Bachelor's degree programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Scientific Discipline

General introduction to degree programmes in the Philosophy of a Specific Scientific Discipline

This chapter contains detailed information about the aims, learning outcomes and structure of the Bachelor's degree programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Scientific Discipline. A study schedule is provided for each year of the programme, together with an overview of the course units (compulsory and elective).

Condition of admission

Students cannot enrol for the Bachelor's degree programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Discipline until they have passed the propaedeutic phase of that discipline. However, if they wish, students can attend the introductory philosophy lectures before they enrol. Students who wish to do this are asked to contact the study advisor.

The curriculum of the Bachelor's degree programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Discipline

The degree programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Scientific Discipline (PSSD) is designed for students who are already studying at the University and who wish to explore the philosophical aspects of their discipline in depth. It is a combined programme. Although one year is assigned to the philosophy component of the Bachelor's programme in philosophy, this does not necessarily mean that the component can be completed within one academic year. *It is recommended that students spread the Philosophy year over two or more teaching years.* Students who wish to discuss the planning of the Bachelor's programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Scientific Discipline should contact the study advisor (FIL-study-advisor@rug.nl).

The PSSD programme formally comprises a three-year Bachelor's programme and a two-year Master's programme. In fact, it involves a two-year philosophy programme (one year in the Bachelor's phase and one year in the Master's phase) in addition to another study programme ('X' in the chart below), and the course units of the other programme also count as PSSD units.

Bachelor's programme in X	Bachelor's programme in PSSD
3 years of X	2 years of X
	1 year of Philosophy

Master's programme in X	Master's programme in PSSD
1 (or 2) years of X	1 year of X
	1 year of Philosophy

Students should be aware that this combined programme requires at least six years of study: the 'main' three-year Bachelor's programme + at least one Master's year, plus one year of Philosophy at Bachelor's level + one year of Philosophy at Master's level.

Course units etc.

The programme includes the following compulsory course units: 120 ECTS credit points in the relevant scientific discipline, including the propaedeutic phase of the discipline. The Philosophy component (60 ECTS) comprises: general introductory course units (30 ECTS), a 'cluster' (20 ECTS) of level-2 or level-3 course units relating to the scientific discipline, and a Bachelor's thesis (10 ECTS).

In the first place, the cluster of 20 ECTS comprises a 'specialization' (5 ECTS) consisting of a course unit in advanced scientific philosophy, in which the principles and philosophical methodology of a discipline are explored in greater depth. In the second place, students take at least 15 ECTS in deepening elective course units, which must relate to the main subject. Students can choose between 'deepening' and 'general' course units which, respectively, either relate to the student's field of interest or could be included in any cluster. Students must include at least 5 ECTS credit points of deepening course units in their subject package. The package can also include general course units with a total student workload of no more than 10 ECTS credit points (anything above this is extracurricular). Students can also choose two course units with a student workload of 7.5 ECTS each, provided one of these is a deepening course unit.

Students should choose the scientific discipline that relates to their 'main' programme. The express purpose of the PSSD programme is to explore the philosophy of the student's chosen scientific discipline. This can be done in many different ways. Students who are uncertain about matters such as the relevance to the main programme or the coherence of the subject package should contact the study advisor. Students who wish to do so can submit a request for an alternative teaching programme to the Board of Examiners, stating reasons. Where appropriate, philosophy lecturers from other faculties may be involved in the programme.

Table showing the compulsory course units of the *philosophy component* (60 ECTS credit points) of the Bachelor's degree programme:

Course units	student workload
6 General introductory course units	30
1 Specialization course units from the relevant scientific discipline	5
3 Deepening course units from the scientific discipline / general field	15
Bachelor's thesis	10

Structure of the degree programme:
1. The propaedeutic phase of the degree programme is the propaedeutic phase of the scientific discipline.
2. The post-propaedeutic phase consists of the following components and student workloads:

The numbers in the first column in the tables refer to the academic quarter. Each course is described on Ocasys. The last column refers to the language of instruction: Dutch or English.

> **Bachelor's degree programme in the specific scientific discipline**
> Course units with a student workload of 60 ECTS credit points from the post-propaedeutic phase of the Bachelor's programme in the scientific discipline. This component may include Minor course units

> **Introductory course units in Philosophy**

Q.	Course Title	ECTS	Lang.
1	History of Philosophy I: From Plato to Kant	5	**EN**
1	Social and Political Philosophy	5	**EN**
1	Reasoning and Arguing	5	**EN**
2	History of Philosophy II: From Hegel to Arendt	5	**EN**
2	Good and Evil: Introduction to Ethics	5	**EN**
2	Philosophy of Science	5	**EN**

> **Specialization course units**
> The specialization course unit of the relevant cluster
> **Philosophy of the Natural Sciences**

2	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences: Physics and Metaphysics	5	**EN**

Philosophy of the Life Sciences

3	Philosophy of the Life Sciences	5	**EN**

Philosophy of Economics and the Social Sciences

3	Philosophy of Social Science	5	**EN**

Philosophy of History

3	Philosophy of the Humanities	5	**EN**

Philosophy of Arts and Culture

3	Philosophy of the Humanities	5	**EN**

Philosophy of Political Science

3	Philosophy of the Humanities	5	**EN**

Philosophy of Cognitive Science

2	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	5	**EN**

Deepening course units

Students can choose three deepening course units per cluster. These units can
be selected from the specific subject lists below and from the list of general course
units.

Philosophy of the Natural Sciences

Q.		ECTS	Lang.
1	Overzicht Analytische Wijsbegeerte	5	**NL**
1	Your Life is a Bet: Introduction to Bayesian Epistemology	5	**EN**
2	Phil. of Mind 1: Lichaam, brein, geest	7.5	**NL**
2	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	5	**EN**
3	Actions, Abilities and Obligations	5	**EN**
3	Early Modern Phil. & Scientific Revolution	5	**EN**
3	Philosophy of the Life Sciences	5	**EN**
4	Advanced Logic	5	**EN**
4	Ken- en wetenschapsleer 2	7.5	**NL**
4	Modal puzzles	5	**EN**

Philosophy of the Life Sciences

1	Overzicht Analytische Wijsbegeerte	5	**NL**
1	Your Life is a Bet: Introduction to Bayesian Epistemology	5	**EN**
2	Phil. of Mind 1: Lichaam, brein, geest	7.5	**NL**
2	Philosophy of the Natural Sciences: Physics and Metaphysics	5	**EN**
2	Philosophy of Cognitive Science	5	**EN**
4	Ken- en wetenschapsleer 2	7.5	**NL**

Philosophy of Economics and the Social Sciences

1	Your Life is a Bet: Introduction to Bayesian Epistemology	5	**EN**
3	Ethics 3: Equality and Global Justice	5	**EN**
3	Sociale Filosofie: Taal en Macht	5	**NL**
4	Aristotle's Ethics	5	**EN**
4	Ken- en wetenschapsleer 2	7.5	**NL**
4	Philosophy of Religion	5	**EN**
4	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	5	**EN**
4	Sociale en politieke filosofie 2	7.5	**NL**

Philosophy of History

1	Kunstfilosofie	7.5	**NL**
2	Opkomst en Ondergang van het Aristotelisme	7.5	**NL**
3	Early Modern Phil. & Scientific Revolution	5	**EN**
3	Protagoras en Plato	5	**NL**
3	Transcendentale Filosofie: Kant en Husserl	5	**NL**
4	Aristotle's Ethics	5	**EN**
4	Aziatische Filosofische Tradities	5	**NL**
4	Critical Theory	5	**EN**
4	Philosophy of Religion	5	**EN**

Philosophy of Arts and Culture

1	Kunstfilosofie	7.5	**NL**
3	Sociale Filosofie: Taal en Macht	5	**NL**
3	Transcendentale Filosofie: Kant en Husserl	5	**NL**
4	Aristotle's Ethics	5	**EN**
4	Aziatische Filosofische Tradities	5	**NL**
4	Critical Theory	5	**EN**
4	Philosophy of Religion	5	**EN**

Philosophy of Political Science

3	Aristotle's Ethics	5	**EN**
3	Ethics 3: Equality and Global Justice	5	**EN**
3	Philosophy of the Social Sciences	5	**EN**
3	Sociale Filosofie: Taal en Macht	5	**NL**
4	Critical Theory	5	**EN**
4	Philosophy, Politics and Economics	5	**EN**
4	Sociale en politieke filosofie 2	7.5	**NL**

Philosophy of Cognitive Science

1	Overzicht Analytische Wijsbegeerte	5	**NL**
1	Your Life is a Bet: Introduction to Bayesian Epistemology	5	**EN**
2	Phil. of Mind 1: Lichaam, brein, geest	7.5	**NL**
3	Actions, Abilities and Obligations	5	**EN**
3	Early Modern Phil. & Scientific Revolution	5	**EN**
3	Philosophy of the Life Sciences	5	**EN**
3	Transcendentale Filosofie: Kant en Husserl	5	**NL**
4	Advanced Logic	5	**EN**
4	Ken- en wetenschapsleer 2	7.5	**NL**
4	Modal puzzles	5	**EN**

Each cluster can include no more than two general course units. Assignments and final papers for these course units must be relevant to the scientific discipline.

General course units

1	Ethiek 2: Actuele vragen	7.5	**NL**
3	Ethiek 2: Morele psychologie en meta-ethiek	7.5	**NL**
3	Complex argumentation: analysis and criticism	7.5	**EN**
3	Filosofie van wetenschap, technologie en samenleving	5	**NL**
4	Ethics 3: Freedom and Responsibility	5	**EN**

Bachelor's thesis.

Sem. I or II	The subject of the thesis must relate to the scientific discipline	(10 ECTS) NL or EN

Admission requirements usually apply to deepening course units. These are set out at the back of the student handbook and on Ocasys. Students are expressly advised to check the admission requirements when choosing course units. Students who are uncertain about the level of knowledge required for admission should contact the lecturer.

The Bachelor's thesis is written during the Bachelor's thesis course unit (enrolment via the student portal).
Students work on their theses in groups of around ten and help each other, under the guidance of a workgroup supervisor (a lecturer or research assistant). Students comment on each other's work before handing in chapters of their thesis to the lecturer who is responsible for supervising the content. Parts of the research and writing process will be discussed, for example How do I formulate a good research question? Where do I find the relevant literature? How do I draw up an effective plan? How do I explain a philosophical term?

The *thesis* must relate to the student's chosen scientific discipline. Before work on the thesis begins, clear written agreements must be made with the supervisor. The agreements are set out in a thesis protocol, which stipulates the following:
−   the subject, format and approach of the thesis
−   the frequency of supervision meetings
−   a work plan and time schedule; interim deadlines for parts of the thesis
−   a proposed submission date for the thesis.

The Bachelor's thesis has a student workload of 10 ECTS credit points and must be no more than 10,000 words in length. The thesis concludes with a final discussion in the presence of a second lecturer. This could be a lecturer from the faculty of the scientific discipline, in which case the approval of the Board of Examiners is required.

Learning outcomes of the Bachelor's thesis:

A Bachelor's thesis must demonstrate the student's ability to

- formulate a philosophical question relating to the philosophy of a specific scientific discipline
- ensure that the scope of the question does not go beyond the scope of the programme component
- conduct a philosophical research project on a specified scale, under supervision
- find and study relevant literature
- write a report on the research and structure a substantial text in a clear manner
- explain and critically evaluate theories and viewpoints
- apply the bibliographical skills learned
- communicate orally about the various aspects of the written report.

For more information about the requirements for the Bachelor's thesis, please contact the study advisor: FIL-study-advisor@rug.nl.