

Entry requirements

Students should have a BA or BSc, usually at 2.1 level, which includes some study of philosophy. However, all applications are considered on merit and candidates should contact the MA teaching team to discuss their application.

Teaching staff

- Mick Bowles [BA (Warwick), MA (Essex), PhD (Essex)]
- Kath Jones [BA (Warwick), MA (De Paul), PhD (Warwick)]
- Matt Lee [BA (Wolverhampton), MA (Sussex), PhD (Sussex)]
- Jim Urpeth [BA (UEA), PhD (Essex)]

How to apply

If you would like to apply for a place, or need further information, please contact:

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London SE10 9LS

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For more information on this programme, contact:
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E-mail: humanities@gre.ac.uk

Website: www.gre.ac.uk/philosophy

For other information, contact:
Enquiry Unit

Freephone: 0800 005 006


Telephone from outside the UK: +44 20 8331 8590

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Fax from outside the UK: +44 20 8331 8145

E-mail: courseinfo@gre.ac.uk

Website: www.gre.ac.uk

 This document is available
in other formats on request

Philosophy

MA part-time



The MA Philosophy aims to give a well-designed and innovative programme that reflects the expertise and research interests of an enthusiastic and dedicated group of research-active staff.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of the programme is the inclusion of Spinoza and the identification of his thought as that which offers the most radical challenge to the assumptions of Kantian philosophy.

Though the diversity and richness of the development of Kant's project of transcendental critique are represented thoroughly by a number of the philosophers included in the "modern philosophy" phase of the programme, it is the alternative provided by the Spinoza-Deleuze axis in particular that renders the programme distinctive and gives it a state-of-the-art feel.

The MA gives an opportunity to consider in-depth the Kant-Spinoza relation, particularly as it has been implicitly and explicitly pursued by some of their key successors, which has emerged in recent years as, arguably, the key encounter in contemporary philosophy.

In addition, the teaching team is committed to, and are experienced practitioners of, a philosophical and pedagogical process which they term "immanent reading". This involves the close and careful reading and analysis of primary texts in which their specific problematic, conceptual vocabulary and complexities are allowed to unfold.



Courses

Part 1: Classical Philosophy

Students consider the contrasting and sometimes conflicting philosophies of Spinoza and Kant. There is no denying the rigour of Kant's thinking, indeed the power of Kantian philosophy is shown by his considerable influence on European thinking. Hegel, Fichte, Schopenhauer, Heidegger and perhaps even Nietzsche all presuppose a stage that has been set by Kant.

However, if we turn back to Spinoza we enter a different philosophical landscape – one in which Kantian assumptions do not hold. It is thus by studying both Kant and Spinoza that one becomes aware that a number of the fundamental claims of Critical Philosophy can be questioned. Moreover, it is by attending to the questions and problems that arise when Kant and Spinoza are considered that students are prepared for the work in the second part (Modern Philosophy) of the MA.

Part 2: Modern Philosophy

Students progress to detailed readings of some philosophers who have dominated the field in the 20th century. Courses are offered on Bataille, Bergson, Deleuze, Foucault, Nietzsche, Irigaray and Lyotard. Students are required to study two of these courses.

It is not possible to offer all these courses. We decide what to offer each year, in consultation with current students, and try to take account of the research area that staff are actively working in. The study of such modern philosophers is strengthened by an understanding of the problems and questions that haunt Classical Philosophy.

It is through understanding the great philosophical projects of Kant and Spinoza – that is, becoming aware of the problems and difficulties that animate their writings, and not simply treating their texts as a dead dogmatic metaphysics – that the student is made ready for the philosophical excitement and experiments found in so much of Modern Philosophy. Accordingly, we require as a prerequisite of all Modern Philosophy courses the successful completion of at least one Classical Philosophy course.

Part 3: Dissertation

Students are assigned a supervisor with whom they work closely in deciding on and executing an extended philosophical investigation.

Teaching and assessment

The taught courses proceed by lecture-seminars; classes involve extended discussions of the topics. The taught courses are assessed on the basis of one 5000-word essay; the limit for the dissertation is 15,000 words.

Attendance

The MA is offered only for part-time study. You are required to attend on one evening a week during term, usually Wednesdays, 6.30–9.30pm. The class takes place at the university's campus in Maritime Greenwich.

