A pocket guide to your MA in: philosophy by Research
MA in Philosophy by Research
The MA in Philosophy by Research combines the flexibility of a research degree with the structure and support of a taught MA. Before writing a dissertation, students on this programme take a course on research methods in Philosophy. Your preparatory studies include coursework on philosophical method and two essays on topics of your choice. These studies will help you to develop your research skills and focus your interests before you undertake a dissertation.

Structure of the Programme
Over the course of the academic year, students on this programme
- Attend a research methods course consisting of six sessions and requiring a written exercise of 2000 words
- Write two essays of 5000 words each, topics to be decided in consultation with the student’s supervisory team
- Attend no fewer than six research seminars or similar activities.
The summative assessment is one dissertation of normally not more than 20,000 words, to be defended in an oral examination led by an external examiner.

In addition to these activities, you will attend in semester A:

- A philosophy reading group, or
- A similar programme of research meetings (such as the activities of the externally funded projects), or
- Any UH module in philosophy or some relevant discipline (e.g. literature, psychology, computer science, etc.)

You will attend in semester B a fortnightly graduate seminar.

Supervisory teams are appointed at the start of the programme, and will supervise the choice of topics for the two 5000-word essays (one in semester A, one in semester B). These essays can have any relationship to the final dissertation; they might be on a different topic or they might be drafts of sections of the dissertation.
Teaching
Teaching is principally in one-to-one supervisions, where your supervisor will help you to develop your project and refine your philosophical writing skills. The research methods course is normally taught in a small group by an experienced professor or lecturer, and the other developmental activities are built on the model of philosophy research seminars.

Research
The philosophy department has a regular programme of research seminars and an active student philosophy society, which meets weekly term-time and organises an annual residential weekend at Cumberland Lodge in Windsor Great Park. The department is home to the British Wittgenstein Society, which makes an annual bursary available to a student who wishes to pursue PhD research on Wittgenstein at the University of Hertfordshire. Our externally funded projects include The Nature of Phenomenal Qualities, The Construction of Personal Identities Online, Embodied Virtues and Expertise, Selves in Time: Temporal Emplacement and Affective Identification in Personal Identity Theory and The Ethics of Information Warfare: Risks, Rights and Responsibilities.
Staff
Based in the School of Humanities, the MA calls on the expertise of staff who are distinguished in their field and publishing cutting-edge research.

Start Dates and Modes of Study
This programme starts in September and is one year full-time or two years part-time.

Entry Requirements
You will need to have a first or a good 2:1 in your first degree. If you are a non-UK citizen, you will need to have an English Language qualification of IELTS 6.5 or TOFEL 580/92. We will also require two academic references and a 300 word indication of research interests.
Location
The University is convenient for major research libraries and activities in Central London (roughly 25 minutes by train), Cambridge and Oxford.

Application and fees information
Please see www.herts.ac.uk for information about fees and scholarships. Discounts on fees are available for University of Hertfordshire students who meet the required conditions. See www.herts.ac.uk/international for information about international tuition fees and scholarships.

In order to prepare for this programme and to help supervisors to advise on the choice of activities, applicants should supply a brief (about 300 words) description of the area of philosophy on which they expect to write their dissertations. Please email this and references to Janice Turner, Social Science, Arts & Humanities Research Institute (SSAHRI) Research Administrator j.1.turner@herts.ac.uk
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go.herts.ac.uk/maphilosophy

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