

## Programme Specification

### BA Philosophy and English Literature

For students entering Part 1 in September 2025

UCAS Code: VQ53

UFPPXELIT

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**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Philosophy and English Literature with Placement Experience - 4 years (UCAS Code: VQ55) BA Philosophy and English Literature with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Philosophy; English Literature

### Programme information and content

This programme aims to provide you with a comprehensive degree-level education in Philosophy and English Literature.

In Philosophy, we encourage you to confront your deepest beliefs and assumptions in a characteristically philosophical way, to enhance your global engagement and multi-cultural awareness. You will learn how to formulate and criticise philosophical arguments, understand different conceptions of social and civic responsibility, and gain knowledge about current debates in philosophy. As you do so, you will develop a sense of the significance of philosophical thinking in dealing with modern problems, helping you to appreciate multiple perspectives and the values of diversity, to cultivate your skills in oral and written argument, and encouraging you to compare and contrast diverse ways of doing philosophy. The programme of study is specifically designed to introduce you to progressive intellectual challenges and to consolidate your previous experience at each new level.

In English Literature, you will develop your understanding of a variety of literary works from different places and written in different historical periods. You will study familiar genres as well as some less well-known and newer forms. You will have the opportunity to consider different methods of critical analysis and you will develop your skills in close reading and interpretation. You will be supported as you develop your own writing skills. As a graduate in English Literature from the University of Reading, you will have the skills you need to better understand the society in which we live and to express your ideas and opinions more clearly in written and in visual media.

Part 1:	<p>In Philosophy, Part 1 introduces you to the core topics of philosophy and to the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, basic logic, and the psychology of reasoning. There is a particular emphasis on developing oral and written skills through small group discussion. You will undertake research to produce coursework essays and to learn how to critically appraise what you discover.</p> <p>In English Literature Part 1, we consider the major literary genres (poetry, prose fiction as well as drama) and you will become familiar with key disciplinary debates.</p>
Part 2:	<p>In Philosophy, Part 2 provides you with a deeper awareness of current philosophers, of the skills of argument and presentation, and of the epistemology and methodology of Philosophy. There is a greater emphasis on developing skills of research and enquiry and to presenting arguments in public meetings in an effective way, anticipating and responding to questions, and using a range of means (speaking, summary-writing, essay-writing, presenting, designing slides).</p> <p>In English Literature, Part 2 allows you to investigate literature from different historical periods and from different perspectives. In all our modules, we consider how our interpretative work can help us to understand our own cultural moment better.</p>
Placement/Study abroad year:	<p>If you are enrolled on a four-year programme, you will undertake a professional placement or study abroad year between Parts 2 and 3.</p> <p>If you choose to study abroad, you will follow several courses at one of our partner institutions. You may take courses that deepen your understanding of subjects you have already studied or extend your knowledge into new areas that are relevant to your personal or career goals.</p> <p>If you choose a professional placement year, you will undertake an approved role related to your programme of study. A placement will provide you with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in your first two years of study, as well as develop your skills in a professional context.</p>
Part 3:	<p>In Philosophy, Part 3 gives you the opportunity to develop full proficiency in the discipline of Philosophy across a broad range of different conceptions of what counts as 'Philosophy'. The emphasis is on developing independent learning, personal effectiveness, and self-awareness as well as the ability to reflect effectively on your progress and strengths and on the goals you wish to achieve.</p> <p>In English Literature, Part 3 allows you to specialise in ways that suit your interests; these modules also enable you to contribute to debates that</p>

shape our subject by choosing from a range of modules built around the research specialisms of our staff.

### **Programme Learning Outcomes - BA Philosophy and English Literature**

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

<b>Learning outcomes</b>	
1	Critically read, comprehend and evaluate a range of philosophical texts.
2	Explain and evaluate ideas, theories, schools of thought and arguments of the key philosophers and major fields of philosophy.
3	Explain and evaluate various approaches to philosophy across a range of different philosophical traditions.
4	Apply philosophical principles to contemporary issues and real-world situations.
5	Construct and communicate complex, rational and persuasive arguments in a philosophical way for a variety of purposes and audiences.
6	Demonstrate broad, deep, and coherent knowledge of English Literature in its principal modes and genres: across poetry, prose, and drama; covering a range of historical periods; and comprehending the regional variety and global reach of the English language.
7	Apply discipline-specific practices of close reading, interpretative analysis, and critical argument.
8	Articulate their own and other people's ideas concisely, accurately, and clearly using effective written and oral communication skills.
9	Distinguish and evaluate different research methods, themes, and theoretical debates across a range of different philosophical traditions and in current literary studies.
10	Undertake autonomous learning, enquiry, and research within the discipline of English literature, applying their mastery of relevant knowledge, skills, and methods.
11	Discuss and appraise published research, or equivalent advanced scholarship, within the field of English Literature.
12	Initiate, devise, compose and conclude critical projects of different scales: from learning journals, presentations, reports, and coursework essays, to extended essays and dissertations in Philosophy and English Literature.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

<b>Additional Learning outcomes</b>
<p><b>Study Abroad</b></p> <p>By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution.</p> <p><b>Placement</b></p> <p>By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.</p>

<b>Module information</b>																				
<p>Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.</p>																				
<p><b>Part 1 Modules:</b></p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th><b>Module</b></th> <th><b>Name</b></th> <th><b>Credits</b></th> <th><b>Level</b></th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>EN1PE</td> <td>Poetry in English</td> <td>20</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>EN1TPW</td> <td>Theories and Practice of Writing</td> <td>20</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PP1GW</td> <td>Great Works in Philosophy</td> <td>20</td> <td>4</td> </tr> <tr> <td>PP1RA</td> <td>Reason and Argument</td> <td>20</td> <td>4</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<b>Module</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Level</b>	EN1PE	Poetry in English	20	4	EN1TPW	Theories and Practice of Writing	20	4	PP1GW	Great Works in Philosophy	20	4	PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4
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<p>Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English Literature.</p>																				
<p><b>Part 2 Modules:</b></p> <p>Students must take at least one of EN2MLR, EN2EM, EN2ERR OR EN2VIC.</p> <p>Remaining credits must be made up of optional modules from lists available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English. Students must take 60 credits of modules in total from the Department of English Literature, and 60 credits of modules in total from the Department of Philosophy.</p>																				
<p><b>Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):</b></p> <p>Students enrolled on a 4-year programme will take one 120 credit module in either Study Abroad or Professional Placement Year.</p> <p>Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year</p>																				

programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

### **Part 3 Modules:**

In Part 3, students will take one of two pathways:

On the first pathway, students will take a 40-credit Dissertation module in either Philosophy or English Literature, with the remaining credits taken from modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English Literature. Credits must be balanced across the two subjects.

On the second pathway, students will take a 20-credit Independent Learning module within the Department of Philosophy with the remaining credits taken from modules available in the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English Literature. Credits must be balanced across the two subjects.

### **Placement opportunities**

#### **Placements:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

#### **Study Abroad:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

**Teaching and learning delivery:**

In Philosophy, you will be taught primarily through a mixture of lectures and seminars, depending on the modules you choose. Some modules may include group work, including marked presentations. Further information on the delivery of module content is contained in the individual module descriptions.

In English Literature, your learning experience will involve a mix of lectures, asynchronous recorded content, and small-group seminar discussion, as well as workshops and tutorials. There is a greater emphasis on small-group discussion at Part 2, but material to help you familiarise yourself with the subject knowledge needed for each module will be provided in live lectures and in asynchronous recorded content. In Part 3 you will choose the modules that best reflect your interests as a critic and a writer. You will be responsible for researching the texts yourself, and your learning will mostly consist of small-group discussion.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

**Accreditation details**

N/A

**Assessment**

In Philosophy, the programme will be assessed through a variety of means, including written coursework, class tests, and oral examinations. Some non-philosophy modules may be assessed by written examinations. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

In English Literature, across your three years of study, you will be assessed by coursework essays, but you will also be asked to do assessed presentations, develop learning journals, write Critical/Creative work, and undertake research projects. Detailed guidance will be given for assessment methods that are unfamiliar and you will be given module-specific marking criteria for each module.

**Progression**

### *Part 1*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- (ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Students on Joint Honours programmes who achieve the University threshold standard for progression at Part 1 may transfer to a Single Honours degree in one of their joint subject areas if they have achieved at least 40% in 40 or more credits (i.e. 2 x 20 credit modules) of modules in the programme they wish to transfer. In addition, students must also have met any programme specific requirements on the Single Honours programme to which they may wish to transfer. Students should seek advice about the titles of programmes they may be eligible to transfer to.

### *Part 2*

To achieve a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
- (iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance;

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### *Professional/placement year*

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

### **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark Interpretation

70% - 100% First class

60% - 69% Upper Second class  
50% - 59% Lower Second class  
40% - 49% Third class  
35% - 39% Below Honours Standard  
0% - 34% Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including study abroad/professional placement:*

Part 2: one-third

Study abroad/Professional placement: not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

The classification method is given in detail in Section 17 of the Assessment Handbook.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study, you will incur some additional costs.

In Philosophy, there are no textbooks which you must buy, and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing.

In English Literature: for textbooks and similar learning resources, it is recommended that you budget between £150 to £250 a year.

Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library and through the Department of Philosophy and the Department of English Literature. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2024.

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**



BA Philosophy and English Literature for students entering Part 1 in session 2025/26

1 August 2024

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