



---

# PHILOSOPHY

BA (Hons)



**ARE YOU STIRLING?**

---



## REASONS TO CHOOSE THIS COURSE

### 1 STUDY WITH EXCELLENT ACADEMICS

Philosophy staff at Stirling are internationally respected for the quality of our research, and student satisfaction with our teaching, since the inception of the National Student Survey.

### 2 STUDY IN A SUPPORTIVE ENVIRONMENT

Our Student Philosophy Society is entirely student-run, and hosts a vibrant programme of events each semester. It is an integral part of the welcoming, friendly environment that exists at Stirling, which is beneficial both socially and academically.

### 3 STUDY A CONTINUALLY ENGAGING AND STIMULATING SUBJECT

Philosophy is not a particular body of knowledge, but a reflective and questioning way of thinking. Studying philosophy constantly pushes you to think deeper and more clearly, whatever it is you are thinking about!

---

## WHY STUDY PHILOSOPHY?

How are our minds related to our bodies? Do we really have free will? What is knowledge (as distinct from merely true belief) and what can we really know – about the world around us, about other people, or about ourselves? How can we be confident we know what is right and wrong, just and unjust? And what would it take to live a morally good life?

You have just been posed some typical philosophical questions, and if you seriously want to search for the answers then this is the course for you. Our degree course will challenge you to develop a strong set of critical, imaginative and informed reasoning skills, and deepen your understanding of the nature of the human mind, of language, of morality and politics, of art, of science, and of logic.

---

## PHILOSOPHY – 3RD IN SCOTLAND

The Guardian University Guide 2019

---

## COURSE DETAILS

We offer breadth and variety in this course. Some modules focus on particular historical figures, allowing students to really get to grips with one famous philosopher's ideas – and how subsequent generations have argued over those ideas. Thinkers whom we study in depth include Aristotle, Descartes, Kant, Mill, Marx, Wittgenstein, and Heidegger. Other modules focus on specific philosophical topics, such as the theory of knowledge; logic; metaphysics; philosophy of mind; moral philosophy; philosophy of science; environmental ethics; and many more.

During your study at Stirling you will be introduced to the key issues in a wide range of topics within philosophy in your first two years. Then it is largely up to you which areas you wish to focus on – and you will be able, on the basis of what you have learned so far, to make informed choices among the range of higher-level modules available.

If, for example, questions about the fundamental nature of reality really interest you, then you might choose modules such as Relativism and Reality or Materialism and Idealism, to name but two. If questions about how we should treat others (including animals and the planet itself), and whether there can be any objective answers to such questions, are what interest you, modules such as Meta-Ethics or Environmental Ethics or Politics, Law, and Society, and others will suit your interests nicely. Or, if you find questions about rationality, logic, and how to think philosophically are especially stimulating, you can choose to take modules on the nature of knowledge; the nature of language; philosophical paradoxes; and so on. The choice is up to you!

## WHY CHOOSE STIRLING?

Philosophy at Stirling successfully combines an innovative teaching course with research at the highest level. We offer an excellent undergraduate teaching course centred in the analytic tradition broadly conceived, and covering all major aspects of the subject, and are committed to providing a dynamic and supportive learning environment in which students can easily feel at home.

Stirling's tremendous success in the 2014 Research Excellence Framework exercise has moved the University up to 6th place in Scotland. Almost three quarters of research activity rated either world-leading or internationally excellent.

---

**"The most enjoyable aspect of the programme for me was writing essays where I was asked to explain my own thoughts on the matter. It was the first time in my entire school life I was supposed to give importance to my own ideas on the topics discussed, and not just to someone else's ideas. This aspect, along with the fact that there were seminars to learn to develop those ideas and debate with others, made the whole experience incredibly challenging, but also enjoyable."**

**Matilde Liberti**

BA (Hons) Philosophy

---

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

Philosophy graduates are amongst the most employable in the arts and humanities. Apart from going on to post-graduate study in Philosophy, Stirling Philosophy graduates have entered careers in the civil service, business, law, the social services, environmental management, the media, and psychotherapy.

---

**PHILOSOPHY**  
[stir.ac.uk/4s](http://stir.ac.uk/4s)

V500

---

### MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

#### YEAR 1 ENTRY – FOUR-YEAR HONOURS

**SQA Highers:**

ABBB – one sitting

AABB – two sittings

**GCE A-levels:**

BBB

**IB Diploma:**

32

**BTEC (Level 3):**

DDM

#### YEAR 2 ENTRY – THREE-YEAR HONOURS

**SQA Adv Highers:**

ABB

**GCE A-levels:**

ABB

**IB Diploma:**

35

**Essential subjects:**

To include Philosophy

### OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

**Scottish HNC/HND:**

Minimum entry: Bs in graded unit.

Access courses and other UK/EU and international qualifications are also welcomed

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

General entry requirements apply. Please visit: [stir.ac.uk/av](http://stir.ac.uk/av)

### PART TIME, ADVANCED ENTRY AND STUDY ABROAD OPTIONS AVAILABLE

## TYPICAL TIMETABLE

This is illustrative of a typical timetable

| YEAR | SEMESTER | MODULE 1                          | MODULE 2           | MODULE 3 |
|------|----------|-----------------------------------|--------------------|----------|
| 1    | 1        | Philosophy: What is it all about? | Option             | Option   |
|      | 2        | Mind, Value and Reality           | Option             | Option   |
| 2    | 3        | From Plato to Existentialism      | Option             | Option   |
|      | 4        | Logic                             | Moral Theory       | Option   |
| 3    | 5        | Rationalism and Empiricism        | Philosophy of Mind | Option   |
|      | 6        | Materialism and Idealism          | A Priori Knowledge | Option   |
| 4    | 7        | Dissertation                      | Option             | Option   |
|      | 8        | Dissertation                      | Option             |          |

## OPTIONAL MODULES (Subject to change)

**Semesters 1-4:** Optional modules include topics from: Politics, Philosophy, Social Science, Aquaculture, Sports Studies, Film & Media, History, Law, French, Spanish, Education, Computer Science, Study Skills, Business Studies

**Semesters 5-8:** Optional modules include Materialism and Idealism; A Priori Knowledge; Politics, Law and Society; Mind and Metaphysics; Marx and Marxism; Rationalism and Empiricism; Meta-Ethics; Environmental Ethics; Philosophy of Mind; Knowledge and Reality; Philosophy of Language; Feminist Philosophy; Humanity as an Ethical Idea; Practical Reasoning

## CONTACT

**Dr Kent Hurtig**  
**Faculty of Arts and Humanities**

T: +44 (0) 1786 467560

E: kent.hurtig@stir.ac.uk

W: [stir.ac.uk/arts-humanities/](http://stir.ac.uk/arts-humanities/)

**Student Recruitment and Admissions**

T: +44 (0) 1786 467046

E: [recruitment@stir.ac.uk](mailto:recruitment@stir.ac.uk)

[stir.ac.uk/65](http://stir.ac.uk/65)

**JOIN OUR COMMUNITY**



# ARE YOU STIRLING?