Get to know PHILOSOPHY

Philosophy is the attempt to understand the truth about ourselves, the world we inhabit, and our place in it. Philosophy asks the big questions: What is the general structure of reality? What makes something good or beautiful? What is knowledge? How should society be organized? What is the relationship between mind and body? In answering these questions, philosophers subject our most basic ideas to detailed analysis, critically reflect on cutting edge empirical investigations, and work to construct satisfactory, large scale theories of reality.

The Philosophy program at Queen’s provides students with critical thinking and reading skills, enabling them to uncover hidden assumptions, identify core premises, evaluate arguments and communicate ideas effectively. Study Ancient, Modern, and post-19th Century thinkers as they investigate key questions in Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, and Political Philosophy. Our courses offer a range of perspectives, from broad investigations of perennial topics to problem-based inquiries.

A world-class philosophical education in a small, personalized setting.

Degree PLANS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor in Philosophy / Major in PPE
Internship option available

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities’ Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). Secondary School prerequisites include six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements. Visit queensu.ca/admission for additional information regarding requirements and admission to Queen’s.

A Year to CHOOSE

We often say that our students are like explorers. In Arts and Science, your first year is all about making choices and exploring new paths. Whether you are in Arts, Science or Computing, you will choose your courses from a wide variety of subjects as you settle into university life and become familiar with new styles of learning. By the end of your first year, you will have discovered your areas of interest, passion and success, and will then declare your major. Your first year, whether you consider it to be undeclared, undecided or simply a time for exploration, is bound to be a year full of adventure.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Courses in Philosophy will ask the Fundamental Questions – in fact there’s even a course with that title where you will discuss and debate moral obligations, free will, gender roles, taking responsibility for the environment and the meaning of life. Choose from options including Continental Philosophy, Bioethics, the Philosophy of Law, Business and Ethics, and the Philosophy of Mind. Don’t miss our second-year courses on Animals and Society, Humans and the Natural World, and Perspectives on Social Diversity.


That is a degree from Queen’s.

QUartsici.com
2ND YEAR

Majors and Medials take PHL 250 and 257. Enjoy a range of PHL option courses, plus other courses as outlined in the Academic Calendar. Contact the Undergraduate Chair at PHILUG@queensu.ca for advice if necessary.

Want to enhance your degree? Consider a certificate in Media Studies or explore other certificates available.

GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Join teams or clubs on campus. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen's Get Involved page for more ideas.

Consider contributing to publications on campus such as Ultraviolet Magazine or the Queen's Journal.

3RD YEAR

Majors take PHL 361 and a required History of Philosophy course plus 4 option courses.

Medals need a required History of Philosophy course in 3rd year and 3 option courses.

Need help mapping all of your core, option, supporting and elective courses (including those not listed above) to make sure you will have what you need to complete your degree? Use the Course Mapping Tool on the Arts and Science website.

GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY

Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations such as Frontier College Queen's Students for Literacy.

Get involved with the Philosophy Department Student Council (DSC).

Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Queen's Model Court. If interested, attend the Queen’s Media and Journalism Conference or the QAA Global Passport Online Database and Internship Fair.

GET THINKING GLOBALLY

Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC's Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.

Speak to a QUC advisor to get involved in their programs, events, and training opportunities.

GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.

Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as the Philosophy Major's Career Handbook. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

4TH OR FINAL YEAR

Take 2-400 level option courses and your remaining 300-level courses. Consider taking a Directed Study course.

By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.

Apply to graduate in SOLUS.

Consider publishing in an undergraduate journal, such as McMaster's Perceptio or UBC's Hemlock.

Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities career related. Assess what experience you're lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships – check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

WHERE COULD I GO AFTER GRADUATION?

Academia
Advertising
Applied ethics
Archives
Bioethics
Consulting
Counsellor
Cultural affairs
Entrepreneur
Ethics
Foreign service
Fundraising
Human rights
Information technology
International development
Law
Marketing
Media and communications
Medical ethics
Medicine
Non-governmental organizations
Politics and government
Professor
Public and private research
Public policy
Teacher
Training, recruitment, and development

Some careers may require additional training.

FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION

Get ready Globally

Consider a 12-16 month QUIP internship

International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.

Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
**What employers want**

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

**Studying PHILOSOPHY, I will learn to:**

- Think critically and systematically
- Generate ideas about complex subjects
- Use methods of analysis and logical reasoning
- Form and defend positions
- Consider unfamiliar ideas and evaluate opposing arguments
- Identify underlying assumptions across a range of issues
- Summarize and communicate complex material
- Speak and write at a superior level
- Interpret historical and contemporary ideas and texts
- Listen attentively, read carefully, and reflect thoughtfully
- Work in groups to solve problems and make presentations
- Manage your time and resources

**Why study in Kingston?**

For over 175 years, the Kingston community has been a collection of bright minds. We are proud that our city was named one of the top Intelligent Communities across the globe, an accolade largely due to the thousands of students who study here every single year. In fact, the BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world, which might be why Instagram named the city ‘the happiest place on the planet’. Just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York, Kingston is a safe and liveable city. Not only are we known as the freshwater sailing capital of the world, Kingston is arguably the birthplace of hockey. Wondering what to do while you’re attending school? Queen’s has more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and Kingston has more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America; your time here is guaranteed to be ‘fresh made daily’. 

We’re closer than you think.

**Get the help you need**

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.