

Programme Specification¹ 2026-27

Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy

Programme title	<i>Philosophy</i>
Name of final award	<i>Postgraduate Certificate</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Cambridge</i>
Teaching institution	<i>University Of Cambridge, Professional and Continuing Education</i>
PSRB/Accreditation details and date the course was last accredited	<i>None</i>
UCAS code	<i>None</i>
HECoS code(s)	
ATAS code	
<u>Relevant QAA benchmark statement(s)</u>	<i>None</i>
Qualification framework level	<i>Level 7</i>
Date specification approved	<i>March 2026</i>
Linked course	

Brief overview of the course

(Please explain the purpose of the programme in a brief paragraph of no more than 5-6 sentences.)

The Postgraduate Certificate in Philosophy provides students with advanced, research-informed knowledge of key philosophical ideas spanning ancient, early modern, and existentialist traditions. It is designed to develop high-level skills in critical analysis, evaluation, and philosophical method. The programme fosters both independent and

¹ 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 academic year.

collaborative engagement with complex theoretical and methodological issues. Students are encouraged to apply philosophical concepts to contemporary challenges, such as artificial intelligence or post-truth politics. The course also serves as a structured progression route for those wishing to continue into further postgraduate study.

Educational Aims

What are the educational aims of the programme?

The programme of study 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 - What is a student expected to learn from the programme? These should have been included on the new course proposal when the course was first approved.

(Please refer to the guidance on Learning Aims and Outcomes and the Office for Students sector-recognised standards for sector expectations of the graduates of higher education qualifications)

As a result of studying this programme students should meet the following learning outcomes:

Subject-specific Skills

- B1 Have a good understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches to philosophical problems
- B2 Recognise and propose original approaches to philosophical issues
- B3 Able to critically evaluate current research and existing techniques and methods

Key Skills

- D1 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in responding to theoretical and methodological problems, accepting accountability for outcomes

Programme structure

Please give a brief outline of the course structure and how it supports progress. Please note details of individual papers/modules are not needed. What elements does the programme contain? If you have a part-time route show how this is aligned with the full-time course.

The course comprises three 20-credit units taught at Level 7. The programme is a part-time Postgraduate Certificate undertaken over one year.

Delivery of the course is via three Units (each carrying no more than 20 credits). The Units are structured chronologically spanning philosophical thought, ancient to modern. The Units are also developmental discussions in subsequent Units build on and respond to themes discussed in previous Units.

Units are structured as follows:

Topics in Ancient Philosophy 2026-27

Topics in Modern Philosophy 2026-27

Topics in Existentialism 2026-27

Teaching and Learning

Please indicate which methods are used, i.e., lectures, seminars, practical sessions etc. Include any activity that does not lead to summative assessment. How is the programme taught? How do students learn?

The programme is delivered through a combination of in-person teaching sessions and asynchronous approaches provided via the course virtual learning environment. Examples of the type of teaching methods used include, but are not limited to, live and pre-recorded lectures, seminars, group discussions, online readings, quizzes, data handling exercises, group activities and discussion forums. Peer-to-peer learning forms an important element of course teaching.

Assessment

Please list below summative assessments for the course and how they meet the learning outcomes listed above. Ensure these are aligned with your course regulations (Statutes and Ordinances).

Assessment	Learning Outcome
Students are awarded a course mark upon the completion of two summative assessments per term, including one 2,500-	As a result of studying this programme students should meet the following learning outcomes:

3,000 word assignment and one shorter assignment (of 1,000 to 1,500 words in length).	<u>Subject-specific Skills</u> B1 Have a good understanding of current theoretical and methodological approaches to philosophical problems B2 Recognise and propose original approaches to philosophical issues B3 Able to critically evaluate current research and existing techniques and methods <u>Key Skills</u> D1 Demonstrate self-direction and originality in responding to theoretical and methodological problems, accepting accountability for outcomes
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Progression and Career Destinations

Please describe the opportunities for the students' personal and professional development (including transferable and employability skills). Please include information relating to successful graduates' prospects for employment.

Preparation for employment in general is provided in the opportunities for the acquisition of relevant transferable skills outlined in this programme specification. Where programmes with a significant vocational or professional element are accredited by Professional, Regulatory or Statutory Bodies details are given above.