PHILOSOPHY
Canterbury
ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AND INSPIRATIONAL TEACHING

Kent is one of the UK’s leading universities, ranked 23rd in The Guardian University Guide 2017. In the Research Excellence Framework (REF) 2014, Kent is ranked 17th* for research intensity, outperforming 11 of the 24 Russell Group universities.

Philosophy at Kent is taught within the School of European Culture and Languages (SECL), one of the largest schools in the University. In the National Student Survey 2015, 94% of Philosophy students were satisfied with the quality of the teaching on their course.

World-leading research
In the REF 2014, Philosophy was ranked 12th in the UK for research impact. We were also ranked 16th for research intensity and in the top 20 for research power. Of the research submitted, 97% was judged to be of international quality.

Philosophy at Kent is wide ranging, with expertise in areas as diverse as moral and political philosophy, epistemology and metaphysics, philosophy of mind and language, formal theories of reasoning, and modern European philosophy. We collaborate with other departments within SECL and with other schools of the University, notably the many philosophers working in the School of Arts.

We run the interdisciplinary Centre for Reasoning and play a leading role in the Centre for the History of Medicine, Ethics and Medical Humanities, which co-ordinate University research relating to these subjects.

Philosophers at Kent publish original research in all major areas of the discipline. Continued investment in Philosophy at Kent continues to bring internationally renowned researchers into the Department, so you are taught by experts in their field whose research informs their teaching.

Excellent teaching
Our teaching is stimulating at all levels, with informative lectures and the opportunity for lively debates in seminars or class discussions. If you are intellectually curious and like playing with ideas, you may already spend some of your time philosophising – in studying Philosophy at Kent, you learn to examine the questions and answers of the great philosophers, to assess them critically, and to formulate and defend your own responses.

What is philosophy? Why is it important? Is it relevant to today’s technology-based society? As a student of Philosophy at Kent, you do not so much learn about philosophy as learn to do it yourself. This includes not only studying major philosophies and philosophers, but also contributing your own ideas to an ongoing dialogue. You develop the ability to reflect on the most fascinating abstract ideas and connect them to real-life situations.

A global outlook
According to the Times Higher Education (THE), Kent is ranked in the top 10% of the world’s universities for international outlook. We have a reputation as the UK’s European university and have developed international partnerships with a number of prestigious institutions. We have an international community on campus, with 37% of our academics coming from outside the UK and students representing 148 nationalities. We encourage our students to develop their studies in an international context and there are many opportunities to study or work abroad.

Wide-ranging degrees
At Kent, we offer you a range of degrees to suit your particular interests. You can take Philosophy on its own, or combine it with a wide range of subjects, including English and American Literature, Computing, Law, Politics, social science subjects, humanities subjects, or languages. For more details, see Choosing your programme on p10.

Choice of topics
The broad coverage of the subject offered by our staff leads to a very wide range of modules available. Topics include the nature of art, moral philosophy, political philosophy, social philosophy, ancient and modern philosophy,
logic, paradoxes, the philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, artificial intelligence, philosophy of science, philosophy of religion, and the philosophy of medicine. You are encouraged to explore those aspects of the subject that interest you. You also have the opportunity to take modules from other schools in other subjects.

**A year abroad**

Within the Faculty of Humanities at the University of Kent, all students can apply to spend a year abroad as part of their degree programme. Philosophy students who pass all their modules abroad are awarded the degree Philosophy with a Year in Europe.

If you would like to spend a year in France, we offer a distinctive four-year Philosophy degree where you spend your third year studying philosophy in French at the Sorbonne in Paris. Or, if you choose to take a joint honours in European Studies or in a modern language, you spend a year studying or working in Europe.

We have exciting exchange links with universities in Asia, the USA and Canada, as well as many European destinations via the Erasmus exchange network. For details, see the A to Z course list at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities

**Supportive community**

The Department is welcoming and friendly, so students and staff get to know each other very quickly. The close working relationships you develop with lecturers and seminar leaders help you to succeed in your studies.

Within SECL we have a dedicated student support team, who provide pastoral care and help you with your academic needs. The University also offers a variety of support services; for more details see: www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing or www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport

**A successful future**

As well as providing a first-rate academic experience, we want you to be in a good position to face the demands of a competitive job market. Studying for a degree in Philosophy equips you with the skills to analyse arguments, to express yourself clearly, verbally and in writing, to present a case rigorously and also gives you a deep understanding of philosophical traditions. The skills of analysis and argument are highly valued by employers, so the study of philosophy – which often involves engagement with complex issues – equips you for a great variety of jobs. For more information on the careers help we provide at Kent, please go to p8 or see www.kent.ac.uk/employability

“The lecturers are absolutely fantastic. They all seem to be so passionate about their subject and have such a wealth of knowledge that it’s quite inspiring just to go along and listen to them.”

Miranda Overett
Philosophy
DID YOU KNOW?

In the National Student survey 2015, Kent gained the 5th highest score in the UK for student satisfaction.
SUPERB STUDENT EXPERIENCE

Our Canterbury campus provides a stunning location for your studies and offers first-class academic and leisure facilities. The campus is within easy reach of London and mainland Europe.

Top-class facilities
Throughout your degree, you are encouraged to make the most of the excellent learning resources provided by the Templeman Library. There is a large collection of books, hard copy journals and an extensive range of electronic resources, including e-journals, e-books, databases, reference resources and newspaper archives.

The subject librarian offers an introduction to library resources and services for all new students. Enquiry services are available seven days a week during term-time. You have access to a number of relevant databases, including Academic Search Premier, British Humanities Index, The Philosopher’s Index, and Web of Science.

To help you work and study online, we provide student PCs and Wi-Fi-enabled study hubs across campus.

Philosophical events
The Philosophy Department runs an active events programme each year, with invited lecturers, reading groups, seminars and conferences, all of which combine to create a lively community among those with shared interests. For more details, please see www.kent.ac.uk/secl/philosophy/events

Kent Extra
Kent Extra is an excellent way to get more from your time at university. It provides opportunities to enhance your knowledge, learn new skills and improve your CV. You can do this in many ways, for example, by attending one of our summer schools; by volunteering; or by taking a Study Plus course in an area that interests you. For details, see www.kent.ac.uk/kentextra

Beautiful green campus
Our campus has plenty of green and tranquil spaces, both lawns and wooded areas, and is set on a hill with a view of the city and Canterbury Cathedral.

For entertainment, the campus has its own cinema, theatre, concert hall and a student nightclub. It has a reputation for being a very friendly university with a cosmopolitan environment. There are many restaurants, cafes and bars on campus, as well as a sports centre and gym.

Everything you need on campus is within walking distance, including a general store, a bookshop, banks, a medical centre and a pharmacy. From campus, it’s a 25-minute walk or a short bus-ride into the city.

Attractive location
Canterbury is a lovely city with medieval buildings, lively bars and atmospheric pubs, as well as a wide range of shops. The attractive coastal town of Whitstable is close by and there are sandy beaches further down the coast. London is under an hour away by high-speed train.
Robert Connor is in the final year of his Philosophy degree.

Why did you choose Kent?
Kent has a really good reputation for Philosophy and when I came to the Open Day, the enthusiastic staff sold the course to me. I also liked the look of the campus; I thought it was really cool. Across the board, everything is done very well here.

How is the course going?
It was quite daunting at first. Studying at university is a very different concept to studying at school. You have to become more independent quite quickly. But I found the first year really interesting and gained a solid introduction to the subject. I enjoyed all of my lectures – even Logic, which is translating arguments into mathematical equations. The teaching is very broad and the modules on offer cover the complete spectrum of the field. It’s also exciting to have the freedom to choose your own modules in the second and third years.

How are you finding your final year?
The work is definitely a challenge. I’m being pushed out of my comfort zone but, at the same time, I’m ready for it. Philosophy has taught me that there will always be something I will not understand on first reading. You need to submerge yourself in it and keep at it. Plus, I’m now not afraid to ask questions.

What’s been the highlight so far?
It would have to be the Philosophy of Religion module. I like to choose modules where I know the topic is going to push conversation. Everyone has their own code of ethics or beliefs and modules like this bring those elements into sharp focus. It’s always interesting to hear other people’s perspectives and to listen to counter arguments and evidence.

What about the lecturers?
They have a real enthusiasm and passion for their subjects, which makes the lectures interesting and accessible. The support available from them has been amazing. They have office hours when you can go and talk to them if you need to and they respond to emails quickly. I can’t fault them.

What about the facilities on campus?
I lived in Keynes College in the first year. It was a great place to live and I hit it off with my housemates straight away. The accommodation was very modern too. Living on campus was convenient – everything you need is within walking distance.

I love the library, which has undergone a major transformation in the time I’ve been here. I think it’s important that your surroundings are conducive to study and the library provides a nice environment where I can get my head down and get on with my work. The library also stocks all the books I’ve ever needed and the staff are always friendly and helpful.

How have you found the social scene?
There’s always a good choice of places to go and nights out to attend. You can wander over to Woodys Bar during the day or walk over to The Venue at night. Having the bus stop right outside Keynes was handy – we used to go into town on the Unibus a lot in the first year. Even now, living off campus at the bottom of Eliot footpath, I can just walk up the hill and be at the centre of everything.

What’s next for you?
At the moment I am still undecided, but I think I have gained many skills that will be useful in any career. Communication is one of the most important skills you can develop and my degree has really helped me with my conversational skills. I am also better at reasoning – thinking through theories, listening to different points of view and arguing my own points. I came to university with an open mind and the experience has really increased my confidence and helped me to expand as a person.

What advice would you give to a potential student?
Kent is a great university – the staff are amazing and the facilities on campus are really good too. If you are looking to broaden your perspective and have an interest in the reasoning behind other people’s thoughts, beliefs and ethics, then Philosophy is the degree for you!
A SUCCESSFUL FUTURE

Kent equips you with the skills you need to gain a competitive advantage when it comes to getting a job.

Good career prospects
According to employment statistics, Kent graduates are doing extremely well in an ever-changing job market. More than 95% of Kent students who graduated in 2015 found a job or further study opportunity within six months. Philosophy students move into a variety of careers after graduating, including teaching, publishing, journalism, marketing, the media and the legal profession.

Master key skills
The skills that a Philosophy degree gives you – thinking critically, expressing yourself clearly and logically, problem solving and teamwork – are all highly valued by employers. Our programmes are designed to encourage you in the development of these skills, which will serve you well whatever career you choose to go into.

Classroom modules
The School of European Culture and Languages (SECL) has developed unique classroom-based modules. These give you the opportunity to combine study with work experience in a school, so you gain credit towards your degree while working. The modules provide insight into a teaching career but even if that is not your chosen career path, the module extends your experiences and abilities, enhancing future work opportunities.

SECL employability
SECL has its own employability programme of events to enhance your job skills and vocational awareness during your studies. A large number of our students develop professional skills and gain hands-on experience through our wide range of paid and voluntary work opportunities. For more information on the employability support available within the School, see www.kent.ac.uk/secl/employability

Careers advice
Kent’s award-winning Careers and Employability Service can give you advice on how to choose your future career, how to apply for jobs, how to write a good CV and how to perform well in interviews and aptitude tests. It also provides up-to-date information on graduate opportunities before and after you graduate.

For more information on what the Service offers, go to: www.kent.ac.uk/employability

Placement year
Students in Philosophy have the opportunity to take a placement year as part of their degree. This allows you to spend a year in the workplace, between Stages 2 and 3, giving you the chance to get work experience, acquire new skills and gain insight into your career options. For details, see p17.
Nathan Sparkes graduated with a first-class degree in Philosophy in 2012 and now works in the non-profit sector.

Why did you choose Kent?
I liked the fact that Kent is a campus university but still large and diverse. Kent’s greatest virtue is that its students come from such a mix of backgrounds, cultures and nationalities.

Why Philosophy?
I got interested in philosophy while in sixth form – although I didn’t study it. I found philosophy to be relevant and useful in a way that, at least for me, wasn’t true of other subjects.

What was your course like? And the lecturers?
My degree and lecturers were excellent. The lecturers always had time for students and were ready to make time outside of office hours to help where necessary. The modules were well structured and, more importantly, they were interesting.

What social activities did you get involved with?
I played a lot of football and spent a decent amount of time in the gym. I also coached children’s football at weekends. Other than that, I wrote a fortnightly column for Inquire, the student newspaper, and did some political campaigning. The sports facilities are fantastic and writing for Inquire was a great platform for my misinformed opinions.

How did your degree lay the foundations for your career?
I think it’s tragic if the only reason people engage with a subject is because they think it will help them get a job or increase their ‘earning potential’. Studying Philosophy at Kent gives you a unique opportunity to grapple with the greatest thinkers in history, understand the most important debates, and develop your own positions in relation to those debates. For me, it was the best and most vitally useful way of spending three years.

Could you describe your career path since leaving Kent?
I spent a year living in London after I graduated, doing a few different things. I had an internship with an interfaith charity and acted as a researcher for the director of a campaign group, before I started as policy and participation officer at SUDEP Action, the epilepsy bereavement charity. I have recently taken on a new role, as parliamentary and policy manager with a campaign group. In my spare time, I work with a political party, charities, non-profit organisations and a trade union with policy and public affairs support. I also try to make time to meet with and support people interested in a career in left-wing politics or the non-profit sector.

Could you describe a typical day in your current role?
My day starts with reading the papers and catching up on the news. But once I get into the office it becomes quite varied. The most exciting part of my work is meeting with politicians and putting forward the case for change, but in reality 90% of my time is spent doing research. It’s incredibly rewarding when you see something you have campaigned for come to fruition though, and it makes all those hours putting your case together and the long phone calls with parliamentary aides worthwhile.

What are your future plans?
I enjoy working in politics, and will always want to be in a policy or political environment. In the future, this could mean taking a senior policy position with a leading charity, working for a political party or even having a crack at standing for office. Wherever I am, I want to influence the agenda and instigate change according to my beliefs.

Do you have any other happy memories of Kent?
There are really too many highlights to list, but I think the best times at Kent were probably on the football pitch. Finally winning the 5-a-side league on the last day of our last season together was a highlight, as was our cup run with the 11-a-side team – but, unfortunately, that ended in heartbreak on penalties in the semi-final. We (the team) are a good group of mates and still meet up every few months.

What advice would you give to someone coming to Kent?
You will not find many other places with the diversity and breadth of opportunities available at Kent. I cannot recommend it highly enough.
CHOOSING YOUR PROGRAMME

Not sure which programme to choose? Here’s a guide to what’s available.

Single honours

Philosophy

This is a three-year programme. The main focus is on the study of philosophy, although you may also take modules in other subject areas.

Philosophy with an Approved Year Abroad

This four-year degree follows the same structure as the Philosophy degree but you spend an additional year studying philosophy, in French, at the Paris-Sorbonne University. On this programme, you must take language modules in your first and second years for your ‘wild’ modules. It is also possible to spend a year studying at other destinations. See p17.

Joint honours

Taking a joint honours degree means that you split your studies between two subjects. Most joint honours are three-year degrees, but Philosophy taken with a European language is a four-year programme with a year studying abroad at a European university.

Below is a list of the joint honours degrees currently available:

- Asian Studies (TV45)
- Classical & Archaeological Studies (QV85)
- Comparative Literature (VQ52)
- Computing (VG54)
- Cultural Studies (VV59)
- Drama (VW54)
- English Language and Linguistics (VQ5H)
- English and American Literature (QVH5)
- Film (VV56)
- French (RVC5)
- German (RVF5)
- Hispanic Studies (RVK5)
- History (VVC5)
- Italian (RVH5)
- Law (MV15)
- Politics (LV25)
- Religious Studies (VV56)
- Social Anthropology (LVP5)
- Sociology (LVH5).

Teaching and assessment

Some modules have lectures, some have seminars, all have class discussions. Some incorporate group work and some promote ‘student-active’ learning techniques, which encourage you to work individually or in groups and to present your findings to the rest of the class. Assessment of philosophy modules is by essays or tests or a combination of both.

Placement year

All students on a three-year programme are eligible to take a placement year between Stages 2 and 3. This is an opportunity for you to gain workplace experience as part of your programme of study. For more details, see p17.

International students

If you need to extend your existing academic qualifications or ability in English to be able to study at university level, Kent’s one-year International Foundation Programme (IFP) allows you to do so. The IFP can provide progression to our philosophy programmes; for details, see www.kent.ac.uk/ifp
STUDYING AT STAGE 1

Stage 1 is equivalent to your first year of full-time study.

Please note that the module lists below are not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

All students take the following four modules:
• Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics
• Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics
• Introduction to Philosophy: Logic and Reasoning
• Philosophical Reading and Writing.

Joint honours students also take modules in their joint subject area, while single honours students choose at least one of the following philosophy modules:
• Existentialism
• Politics, Rights and Applied Ethics.

Your remaining modules may be chosen from any subjects within the Faculty of Humanities. Those taking an approved year abroad in Paris must take a language module.

Modules: Stage 1

Introduction to Philosophy: Ethics
In this introduction to ethics, you discuss the relation of morality to religion, whether there are any objective values and whether values are grounded in a universal human nature. You look at the work of Plato, Hume, Kant and Mill and topics include: ethics and the good life, ethics and religion, ethics and evolution, ethical and cultural relativism, emotivism, rationalism, utilitarianism and absolutism.

Introduction to Philosophy: Knowledge and Metaphysics
We begin by discussing Descartes’ Meditations on First Philosophy. This leads us on to several of the core problems of philosophy: the problem of knowledge (what can I know, and how?), the mind-body problem (how are the two related?), and the problem of freedom and determinism (are human actions the inevitable effects of prior causes?).

Introduction to Philosophy: Logic and Reasoning
Since Plato, it has been part of philosophical enquiry to consider philosophical questions using logic and common sense alone. This module trains you in this tradition, introducing you to basic themes in introductory logic and critical thinking, and presenting you with philosophical puzzles for you to think about for yourself. The aim is for you to learn and practise basic logical vocabulary and techniques used in the evaluation of arguments.

Philosophical Reading and Writing
What do philosophers do? What do they typically think about? How do philosophers write? What sorts of writing are acceptable in philosophy? How should you write? How should philosophy best be read in order to be understood and assessed? In this module, we introduce you to some of the most interesting questions in philosophy, both from its history and from current debates. As we do this, we show you how to read and write as a philosopher.

Existentialism
Existentialism is a philosophical and literary tradition that emphasises subjectivity, choice and freedom. In this module, you study existentialist ideas expressed in both philosophical and literary forms. Indicative texts: Kierkegaard’s Fear and Trembling; Nietzsche’s Twilight of the Idols; Dostoevsky’s The Grand Inquisitor; Camus’ The Outsider and Sartre’s Existentialism and Humanism.

Politics, Rights and Applied Ethics
Many contemporary moral issues are discussed in terms of rights and this module offers both a theoretical investigation of the nature of rights and an account of how appeals to rights feature in moral debate and argument. The main views of the nature of rights claims are explored and the idea that rights can be viewed as ‘natural’ is interrogated. Who or what can be the bearer of rights? How can conflicts between rights claims be resolved? These theoretical issues are illuminated by looking at rights in contemporary moral debate.
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3

**Stages 2 and 3 are equivalent to the second and final year of full-time study.**

Single honours students take between 180 and 240 credits of philosophy modules, which are worth either 15 or 30 credits each. Joint honours students take between 90 and 150 credits of philosophy modules.

Please note that the module list below is not fixed as new modules are always in development and choices updated yearly. Please see www.kent.ac.uk/ug for the most up-to-date information.

The modules available at Stages 2 and 3 are:

- Contemporary Theory of Knowledge
- Continental Philosophy: Subject, Identity and the Political
- Feminist Philosophy
- Justice, Violence and the State
- Logic
- Metaethics
- Metaphysics
- Normative Ethics
- Philosophical Texts
- Philosophy and Mathematics
- Philosophy Dissertation (Stage 3 only)
- Philosophy Extended Essay (Stage 3 only)
- Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence
- Philosophy of Language
- Philosophy of Mind and Action
- Philosophy of Religion
- Philosophy of Work
- Political Philosophy
- Psychoanalysis, Ethics and Mind
- Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom (Stage 3 only)
- The Tragedy of Human Reason: Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason*
- Topics in Reasoning.

**Modules: Stages 2 and 3**

**Contemporary Theory of Knowledge**

We typically value justified belief more than simple belief, for very good reasons: a justified belief is more likely to be true than a randomly selected one. Indeed, we value knowledge even more than justified belief, since, arguably, a belief that qualifies as knowledge is true. But when is a belief justified? And what is knowledge? Are any of our beliefs justified? Do we know anything at all? Do we know that it's 8 o'clock if at 8 o'clock we see a broken watch indicating 8 o'clock? This module investigates these and other epistemological questions, mostly by looking at some deeply puzzling sceptical arguments, some of which are as old as philosophy is, and all of which have sprung very lively debates in recent philosophical literature.

**Continental Philosophy: Subject, Identity and the Political**

You begin by exploring the unique thought of key continental philosophers with respect to questions of existence, subjectivity and action. You become familiar with the ways in which things we take for granted – such as the operation of language, the formation of identity and the influence of economic factors – play a vital role in how we conceive of and live with one another. Texts by such philosophers as Simone de Beauvoir, Judith Butler, Jacques Derrida, Michel Foucault and Martin
regulate violent interaction between states and within states.

Logic
What makes a good argument? How can we tell whether an argument is valid? Logic aims to provide answers to questions such as these. In this module, you discuss arguments and argument structure; notions such as validity, soundness and consistency; and procedures for testing the validity of arguments in both propositional and predicate logic.

Metaethics
What makes it the case that certain actions, such as stealing and sharing, have ethical value? Are ethical values such as goodness and badness, compassion and cruelty, mind-independent ethical properties, properties that exist no matter what anyone thinks, desires, aims at and the like? Or are there no such ethical properties at all and when we call something good we are just expressing our emotions and feelings about a non-ethical world? This module introduces you to some of the most exciting and interesting philosophical literature in recent years, which brings together ethics and metaphysics as well as epistemology and philosophy of language.

Justice, Violence and the State
Under what circumstances might it be permissible to use violence to further political goals? What distinguishes different sorts of political violence? Ought the state to have a monopoly on political violence? Are there some methods that should never be used to further political goals? In this module, you look at the various forms of political violence and consider how political and legal theorists have tried to regulate violent interaction between states and within states.

Feminist Philosophy
Many people today are reluctant to identify themselves as ‘feminist’: either because they see feminism as a useful political movement that has essentially served its purposes; or because they view feminism as a ‘single-issue’, militant ideology that they cannot identify with. This module gives you an opportunity to reflect philosophically on what claims like this could mean: if we live in a post-feminist era, why do women earn, on average, two thirds of what their male counterparts earn? Why are women still under-represented in many fields (including politics, science and academic philosophy)? If feminism is a ‘single-issue’ ideology, why is it that feminists have proposed such a variety of solutions to the above problems, and from such a wide range of political standpoints?

Heidegger are closely read and investigated. Themes covered include critical theory, feminism, hermeneutics, postmodernism, post-structuralism, psychoanalysis and structuralism.

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Blackburn, Allan Gibbard, J L Mackie, John McDowell and Michael Smith).

**Normative Ethics**
You are introduced to a number of approaches in what is often referred to as ‘normative ethics’. We face and hear about moral problems every day, ranging from life and death matters, such as abortion and euthanasia, to other types of case, such as whether to tell a lie to prevent hurting someone’s feelings. Normative ethics contains a number of theories that provide us with a set of principles to help us through these problems. In particular, different normative ethical theories are attempts to articulate the reasons why a certain course of action is ethically best. In all of this, you examine these theories by starting with their historical roots, particularly focusing on the work of Mill, Kant and Aristotle.

**Philosophical Texts**
This module offers you the chance to study a single text (or a small number of texts) in a very focused manner. The text is an important classic or recent philosophical work, which usually changes from year to year, and which you read in order to provide critical responses and commentaries.

**Philosophy and Mathematics**
This module is divided into three parts: the historical mutual influence of mathematics and philosophy, from Ancient Greece to the 19th century; the foundational crisis 1880-1930; and current issues in philosophy of mathematics. As such, you may encounter a range of ideas and thinkers from Pythagoras, Plato and Aristotle to Gödel and Wittgenstein.

**Philosophy Dissertation (Stage 3 only)**
The dissertation provides you with an opportunity to work independently within an area of philosophy of your choice. It is a final-year module and is normally only open to single honours Philosophy students.

**Philosophy Extended Essay (Stage 3 only)**
This module allows you to produce a substantial piece of independent philosophical work and, at the same time, improve your skills in essay writing by getting one-to-one supervision and feedback.

**Philosophy of Cognitive Science and Artificial Intelligence**
Are machines capable of intelligence? If so, how can one construct an intelligent machine? If not, what are AI researchers doing? The philosophy of artificial intelligence addresses such questions. This module examines proposals for building intelligent machines and the key philosophical arguments that bear on the prospects of machine intelligence.
Philosophy of Language
Most of us understand at least one language and can speak it effortlessly, so it is, perhaps, surprising that understanding how language works is not a simple matter. In this module, you look at questions such as: what are the ingredients of successful communication? How is the meaning of a sentence related to the meanings of its component parts? How do names differ from descriptions?

Philosophy of Medicine
You find out about and discuss the application of central philosophical ideas – from ethics, metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, to the field of medicine. The module addresses rival conceptions of health, illness and disease, the mind-body problem in the context of medicine, and discusses medicine as a science. You also consider a number of ethical problems faced by medical practitioners.

Philosophy of Mind and Action
Here, you engage in the study of specific topics in the philosophy of mind, language, or action and with the criticism of contemporary approaches as it is found in the works of Wittgenstein, Ryle, Anscombe, and/or Austin.

Philosophy of Religion
This branch of philosophy has two complementary aims: to examine the significance of religious concepts (such as the concept of God) and to study the rational foundations of religious beliefs (such as the belief that God exists).

Philosophy of Work
Is there an inherent meaning to work? Is there a difference between labour and work? Where does work stand in relation to leisure or contemplation? The module uses Hannah Arendt’s *The Human Condition* as its core text as well as a wide variety of short philosophical texts from different historical periods to provide critical contrasts and elucidate important problems and questions about the nature of work.

Political Philosophy
Is it right that the talented profit from their (undeserved) talents? Should the government provide compensation for people who find it hard to meet that special someone? Is the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation a benevolent charity, or an unelected, unaccountable group wielding enormous political power? This module examines classic topics in political philosophy, such as the sources and scope of political authority, and the ideals of equality and freedom. It also explores issues within contemporary political philosophy, such as our obligations to those in the developing world, the circumstances under which one might legitimately employ civil disobedience, and the politics of immigration.
STUDYING AT STAGES 2 AND 3 (CONT)

Psychoanalysis, Ethics and Mind
Here, you encounter the work of major figures in the psychoanalytic tradition (such as Freud, Klein, Winnicott, and Bowlby), as well as selections from major figures in the tradition of developmental moral psychology (such as Plato, Aristotle and Kant), and contemporary work in analytic philosophy relevant to each (such as Jonathan Lear and Harry Frankfurt). The central thematic focus is on how psychoanalytic theory contributes, by way of its deployment of concepts such as dependence, autonomy and love, to the tradition of developmental moral psychology and the connections it attempts to draw between rationality, goodness and happiness.

Religious Studies and Philosophy in the Classroom (Stage 3 only)
This module offers you the opportunity to gain teaching experience in a secondary school classroom. For one term in your final year, you spend half a day each week in a local school under the supervision of a teacher who acts as your mentor. Not only does this provide invaluable work experience, but the teaching also informs and shapes your written work.

The Tragedy of Human Reason: Kant’s Critique of Pure Reason
Kant’s *Critique of Pure Reason* (1781/1787) is the greatest work of modern philosophy, and one of the most important and influential books written in our subject. It sets the scope and limits of human knowledge, rejects the over-confident illusions of rationalists like Leibniz and the all too modest ideas of empiricists like Locke and Hume, and sketches a programme for metaphysics with a human face, devoid of shadows or obscurity. Or so it seems. This module investigates the official arguments Kant offers in favour of his metaphysical humility, and speculates about its more hidden motives.

Topics in Reasoning
This module covers some of the major topics of the theory of reasoning, focusing on presenting students with new and exciting research, with a philosophical and critical approach. You engage critically with the works being studied and formulate and argue for your own views on the issues covered. Generally the module focuses on one of three themes: probability and probabilistic reasoning; causality and causal reasoning; or invalid arguments.

DID YOU KNOW?
Philosophy at Kent is ranked in the top 20 in the UK in *The Guardian University Guide 2017*. 
YEAR ABROAD/ PLACEMENT YEAR

At Kent, you have the opportunity to broaden your experience either by studying overseas or through a work placement.

All students within Kent’s Faculty of Humanities can apply to spend a year studying abroad or on placement as part of their degree programme. The year usually takes place between the second and final years of study.

Year abroad
Going abroad as part of your degree is an amazing opportunity and a chance for you to develop academically, personally and professionally.

You gain confidence and independence and further develop many of the transferable skills employers are looking for, such as the ability to communicate effectively and being able to plan and organise your time. You also demonstrate that you are flexible in your outlook and have the enthusiasm and drive to succeed in a new environment.

For many students, their year abroad is a life-changing and rewarding experience. Having risen to the challenge of living in another country, they have a renewed belief in their ability to succeed.

If you would like to spend a year in France, we offer a distinctive four-year Philosophy degree where you spend your third year studying philosophy in French at the Sorbonne in Paris.

Or, if you choose to take a joint honours in European Studies or in a modern language, you spend a year studying or working in Europe.

We have exciting exchange links with universities in Asia, the USA and Canada, as well as many European destinations via the Erasmus exchange network. For details, see the A to Z course list at www.kent.ac.uk/goabroad/opportunities

Placement year
The placement year provides the opportunity for you to gain experience in the workplace as part of your degree. The placement can be either paid work or an internship.

It gives you the opportunity to increase your contacts and networks so that you can hit the ground running when you graduate. If taken, the year is assessed on a pass/fail basis through employer feedback and a written report that you submit.

Tuition fees for the placement year are greatly reduced and employers may offer expenses or a salary.

There are many benefits to taking a placement year: it gives you the chance to gain some knowledge of the work environment, acquire new skills and develop your confidence.

For more information, see www.kent.ac.uk/humanities/studying/placement
VISIT THE UNIVERSITY

Come along for an Open Day or an Applicant Day and see what it is like to be a student at Kent.

Open Days
Kent runs Open Days during the summer and autumn. These provide an excellent opportunity for you to discover what it is like to live and study at the University. You can meet academic staff and current students, find out about our courses and attend subject displays, workshops and informal lectures. We also offer tours around the campus to view our sports facilities, the library, and University accommodation.

For further information and details of how to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/opendays

Applicant Days
If you apply to study at Kent and we offer you a place (or invite you to attend an interview), you will usually be sent an invitation to one of our Applicant Days. You can book to attend through your online Kent Applicant Portal. The Applicant Day includes presentations in your subject area, guided tours of the campus, including University accommodation, and the opportunity to speak with both academic staff and current students about your chosen subject.

For further information, see www.kent.ac.uk/visit

Informal visits
You are also welcome to make an informal visit to our campuses at any time. The University runs tours of the Canterbury and Medway campuses throughout the year for anyone who is unable to attend an Open Day or Applicant Day. It may also be possible to arrange meetings with academic staff, although we cannot guarantee this. For more details and to book your place, see www.kent.ac.uk/informal

Alternatively, we can provide you with a self-guided tour leaflet, which includes the main points of interest. For more details and to download a self-guided tour, go to www.kent.ac.uk/informal
Location
Canterbury

Award
BA (Hons)

Degree programmes
Single honours
• Philosophy (V500)
• Philosophy with an Approved Year Abroad (V501)

Joint honours
See p10 for details.

Offer levels
V500, V501: ABB at A level, IB Diploma 34 points or IB Diploma with 16 points at Higher.

Required subjects
For the Year in Europe option, GCSE grade B in a modern European language other than English; for the variant with a year in the Sorbonne A level French grade B. Joint honours subjects may have special requirements.

Year abroad
If you take Philosophy with an Approved Year Abroad, you spend your third year at the Paris-Sorbonne University. There are also opportunities to spend a year at other destinations. Those taking a joint honours with a European language also spend a year in Europe.

Offer levels and entry requirements are subject to change. For the latest information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug

On the web
For updates and news stories from the School, please see our website and social media sites:
www.kent.ac.uk/secl
www.facebook.com/unikentsecl
www.twitter.com/unikentsecl
www.youtube.com/unikentsecl

For the latest departmental information, please see
www.kent.ac.uk/secl/philosophy

More information
If you would like more information on Kent's courses, facilities or services, or would like to order another subject leaflet, please contact us.

T: +44 (0)1227 827272
Freephone (UK only): 0800 975 3777
www.kent.ac.uk/ug

This brochure was produced in June 2016. The University of Kent makes every effort to ensure that the information contained in its publicity materials is fair and accurate and to provide educational services as described. However, the courses, services and other matters may be subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, see www.kent.ac.uk/ug and for full details of our terms and conditions, see www.kent.ac.uk/termsandconditions

For the University to operate efficiently, it needs to process information about you for administrative, academic and health and safety reasons. Any offer we make to you is subject to your consent to process such information and is a requirement in order for you to be registered as a student. All students must agree to abide by the University rules and regulations at: www.kent.ac.uk/regulations
COME AND VISIT US

To find out more about visiting the University, see our website:
www.kent.ac.uk/visit