

Programme Specification 2020-21

Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy

Awarding body	University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education*
Teaching institution	University of Cambridge Institute of Continuing Education
Accreditation details	None
Name of final award	Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy
Programme title	Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy
UCAS code	N/A
HECoS code(s)	100337 (philosophy)
Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)	Philosophy
Qualifications framework level	FHEQ Level 7 part-time
Date specification produced	July 2020

*Cognate Faculty endorsement provided by the Faculty of Philosophy

The Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy is part of the Institute of Continuing Education's award-bearing programme at FHEQ level 7, offered to part-time adult students.

ICE is a General Board, non-School institution whose purpose can be defined in two complementary ways. It is a conduit both for transmission of the University's knowledge and research on the one hand and for enabling members of the public to access higher education courses, whether for personal interest or professional development, on the other. In these ways it contributes significantly to the University's public engagement and widening participation commitments.

Educational aims

- To provide students with specialist knowledge and understanding of philosophical ideas and concepts at the frontiers of philosophical debate and research;
- to enable students to acquire and develop the skills necessary to conduct critical analysis and evaluation at the highest levels; and
- to develop the student's ability to analyse and evaluate different methods for conducting independent and collaborative research.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy students should be able to demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

- Have a good understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches to philosophical problems;
- Recognise and propose original approaches to philosophical issues;
- Able to critically evaluate current research and existing techniques and methods; and
- Demonstrate self-direction and originality in responding to theoretical and methodological problems, accepting accountability for outcomes.

Programme structure

The programme is a part-time Postgraduate Certificate equivalent to 60 at FHEQ level 7. It is undertaken over one year. Students are taught a range of general and subject-specific skills and techniques.

Delivery of the course is via four Modules (each carrying no more than 15 credits). The Modules are structured chronologically—spanning philosophical thought, ancient to modern. The Modules are also developmental—discussions in subsequent Modules build on and respond to themes discussed in previous Modules. Modules are structured as follows:

	Module 1 - Michaelmas Taught (15 credits)	Module 2 - Lent Taught (15 credits)	Module 3 - Easter Taught (15 credits)	Module 4 – All year Online and Supervision (15 credits)
<i>PGCert in Philosophy</i>	Ancient Greek Philosophy	Early Modern Philosophy	Existentialism	Students must select from a list of available topics, e.g. The role of Philosophy today
	Summative Assessment: Essay of 2,500-3,000 words. (Michaelmas)	Summative Assessment: Essay of 2,500-3,000 words. (Lent)	Summative Assessment: Essay of 2,500-3,000 words. (Easter)	Formative Assessments: 500 word critical analysis (Mich.); 1,000 word Self-reflective essay (Lent). Summative Assessment Essay of 2,500-3,000 words. (Easter/Summer)

Teaching methods

During 2020/21 this course will start being delivered using remote learning methods. Specifically this involves using video-based teaching platforms and an online course Virtual Learning Environment. Teaching methods will include, but are not limited to, lectures, presentations by guest speakers and facilitators, interactive and experiential learning activities, reading and assignments to be completed by participants outside classroom sessions and online discussion forums.

The course will revert to face-to-face teaching combined with use of the Virtual Learning Environment when it is viable and practical to do so.

Assessment methods

Students are awarded a course mark upon the completion of three 2,500-3,000 word assignments, one per taught Module. Formative assignments will also be conducted throughout the year of study to support student learning.

Students who encounter difficulties affecting their performance in one or more of the above points may submit a claim for mitigating circumstances to be considered at the end of the course.

Progression

Credit awarded by the Institute can be transferred into the degree programmes of some other higher education providers. The amount of credit which can be transferred into degree programmes varies from institution to institution and is always at the discretion of the receiving institution.

Graduate employability and career destinations

Students completing the Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy programme will have demonstrated high levels of motivation and personal commitment through part-time, independent study. They will also have developed a number of valuable transferable skills, including:

Intellectual skills

- Articulating ideas at a high level of abstraction;
- Creative application of new and pre-existing knowledge in unfamiliar contexts; and
- Critical analysis and assessment of literature.

Practical skills

- Critical thinking and problem solving; and
- Presentation and communication skills.

Other transferable skills

- Journalistic skills of editing, writing and presenting ideas for academic audiences;
- Pedagogical skills for teachers, such as assessing and evaluating teaching methods and research design; and
- Further skills necessary for professionals, such as working independently and collaboratively on short and long term projects.

Management of teaching quality and standards

The teaching quality and standards of the course will be monitored throughout by the appropriate member of academic staff who reports annually to the Subject Moderation Panel, consisting of the internal assessor, internal examiner, moderating external examiner and other Faculty and ICE members. The report of the moderating external examiner is made available to all students on the course via the Institute's virtual learning environment.

Quality indicators

The programme will be measured against quality indicators as identified in QAA/SEEC benchmarks for level 7 study in Philosophy.

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information in this programme specification. At the time of publication, the programme specification has been approved by the relevant Faculty Board (or equivalent). Programme specifications are reviewed annually, however, during the course of the academical year any approved changes to the programme will be communicated to enrolled students through email notification or publication in the Reporter. The relevant faculty or department will endeavour to update the programme specification accordingly, and prior to the start of the next academical year.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for all awards of the University is available online at: <https://www.camdata.admin.cam.ac.uk>