

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE PROSPECTUS

2012 – 2013

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Contents

Philosophical Research at Cambridge	6
Members of Staff.....	6
Current Research Students.....	10
Course Details	13
M.Phil. in Philosophy.....	13
M.Litt. and Ph.D.....	15
Visiting Graduate Students.....	16
Affiliated Students.....	16
Graduate Courses in other Faculties.....	16
Teaching and Teaching Terms.....	17
Additional Course Costs.....	17
College Membership	18
Faculty Resources and Support for Students	19
Libraries.....	19
Philosophy Graduate Study Centre.....	19
Graduate Training.....	19
Language Learning.....	20
Computing.....	20
Funding for Research.....	20
Financial Support, Fees and Expenses	21
Sources of Funding.....	21
Fees and Expenses.....	24
Applications	26
Postscript: What Our Students Say	28

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Introduction

Cambridge was the birthplace of the 'analytical' school of philosophy in the early 20th century, and continues to be a world-class centre for philosophical research. The Philosophy Faculty has had an unparalleled record in nurturing the best students and in seeing them go on to occupy academic positions across the UK and abroad. Every year we see our students competing for Junior Research Fellowships in the Colleges, and for full-scale Lectureships and post-doctoral Fellowships elsewhere. And our students themselves constantly mention the intellectual vibrancy the community of graduates provides as a major catalyst for their work.

The Faculty takes approximately 15-20 students a year for the M.Phil. They join the 20-25 students studying for the M.Litt or Ph.D. to form a lively graduate community. Cambridge has always been a relatively small department and this enables students and Faculty to get to know each other well. A wide variety of seminars and informal gatherings ensure that students get to know and work with each other as well.

New graduate students are usually accommodated by their colleges close to the city centre, to the Faculty and to library facilities. Most graduates, particularly those in their second and subsequent years, do a share of undergraduate supervising and lecturing. Students also play an important role in Faculty decision-making.

The Faculty's accommodation includes a Graduate Study Centre and Common Room and our own Library, holding some 16,500 books and about thirty current journals. The University Library is a copyright library, holding every academically important book published in Britain since the early eighteenth century, as well as extensive stocks from overseas. With these and other libraries, facilities for research in Cambridge are second to none. Many Colleges provide funds to support graduate students' research, enabling them to present papers at academic gatherings and meet extra research costs.

We hope you will find this booklet useful and stimulating. It is a supplement to the [University of Cambridge Graduate Studies Prospectus](#), which contains general information about graduate work in Cambridge, about Colleges, and about financial support for graduate students from the UK and overseas.

We hope that you will apply to the Faculty for your graduate work.

Tim Crane, Chairman
Michael Potter, Director of Graduate Studies

Philosophical Research at Cambridge

Members of Staff

Graduate students are nearly always supervised by a member of the Philosophy Faculty. Listed below are the staff of the Faculty, their major research interests and a link to their website.

By October 2012 we expect that a further Teaching Officer, with expertise in the History of Modern Philosophy, will have joined the Faculty.

Dr. Arif Ahmed, Girton College
Philosophical Logic, Metaphysics

Dr. Jeremy Butterfield, Trinity College
Philosophy of Physics

Dr. Clare Chambers, Jesus College
Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Social Thought

Professor Tim Crane, Peterhouse
Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Psychology

Professor Raymond Geuss, Faculty of Philosophy
Political and Social Thought with particular reference to the late 19th and early 20th centuries, Aesthetics

Professor Jane Heal (due to retire in September 2012), St. John's College
Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Language

Dr. Hallvard Lillehammer, Churchill College
Moral and Political Philosophy

Dr. Fraser MacBride, Trinity Hall
Philosophical Logic, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Mathematics and History of Analytic Philosophy

Professor John Marenbon, Trinity College
Medieval Philosophy

Professor Derek Matravers, Emmanuel College
Aesthetics and the theory of value

Dr. Alex Oliver, Gonville & Caius College
Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic, Philosophy of Mathematics

Dr. Serena Olsaretti, St. John's College
Political Philosophy, Ethics

Professor Michael Potter, Fitzwilliam College
Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophical Logic, History of Analytic Philosophy
(especially Frege, Russell and early Wittgenstein)

Professor Huw Price (joining the Faculty in October 2011), Trinity College
Pragmatism, Philosophy of Physics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language

Dr. Nick Treanor, Churchill College
Philosophy of Mind, Metaphysics, Epistemology and the Philosophy of Science

Other senior members of the University with philosophical interests include:

- Prof. Sarah Coakley, Faculty of Divinity
- Prof. Partha Dasgupta, Faculty of Economics
- Mr. Nicholas Denyer, Faculty of Classics
- Dr. Douglas Hedley, Faculty of Divinity
- Prof. Nicholas Jardine, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science
- Prof. Matt Kramer, Faculty of Law
- Dr. Tim Lewens, Department of History and Philosophy of Science
- Prof. David Sedley, Faculty of Classics
- Dr. Janet Soskice, Faculty of Divinity
- Dr. Robert Wardy, Faculty of Classics
- Dr. James Warren, Faculty of Classics

Current Research Students

There are currently some 40 graduates working for higher degrees in the Faculty and many are international students from North America, Taiwan and other parts of Europe.

The following selection of thesis topics and titles offers a flavour of the range of studies recently undertaken by research students:

- Genealogy and realism
- Public reasoning and moral justification
- Could consciousness be physically realised?
- A metaphysics for semantics and mathematical infinity
- Links between relationism in physics and anti-realism
- Resources, primary goods, and capabilities
- The meaningfulness of aesthetic and affective experience
- Nietzsche, morality, and freedom
- Contextualism and its consequences
- Towards a logic of feasibility
- Justifications for intellectual property
- Hegel's criticisms of transcendental idealism
- Trust and moral education
- Systems of arithmetic and their justification
- Metaethics
- Notions of identity
- Implications of chaos theory for predictability and determinism
- Intuition and methodology in ethics
- Contemporary metaphysics of form and identity
- Neutrality and normativity in political philosophy
- Rationality and language
- Pacifism, violence and justice
- Knowledge and knowledge attributions
- Moral explanation and the problem of facts
- The role of value judgments
- Possible worlds
- Mathematical necessity
- Supererogation
- Logical consequences, logical form and logical constants
- Power and social policy
- Moral objectivity and judgments of taste
- Thought and language: A critical development of Wittgenstein's writing on intentionality
- Metaphysics and epistemology of mental states
- Can we require moral obligations when we benefit non-voluntarily
- Objective truth

Course Details

The Faculty of Philosophy accepts graduate students as candidates for the M.Phil., M.Litt. or Ph.D. degrees. Most graduate students start by doing the M.Phil. This provides them with a solid background for doctoral research.

M.Phil. in Philosophy

The course provides a training in research together with an opportunity to pursue some philosophical topics in considerable depth. Students who are not already familiar with the use of scholarly tools (bibliographic databases etc.) and apparatus (footnoting etc.) are guided in their use; abilities in the structuring of lengthy pieces of work and in improving them through self-criticism are developed.

Each student works with an individual supervisor. Student and supervisor meet roughly once a fortnight during term. There is also a weekly M.Phil. seminar at which the M.Phil. students get to know each other and can discuss and support each other's work.

The framework of the course allows for a variety of kinds of work to be completed within it. Some candidates will be trying out their abilities to write extended pieces and will be tackling a variety of topics. Others may be using the framework to develop what will become parts of chapters of a Ph.D. We encourage even those Ph.D. candidates who have done a master's degree elsewhere to channel their initial work at Cambridge through the M.Phil. Doing so provides a good way of making contacts and coming to feel at home in the Faculty.

Course structure

Candidates are examined on the basis of three essays of between 3,000 and 5,000 words each and a thesis of not more than 15,000 words. Essay topics must generally be in one of the following areas of philosophy, including their history: metaphysics, philosophy of mind, logic, philosophy of science, ethics, aesthetics, and political and legal philosophy; not more than two essays should be in any one area. Students may however, with the special permission of the Degree Committee, submit one essay on a topic outside these areas, provided it is related to philosophy. In more detail, the areas of philosophy listed above are taken to include the following:

Metaphysics

Metaphysics and epistemology in the Western tradition, including topics such as deity, identity, time and scepticism.

Philosophy of Mind

Philosophical problems about mind, including topics such as perception, memory, will, emotions and action. Philosophical aspects of psychology.

Logic

Philosophical logic; philosophy of language; mathematical logic, including philosophical issues raised by its results and methods; foundations of mathematics; philosophy of mathematics.

Ethics

Theories of ethics, including topics such as virtue, amoralism and the distinction between fact and value. Ethical aspects of medicine, business and other professions.

Aesthetics

Theories of art, including topics such as representation, expression, imagination and intention.

Political and Legal Philosophy

Theories of political authority and of justice, including topics such as democracy, the social contract, and equality. Philosophical aspects of Marxism. Philosophical aspects of the law.

Philosophy of Science

General principles, including theories of scientific method, probability, causation, realism, reducibility and other general issues. Conceptual problems of the exact sciences, e.g. theories of space and time and problems in the philosophy of physics and biology.

M.Phil. thesis topics should be chosen in the light of candidates' essay topics. They must be related to philosophy, and be such that suitable supervisors are available; but they need not fall within the areas listed above. Theses may be related to candidates' essay topics, but an M.Phil. thesis must not reproduce any significant part of the essays (see below).

Assessment

Thesis and essays

The first essay is submitted at the end of Michaelmas Term (in 2011 the actual date is 2nd December) and the other two by mid-March. The submission date for the thesis is in mid-June.

For the award of the M.Phil. Degree, the essays (taken together) and the

thesis must both reach the minimum standard, which is the equivalent of an Upper Second in a final BA Honours examination in philosophy, extrapolated for one year of graduate study. M.Phil. candidates are also examined orally.

M.Phil. candidates wishing to go on to a M.Litt. or Ph.D. usually choose a thesis topic related to their proposed M.Litt. or Ph.D. research. Although M.Phil. students who move on to become Ph.D. students cannot then incorporate their M.Phil. theses directly into their M.Litt. or Ph.D. theses, the latter may be, and generally will be, based on the former.

M.Litt. and Ph.D.

The Faculty welcomes applications for these degrees in a wide range of philosophical areas. Most students choose to pursue the more demanding Ph.D., which culminates in the production of a thesis of up to 80,000 words, submitted after three years (nine terms) of study, although a maximum of four years is allowed before students are removed from the Register.

The M.Litt. Degree normally takes two years (maximum three years). Students produce a thesis of up to 60,000 words. Candidates for both degrees are expected to choose manageable projects that can be completed in the time available.

Registration

Candidates accepted initially for the M.Phil. can apply while at Cambridge to continue to the M.Litt. or Ph.D. This is in fact the usual way of spending the first year of graduate study in Cambridge. Students in this position are expected to use their M.Phil. work to prepare for their subsequent M.Litt. or Ph.D. research. Such students need to satisfy a number of further conditions beyond successful completion of the M.Phil. before they can be admitted to the Ph.D. For further description of these conditions, please see pages 19-20 of the [Graduate Handbook](#).

Successful M.Phil. candidates who go on to an M.Litt., or more usually a Ph.D., may count the three terms of the M.Phil. towards the requirements of those degrees, provided their new research is suitably related to their M.Phil. However, they will be allowed to count research time spent on the M.Phil. in this way **only** if they are ready to submit their thesis before the minimum terms of study have elapsed. This means that they may submit an M.Litt. thesis after only three more terms of research, or a Ph.D. thesis after six more terms.

All students admitted for the M.Litt./Ph.D. are 'on probation' during their first year. The Degree Committee will decide whether to register them as candidates for the M.Litt./Ph.D. degree, the registration being then backdated to their date of admission.

Before registering graduate students as M.Litt. or Ph.D. candidates, the Degree Committee must be satisfied that they have a suitable plan of work and have begun to write about some part of it, in a sustained way, at a standard likely to get them the degree in a reasonable time. Prospective Ph.D. candidates whose work does not show sufficient progress may at this stage be registered only as M.Litt. candidates. They may be re-registered as Ph.D. candidates (with registration again backdated to the date of admission) if they submit sufficiently improved work during their second year.

The Degree Committee will not defer considering the registration of students as M.Litt. or Ph.D. candidates without good cause (such as illness); and the Board of Graduate Studies will not normally let students remain on the Register of Graduate Students (after their third term) without being registered as candidates for some degree. Graduate students who are admitted as Probationary Ph.D. or M.Litt. candidates must therefore, with their supervisors' help, start working out their plans of research, and the topic or topics of their written work, as soon as possible after they arrive.

Assessment

A Ph.D. thesis is required to contain some substantial original ideas, while an M.Litt. thesis need not be so original but should represent a worthwhile contribution to scholarship. In both cases the thesis will be examined jointly by an internal examiner (other than the supervisor) and an external examiner. An oral examination is an essential part of the procedure.

Visiting Graduate Students

Students working for a Ph.D at other Universities, who wish to do some research in Cambridge, may also apply to be admitted for a year as graduate students not registered as candidates for any Cambridge degree.

Affiliated Students

Graduates of other Universities who wish to study philosophy in Cambridge, but whose first degree contains little, or no, philosophy, should consider becoming affiliated students. This means taking the Cambridge BA degree in two years instead of three. That is often worth doing because Cambridge is unusual in providing a full-time philosophy course for all three undergraduate years, so that its final year courses go beyond those of many other universities in range and depth. Moreover, research seminars are generally open to affiliated students, and the optional dissertation in the final-year examination (Part II of the Philosophy Tripos) provides a good way of acquiring research techniques and trying out possible research topics. Affiliated students are not admitted by the Board of Graduate Studies but by colleges: details are

available from any college or from the [Cambridge Admissions Office](#), Fitzwilliam House, 32 Trumpington Street, Cambridge, CB2 1QY.

Graduate Courses in other Faculties

Political Philosophy

The Faculties of Classics, History, and Social and Political Sciences offer an inter-disciplinary M.Phil. in Political Thought and Intellectual History. Information is available from the [Faculty of History](#), West Road, Cambridge CB3 9EF.

Philosophy of Science

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science is institutionally separate from the Philosophy Faculty and runs its own one year M.Phil. and three year Ph.D. degrees. Details are available from the [Department of History and Philosophy of Science](#), Free School Lane, Cambridge CB2 3RH.

Candidates interested in either of these subject areas may wish to consider these alternative degrees, although in both cases the subject areas are fully available for direct applications to the Philosophy Faculty.

Teaching and Teaching Terms

Supervisors

The M.Phil., M.Litt. and Ph.D. degrees in philosophy are awarded for the results of individual study and research, but each student has a supervisor whose job it is to help and advise the student. The Degree Committee will not accept graduate students for whom it cannot find suitable supervisors, a fact which applicants should bear in mind when framing research proposals. Students who especially wish to work with a particular supervisor may write to him or her, c/o the Faculty Office, prior to finalising their research proposal. However supervisors may be over-subscribed or on leave and it cannot be guaranteed that any particular supervisor will be available.

Students' interests and research topics often change as they progress, and this may make it advisable for them to change their supervisor. This can usually be arranged without much difficulty. In any case graduates are expected to discuss their work with more people than their supervisor. They are expected to take the initiative in discussing their work with each other, and in consulting other members of the Faculty whose work they find to be related to their own.

Lectures, seminars and meetings

There is a special seminar for M.Phil. students which meets weekly throughout the year and at which they discuss their work. The Faculty also arranges other seminars especially for graduate students, including a graduate seminar,

which runs throughout the academic year. Graduate students are also encouraged to attend those upper-level lectures and seminars which are relevant to their work. Many also run seminars themselves on special topics, such as the Serious Metaphysics Reading Group. Other meetings useful to philosophy graduate students include those of the Cambridge University Moral Sciences Club, which meets weekly in term to discuss papers normally given by visiting philosophers. Similar meetings are organised in other Faculties (e.g. the 'D' Society for the philosophy of religion).

Teaching terms

The University's academic year is divided into three teaching terms: the Michaelmas Term, which starts in early October; the Lent Term, which starts in early January; and the Easter Term, which starts in late April. Please note that, if you are a candidate for the M.Phil., you must come into residence at the beginning of the Michaelmas Full Term. Although the work of graduate students continues throughout the year, their research timetable is arranged in terms. In particular, they are admitted at the start of a term, which for most graduate students (and all M.Phil. students) is the Michaelmas Term.

Additional Course Costs

Philosophy of its nature does not generate large additional course costs, but naturally there are sundry expenses involved in collecting materials for study and preparing and backing up of student's own work.

These expenses may include library copying cards, USB sticks and printing. It is difficult to estimate realistically the overall cost of these sundries, particularly over the three year period of a Ph.D., but no student is required to undertake substantial expenditure of this kind.

College Membership

Any student accepted to read towards a degree of the University must become a member of a college. The process of applying for a college place only begins once your application has been accepted by the Faculty's Degree Committee.

Most colleges of the University admit graduates and Darwin, Hughes Hall, and Wolfson Colleges admit graduates only. There are three women-only colleges: Lucy Cavendish, Murray Edwards and Newnham. All colleges of the University accept students for a wide range of higher degrees, diplomas and research and the Graduate Studies Prospectus of the University, mentioned earlier, has fuller details of each college.

Faculty Resources and Support for Students

Libraries

The Faculty Library, the Casimir Lewy Library, on the second floor of the Raised Faculty Building, is the primary source of printed and electronic material needed for the study and teaching of philosophy and related subjects in Cambridge. It aims to cover most of the areas researched by graduates and teaching staff. The library stock, of some 16,500 books and 28 current periodicals, therefore extends well beyond philosophy itself to cover related interdisciplinary subjects taught and researched in the University.

The Faculty Library is supported by the University Library which, as one of Britain's five copyright libraries, holds every book published in Britain since the early eighteenth century as well as extensive stocks from overseas, and all graduate students should join it as soon as possible. The Classics, Divinity, History, and History of Philosophy of Science libraries also contain much material useful to philosophy students, as do college libraries.

Training is readily available on how to access the many useful resources for research that are available online. These include the *Philosophers' Index* and the *Routledge Encyclopedia of Philosophy*.

Philosophy Graduate Study Centre

The Philosophy Graduate Study Centre provides a dedicated working space within the Faculty for the use of our graduate students to promote contact among students and their teachers and to facilitate the exchange of ideas. It includes an open-plan working area with full computing facilities, a common-room and seminar room. The Study Centre also provides accommodation for visiting scholars, who come to Cambridge from all over the world.

Graduate Training

The Faculty has developed a comprehensive training programme for its graduates, which runs alongside courses and advice offered by the University's Centre for Personal and Professional Development, School of Arts and Humanities and Careers Service. An Induction Day introduces new graduate students to each other, to the administration of the Faculty and to the philosophical opportunities in Cambridge. Sessions are organised to introduce the Library, computing facilities and research aids.

Two workshops are run for M.Phil. students. The first covers time-management, the effective generation and development of ideas and arguments, the

process of writing and presenting M.Phil. essays and bibliography. The second discusses all aspects of planning and giving presentations, ranging from the design of presentation aids to speaking on the day.

Ph.D. students contribute significantly to our teaching programme and a series of tailor-made workshops is devoted to teaching and transferable skills. Topics discussed include dealing with different kinds of learning strategies, presentation skills, evaluating one's practice as a teacher, effective small group teaching and supervising and supporting students with special needs. The Centre for Personal and Professional Development also runs courses on supervising and lecturing.

Of course, teaching and research are not independent activities. Effective teaching demands the clear and illuminating presentation which makes for excellent research. It is now essential that graduate students who intend to continue in an academic career, publish. General advice on publishing is given by the Director of Graduate Studies and in notes available on our web site. In addition a section in the Faculty Library is dedicated to all these aspects of a graduate's training. To complement this the School of Arts and Humanities runs a series of workshops on writing and publishing skills, plus annual workshops enabling students to take stock at the beginning of each year of their Ph.D.

The University Careers Service is on hand to give advice and information about careers throughout a graduate student's time at Cambridge and afterwards. The Faculty provides a day-long workshop on interview techniques, including the opportunity to have one-to-one sessions in front of a video camera. Notes on the construction of CVs, application forms and letters are available for consultation in the Graduate Office, along with sample CVs from recent and current Research Fellows. The Faculty can also provide advice on career prospects and can organise practice presentations and interviews at the relevant times.

Language Learning

The University Language Centre offers weekly lessons, specifically geared to philosophers, in German and French as well as general instruction in other languages. The Classics Faculty provides courses in Greek.

Computing

Naturally the first stop for computing facilities is the Graduate Study Centre. In addition, most colleges provide word processing and, through the University Network, e-mail facilities for their students. All graduate students have free access to the word processing and other computing facilities of the University Computing Service.

Funding for Research

There are limited funds available to the Faculty to enable graduate students to attend conferences.

Financial Support, Fees and Expenses

The Faculty can help students towards some useful supplementary financial support. Students doing postgraduate study in Philosophy at Cambridge are funded from a considerable variety of sources. What is offered below is merely an outline of the situation and, for many of the opportunities mentioned below, applicants are strongly advised to consult the [Cambridge Graduate Studies Prospectus](#), which provides further details and more guidance through what is potentially a complex and confusing field. Students are also encouraged to use the [Cambridge Funding Search](#) which may provide some further funding opportunities,

Sources of Funding

Listed below are a variety of sources of funding, available to incoming students. In general those earlier in the list offer more substantial support, e.g. both fees and maintenance or at least a major portion of them, while those lower on the list offer lesser but still useful amounts.

Arts & Humanities Research Council (AHRC) Studentships

Available to students from the UK and other EU countries

As a result of the University's successful bid to the AHRC Block Grant Partnerships Scheme, it is able to offer two Doctoral awards and three Research Preparation Masters awards to UK and EU students embarking on a Ph.D. or M.Phil. in Philosophy in October 2012. (NB Students who have already completed one year of their Ph.D. in Philosophy in Cambridge may also apply for funding for the remaining two years). Awards will be confirmed towards the end of April 2012.

These awards provide UK students with a full studentship for the duration of their course (3 years for the Ph.D. and one year for the M.Phil.), covering both fees and maintenance. EU students only have fees paid, unless they have been in full-time education in the UK for the 3 years prior to the start of their course; in such cases they can apply for a full award.

To apply for an award please tick the relevant box on the GRADSAF ('I wish to be considered for AHRC funding'). The Faculty will invite candidates to complete an AHRC application form if and when appropriate. Please note that UK and EU students being considered for an AHRC doctoral award will be interviewed in late February/early March 2012. Students offered a place for the M.Phil. starting in October 2012 will be invited to attend an Open Day on Monday 19th March 2012 during which funding interviews will be conducted.

Grants from the University of Cambridge

(i) [Cambridge Home & EU Scholarship Scheme \(CHESS\)](#)

UK and EU applicants for M.Phil. and Ph.D. will be automatically considered for CHESS. No special application form is required; the Faculty will forward the names of its nominees to the Board of Graduate Studies. The following awards are available:

Ph.D. full cost awards (UK residents); Ph.D. fees only awards (EU residents);
Ph.D. living costs bursaries (EU residents holding AHRC fees only awards);
M.Phil. bursaries of £6,000 to £8,000 available to UK and EU students,
(including [Allen, Meek and Read](#) and [Le Bas](#) awards).

(ii) [Cambridge International Scholarship Scheme \(CISS\)](#)

These three year full cost scholarships are available to overseas students who have been offered a place for the Ph.D. (note application deadline of 1st December 2011).

(iii) Faculty of Philosophy

The Faculty has one or more of its own awards for which all candidates will automatically be considered. No special application form is required.

[Trinity College Wittgenstein Studentship in Philosophy](#)

A Wittgenstein Studentship in Philosophy tenable from 1 October 2012 is offered by Trinity College. Only students who have been admitted by the University of Cambridge for the MPhil, starting in 2012, are eligible. A Studentship will cover all fees and a maintenance allowance (currently £9,490 for nine months), reduced by the amount of any grant from public or comparable sources, for which due application must be made. The maximum tenure is 9 months.

Grants from the Cambridge Trusts

Please note that the funding opportunities detailed in this section are not available to UK students. Application deadlines are set out in the [Applications](#) section of this document.

(i) [Gates Cambridge Trust](#)

The Gates Cambridge Trust offers a substantial number of full scholarships (covering university and college fees, maintenance for a single student and a contribution towards the return airfare) for graduate study or for study for a second Bachelor's Degree as an Affiliated Student. Applicants from every country of the world, except the United Kingdom, are eligible to apply.

(ii) [Cambridge Commonwealth Trust and Cambridge Overseas Trust](#))

These Trusts offer both scholarships and bursaries. Scholarships pay both fees and maintenance; bursaries are of lesser value. They are to enable overseas students of outstanding academic merit from overseas to study in Cambridge.

Studentships offered by colleges

Conditions of eligibility, methods of application and closing dates vary widely. Applicants are urged to consult the [Cambridge Funding Search](#) for details. The following colleges offer, every year or most years, full cost studentships:

Christ's, Clare Hall, Corpus Christi, Darwin, Downing, Emmanuel, Girton, King's, Magdelene, Newnham, Pembroke, Peterhouse, St John's, Selwyn, Sidney Sussex, Trinity, Trinity Hall.

[Jacobsen Fellowships and Royal Institute of Philosophy Bursaries](#)

Fellowships of £8,000 and bursaries of £2,500, each for one year, are available to postgraduates who have already completed one year of postgraduate work.

[Burney Studentship and Fund](#)

Research students working in the philosophy of religion may apply for the Burney Studentship or smaller grants from the fund. The studentship is tenable for one year, but a student may be re-elected once.

Darwin Philosophy Fund

Darwin College offers annually two or more Darwin College Philosophy Studentships of up to £3,000 to students who obtain places at that college. The awards are tenable for one year but holders may be considered in subsequent years. No special application forms are necessary. Preference will be given to those who nominate Darwin as their first choice of college and, other things being equal, to U.K. students.

[Stephan Körner Graduate Scholarship](#)

Available to female students who list Murray Edwards College as their first choice college

Murray Edwards College offers this scholarship to a student in Philosophy, Classics or Law, to assist in funding a full one-year M.Phil. and/or 3-year Ph.D.

course. An online application form, available from the above site, should be submitted at the same time as the University GRADSAF and should arrive no later than early December.

Further grants and awards from colleges

Many colleges offer bursaries and scholarships for sums of several hundred pounds per annum, and also book grants, help in attending conferences and the like. Conditions of eligibility and application procedures vary widely.

Teaching

Graduate students who are registered for the Ph.D. may offer to undertake supervisions, i.e. small group teaching of undergraduates. This provides very useful experience for future job applications and also a financial reward. It is paid at piecework rates (currently around £26 per hour) and students may undertake up to six hours per week for the twenty teaching weeks of the year. Graduate students also have the opportunity to lead discussion groups for first and second year students and to assist in the running of first year logic classes. Those who are near completing their Ph.D.'s may be invited by the Faculty to give a short course of lectures on the subject of their research. All of these forms of teaching provide excellent experience, useful lines on CVs, and are paid.

Fees and Expenses

Students are liable to pay tuition fees to the University and to their college for each term of any degree course they undertake until the course has been completed or a prescribed maximum has been paid (e.g. nine terms for the Ph.D.). In addition to tuition fees, students must budget for their own maintenance (including accommodation) and for the living expenses of any dependents who may accompany them. Although liability is incurred on a termly basis, colleges - who are responsible for collecting both University and college fees - may require students to pay a full year's fees in advance. Estimated annual costs for the 2012/2013 academic year are as follows.

University composition fee

	Ph.D.	M.Phil.
Home and EU rate	£ 3,807	£ 4,818
Overseas rate	£13,011	£14,061

College fees

Each college charges a fee which is separate from, and additional to, University composition fees. College fees vary from college to college but the

maximum is approximately £2,358.

General living expenses

As well as allowing for University and college fees, prospective students must budget for living expenses while at Cambridge. These vary according to individual needs and tastes; the cost of accommodation is a particularly significant factor, as private rented accommodation in Cambridge is more expensive than in many other British cities, and costs considerably more than college accommodation. Married accommodation may be more expensive. The cost of food, clothing, other personal requirements, books, stationery, and other research expenses, including the costs of thesis preparation, and of travel to and from Cambridge must also be budgeted for. Inflation must also be borne in mind.

For the academic year 2012/2013, it is estimated that a single student from overseas spending twelve months in Cambridge and living in college accommodation would need approximately £11,250. If an adult dependent and/or child will be accompanying you to Cambridge, additional maintenance allowances will be required.

Applications

Students who wish to do postgraduate work in philosophy at Cambridge should apply through the Board of Graduate Studies. Please consult the [Board's webpage for details of how to apply](#). From 1st September 2011 applicants will be able to apply for 2012/13 admission online and upload all supporting documents electronically.

Applicants for the M.Phil. must have the equivalent of a good BA Honours Degree (i.e. at least a 2i+/67%/GPA 3.6) with a minimum of two years' full-time study in Philosophy (10 courses in the USA). Students who already hold a research masters degree in philosophy, in addition to the above, may apply for the Ph.D. or M.Litt.

Please note that applications for all postgraduate degrees in philosophy should be made nine to twelve months in advance but that the specific deadlines for receipt of completed applications for admission in October 2012 are as follows:

14th October 2011	All United States applicants wishing to apply for funding
1st December 2011	All other overseas and EU (excluding UK) applicants wishing to apply for Gates/CISS/CCT/COT funding
20th January 2012	Final deadline for all other applications

Please note that all your supporting documents, including references, must also be received by the dates above.

Applications should be accompanied by two separate pieces of recent philosophical work in English, one of which should be in the proposed area of study. Each piece of work should be approximately 3,000 to 5,000 words long. Applicants for the M.Phil. should propose an area of philosophy on which they will concentrate their work by completing Section A(12) of the application form and should indicate whether they intend to study for the Ph.D. in Cambridge thereafter. Applicants for the Ph.D. and M.Litt. should submit a detailed research proposal of approximately 500 words on separate sheets.

The Board of Graduate Studies will send these applications to the Philosophy Faculty's Degree Committee, who will recommend acceptance or rejection in the light of applicants' academic records, references, submitted work, proposed research and the availability of suitable supervisors. Applicants for

the M.Phil. need not approach a particular supervisor as the Faculty allocates supervisors in the light of students' interests and availability of supervisors. We regret that we are unable to give feedback on admissions decisions.

UK Ph.D. applicants may be asked to come to Cambridge for interview whilst non-U.K. applicants may be interviewed by telephone. UK and other EU students offered a place on the M.Phil. course starting in October 2012 will be invited to attend an Open Day on Monday 19th March 2012, in order to learn more about the Faculty and its staff, as well as their programme of study. Invitations to attend this Open Day will be sent out, by e-mail, on Wednesday 7th March 2012.

For Further Information

Please contact the Faculty for all enquiries about our programmes of study:

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Sidgwick Avenue
Cambridge CB3 9DA
United Kingdom

Telephone: (01223) 335078

E-mail: phil-admin@lists.cam.ac.uk

Web-page: www.phil.cam.ac.uk

Postscript: What Our Students Say

Nathan Wildman I came to Cambridge for my M.Phil. in 2006, after having done a four year undergraduate course in the US. The idea of pursuing the M.Phil. here was attractive because it gives you two distinct opportunities: the first has to do with being able to pursue three different, divergent lines of thought in just the right length to really develop something interesting in the form of the M.Phil. essays. Here I was able to write about three extremely divergent topics - the nature of romantic love, properties of non-existent objects, and interpreting fiction - all of which interested me but were so dissimilar that it would have been impossible to have incorporated them into a single research project. Meanwhile, the second opportunity the M.Phil. gives you is the chance to focus upon a single topic for more in depth study, in the form of the M.Phil. thesis. Being able to really get my teeth into a subject was a thrill, and provided an excellent spring-board into my Ph.D.

Yet what really makes the whole operation work, and makes the experience of doing the M.Phil. and Ph.D. fun, is the community of philosophers who make up the Faculty. Supervisors are always there to offer guidance, advice, and support, and they do so in a way which makes it seem like you are part of the philosophical process. This *esprit de corps* is embodied in the other graduate students - I can quite honestly say that the people I have been surrounded with during my M.Phil. and Ph.D. are some of the warmest, most intelligent, and most genuinely helpful people I have ever met. Time spent in the common room, sipping a cup of coffee and working over some philosophical difficulty between a collection of us is not only productive but also entertaining, and I would not trade it for anything.

So, what makes Cambridge Philosophy special? Between the excellent Supervisors, the unique M.Phil. program, the high-quality research opportunities, and the amazing people, it is difficult to single out one aspect. Would I recommend the Philosophy Faculty as a place to pursue graduate studies? Without any hesitation.

Postscript: Nathan has now successfully completed his Ph.D. and in August 2011 took up a Research Associateship at the University of Hamburg.

Christine Tiefensee I started the M.Phil. course in 2006 after having completed my Magister Artium degree in Germany. Cambridge was particularly attractive to me not only because of its generally high reputation in philosophy, but also because of its strength in metaethics, the centre of my studies. My expectations were not disappointed: Through supervisions, informal groups, an excellent standard of teaching and fantastic research

facilities, Cambridge provided a fertile work and research environment, encouraging me to pursue my own argumentations whilst offering guidance regarding the vast array of philosophical literature. This focus on research and promotion of original, critical and independent thought, treating graduate students as equals, is a huge asset of the Cambridge M.Phil. course and created much greater confidence in the development and the soundness of my own thoughts and argumentations, which will prove invaluable in future research. I was also very impressed by the high academic level of other M.Phil. and Ph.D students who were always accessible for philosophical discussion and enjoyed the flexibility of supervisions, which left enough 'air to breathe' whilst giving crucial support. Events such as special lectures, the Moral Sciences Club and the Teaching Skills Workshop supplemented the academic offering. Moreover, the Faculty made it very easy to settle down and 'feel at home', creating a truly warm, friendly, open and personal atmosphere. The M.Phil. seminar was a natural occasion to meet fellow M.Phil. students which also made us grow together as a group. These friendships, including Ph.D students, were quickly deepened during evenings in the pub and at Philosophy parties.

I can honestly say that since I came to Cambridge, I have enjoyed my most fruitful time academically and have no hesitation in recommending the M.Phil. course and Ph.D. to anyone wanting to progress in the development of critical and independent philosophical thinking within a truly friendly environment.

Postscript: Christine gained her Ph.D. in June 2011 and is working for RAND Europe as a Research Analyst.

Tom Simpson I returned to do the M.Phil. in Cambridge in 2007, and have continued onto the PhD, after my undergraduate course which was also here (1999-2002). There are a number of great strengths of postgrad work at Cambridge which it's worth pointing to. The first is the assumption of competence – the M.Phil. is fast-paced, entirely research-oriented, and you've got to be able to stand on your own feet, all of which are important preparation for life as a Ph.D. student and (presumably) beyond. So there's tremendous freedom to define your interests for yourself, and pursue as you see fit, which is intellectually invigorating. Supporting you in that, second, is the teaching from faculty during supervisions, which in my experience is first class. The most fruitful exchanges, though, have the character more of mutual exploration of a topic than of didactic instruction. A third vital component is the grad community, which is not just a label but a very real entity, providing a place to meet and engage intellectually, across a whole breadth of issues. For all the value of the formal supervisions, which is significant, I've also found that I learn as much through informal discussion and debate with peers, and there's a lot of that going on here, through the

grad seminar, and of course the pub. And fourth, Cambridge has a wealth of philosophy going on in a whole series of forums, with a number of other departments also with people thinking about philosophical issues, so there's a lot of cross-fertilisation. This all goes to provide opportunity not just for exposure but also interaction with many fine philosophers, both resident and visiting. So for me, postgraduate study at Cambridge was an entirely obvious choice, in pursuing an excellent philosophical education.

Postscript: Tom completed the M.Phil. in 2008 and is now nearing the end of his third year of Ph.D. research.

Emily Caddick I took my undergraduate degree in Philosophy at Cambridge, and stayed on for the M.Phil. (in 2007-8) and then Ph.D. (2008-11). The Faculty has a friendly, supportive graduate community which is well provided-for. The designated graduate area gives somewhere to talk and to work in company if you like to, and there are plenty of seminars and reading groups to attend and to present work at. This means graduate work is not lonely, even though it is highly independent. I have enjoyed being free to pursue my own research project and to develop my own ideas, supported by fantastic resources (such as the Faculty and University libraries) and by useful and interesting feedback from my supervisors.

Graduate students are encouraged to make a real contribution to philosophy within the University. Most teach undergraduates, by supervising and leading classes or discussion groups. As well as teaching, graduate students can often get involved in running seminar-series. In the first two years of my Ph.D. I ran the Serious Metaphysics Group, which was good fun, and useful experience of organising a professional seminar. I also organised an Aesthetics conference which took place here in Cambridge in the Spring of 2011.

Graduate students are also encouraged to contribute to philosophy beyond the University; the Faculty offers encouragement and advice in preparing papers for conferences and for publication. This means students are able to begin establishing their professional reputation while enjoying being able to dedicate their time to their research.

Postscript: Emily is about to submit her Ph.D., having completed the M.Phil. in 2008. From October 2011 she will be the Teaching Officer in Philosophy at the Institute of Continuing Education here in Cambridge and she will also hold the Jacobson Fellowship based in the Institute of Philosophy and attached to Birkbeck College, London.

