



# 11 Master's degree programme in Philosophy

## 11.1 Introduction

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

## 11.2 Aims of the Master's degree programme in Philosophy

The main aim of the Master's programme in Philosophy is to teach students to think in an independent and critical way about the fundamental questions of philosophy and about how those questions relate to problems in the various disciplines and in society. A further aim is to equip students with extensive knowledge, understanding and skills in one of the three specializations that are practised and taught at the Faculty: History of Philosophy; Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy; Theoretical Philosophy. Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Philosophy are able to demonstrate familiarity with the discipline and practise philosophy independently in a professional context.

The following learning outcomes for graduates of the Master's programme in Philosophy are based on the general aim of that programme.

### Knowledge and understanding

*Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Philosophy have:*

- 1 - knowledge of the most important historical and systematic questions in philosophy.
- 2 - in-depth knowledge of the philosophical questions within one specialization.
- 3 - knowledge of the philosophical methods of the specialization.

### Academic skills and attitudes

*Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Philosophy are able to:*

- 4 - formulate an innovative philosophical question, based on in-depth knowledge of the philosophical questions within a specialization.
- 5 - carry out a substantial philosophical study.
- 6 - compile a structured report, for specialists as well as non-specialists, on the results of a philosophical study.

- 7 - communicate orally about the various aspects of the research.
- 8 - explain and defend theories and viewpoints.
- 9 - reflect critically on the theories and viewpoints learned.
- 10 - apply the bibliographical skills learned.

### Preparation for further study or a career

*Graduates of the Master's degree programme in Philosophy have:*

- 11 - attained an academic level that is satisfactory for admission to a further course of study that assumes a high level of autonomy, or for successful participation in the graduate job market.

### 11.3 Conditions of admission

Students can qualify for admission on the basis of a

- Bachelor's degree in Philosophy
- Bachelor's degree in the Philosophy of a Specific Discipline
- national or international equivalent of the above; equivalence will be assessed by the Admissions Board.

### 11.4 Programme structure

In order to realize the above aims and learning outcomes, a curriculum with three components is being developed for the Master's degree programme in Philosophy: Deepening course units in Philosophy with a total student workload of 35 ECTS credit points, a course unit in Writing for a Broader Audience (5 ECTS) and a Master's thesis (20 ECTS). The teaching programme is set out in the table below.

Teaching programme for the Master's degree in Philosophy

Semester I		Semester II	
Period 1	Period 2	Period 3	Period 4
Writing for a Broader Audience 22 5 ECTS	Philosophy elective course unit 3  5 ECTS	Philosophy elective course unit 6  5 ECTS	Philosophy elective course unit 7  5 ECTS
Philosophy elective course unit 1  5 ECTS	Philosophy elective course unit 4  5 ECTS	Thesis (20 ECTS)	
Philosophy elective course unit 2  5 ECTS	Philosophy elective course unit 5  5 ECTS		

### **Writing for a Broader Audience**

Students take the course unit Writing for a Broader Audience together with students of the Master's programme in Philosophy and Society. In this course unit, students develop the skills required to write about philosophy for a broad audience. Students are given guidelines and tips for writing 'journalistic' reports, and the course unit explores in depth what is required of this type of writing.

### **Elective course units**

Students choose seven Master's course units. At least four of these must be within their specialization. The degree programme has three specializations:

- History of Philosophy
- Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy
- Theoretical Philosophy

At least five Master's course units are offered within each specialization, giving a total of at least 15 Master's course units. Students choose four course units within their specialization and three outside it.

The elective course units in Philosophy are also offered to students of Philosophy and Society, and to students of the other Master's degree programmes.

### **Master's thesis**

The Master's thesis is compulsory and concludes the Master's degree programme. In the Master's thesis, students demonstrate their ability to carry out independent research in the field of philosophy and compile a written report of the research. Students must demonstrate that they have the knowledge, understanding and skills in the field of philosophy that are required to participate in an academic/scientific debate. Students are able to formulate and delineate a problem, to collect, study, evaluate, and organize relevant material, to choose and justify an appropriate research method, to formulate a clear and systematic argument, to apply bibliographical skills and to draw conclusions from their own work. The Master's thesis must demonstrate that the student is able to make an original contribution to the subject area and also communicate orally about the various aspects of the thesis.

### **11.5 Overview of Master's course units**

Details of the course units can be found in Chapter 19 - Course Units. The numbering in the table corresponds to the numbering in that chapter.

Quarter		Number
1	Philosophy and Society 2: Writing for a Broader Audience	22
<i>Elective course units</i>		
<b>Master's course units in <i>History of Philosophy</i>:</b>		
1	Scientific Revolution and Secularization	37
1	Reading Group: Ockham's Summa Logicae	69
2	Locke's <i>Essay</i> in Context	41
2	Thought Experiments in the History of Philosophy	81
3	Aristotle's Ethics	3
4	Differences: Levinas and Derrida	13
<b>Master's course units in <i>Ethics, Social and Political Philosophy</i></b>		
2	Material Culture	47
2	Tolerance: From Locke to Lessing to Latitude in What?	82
3	Power and Justice	67
4	Philosophy, Politics and Economics (tba)	65
4	Advanced Meta-Ethics	2
4	Social Contract Theory	76
<b>Master's course units in <i>Theoretical Philosophy</i>:</b>		
1	Philosophy of Argumentation: Dialogue and Fallacy	55
2	Philosophy of Neuroscience	60
3	Modal Logic	48
3	Multi-Agent Systems	49
3	Wittgenstein on the barest essentials: logic, language, and mathematics	89

## 11.6 Master's thesis and final assessment

The thesis is compulsory and concludes the Master's degree programme.

The Master's thesis demonstrates the student's ability to carry out independent research in philosophy (or the philosophy of a specific scientific discipline) and to compile a written report of the research. The thesis must also demonstrate that students

- have the knowledge, understanding and skills relating to the philosophy of a specific scientific discipline that are required to participate in academic/scientific discussion, and that they are able to
- formulate and delineate a problem
- gather, study, evaluate and organize relevant material

- choose and justify an appropriate research method
- formulate a clear and systematic argument
- apply bibliographical skills
- draw conclusions from their own research
- make an original contribution to the subject area
- communicate orally about the various aspects of the thesis.

### **Length**

The thesis for the Master's programme in Philosophy has a student workload of 20 ECTS credit points and must be no more than 20,000 words in length. The thesis for the Master's programme in the Philosophy of a Specific Scientific Discipline has a student workload of 25 ECTS credit points and must be no more than 25,000 words in length.

The thesis for the Master's programme in Philosophy and Society is written as part of a final project with a student workload of 25 ECTS credit points. The project consists of the thesis and a placement. The term 'final project' means that the thesis relates to the placement, or is even the result of it. It is not possible to include the thesis and placement as separate components in the programme. The thesis must be no more than 10,000 words in length. The report that students write to conclude the placement can serve as preparation for the thesis, but it cannot replace the thesis.