professional Placement Year	O										*	*	*	*

6	PET6001-40	Philosophy Project	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	PET6106-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	PET6105-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	PET6107-20	Philosophy of Health	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
6	PET6102-20	Making Sex	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*		*	*
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*
6	RPE6103-20	Spiritual Revolution	O	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*	*

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

Appendix 3: Map of Summative Assessment Tasks by Module 🔗

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Status (C,R,R*,O) [5]	Assessment method													
				Coursework						Practical					Written Examination		
				Composition	Dissertation	Essay	Journal	Portfolio	Report	Performance	Practical Project	Practical skills	Presentation	Set exercises	Written Examination	In-class test (seen)	In-class test (unseen)
4	PET4000-20	Truth and Reality	C			1							1				
4	PET4001-20	Ethics and Values	C			1							1				
4	PET4103-20	Worlds of Ideas	R					1			1						
4	ENG4108-20	Thinking Together - Humanities in the 21st Century	R				1				1						
5	RPE5010-20	Ethics in the Contemporary World	C			1			1								

Level	Code	Title	Type													
5	PET 5103-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 5)	O			1						1				
5	PET 5101-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 5)	O			1					1					
5	HIS 5125-20	Digital Humanities	O								1					
5	PET 5104-20	Applying Philosophy	C			1					1					
5	PET 5105-20	Political Philosophy	O			1					1					
5	PET 5102-20	Working Together	O								1		1				
5	RPE 5103-20	Transformative Communities	O						1				1				
PPY	PPY 5100-120	Year in Professional Practice	O					1	1								

Level	Code	Module	Status														
6	PET6001-40	Philosophy Project	O					1									
6	PET6106-20	Asian Philosophies (Level 6)	O						1				1				
6	PET6105-20	Ecology and Nature (Level 6)	O			1			1								
6	PET6107-20	Philosophy of Health	O								1		1				
6	PET6102-20	Making Sex	O			1			1								
6	PET6104-20	Life and Meaning	O			1					1						
6	RPE6103-20	Spiritual Revolution	O			1					1						

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