

PHILOSOPHY GRADUATE PROSPECTUS

2019 – 2020



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Introduction

Cambridge was the birthplace of analytic philosophy in the early 20th century, and has been at the forefront of the discipline ever since. The present Faculty of Philosophy is one of world's leading graduate schools in the subject, with an excellent placement record: a very high proportion of our PhD graduates go on to academic positions across the UK and throughout the world. This success rests on the intellectual vibrancy of our graduate student and Faculty community, which, as our students themselves often attest, provides a major catalyst for their future work.

The Faculty takes between 10 and 20 students a year for the MPhil. They join the 20-25 students studying for the PhD to form a lively graduate community. Cambridge has always been a relatively small Faculty and its size, together with a wide variety of seminars and other activities, enables students and other Faculty members to get to know each other well. The Faculty is committed to equality, diversity, and inclusion. We have a dynamic Minorities and Philosophy Group, and an active Equality Working Group with wide representation from staff and students.

New graduate students are usually accommodated by their colleges close to the city centre, the Faculty, and library facilities. Most PhD students, particularly those in their second and subsequent years, do a share of undergraduate supervising; and all PhD students have the opportunity to give some undergraduate lectures in their third year. 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 17,000 books and about 26 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 Admissions webpage](#), 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.

Rae Langton, Chair of the Faculty
Richard Holton, Director of Graduate Studies

Philosophical Research at Cambridge

Members of Staff

Graduate students are nearly always supervised by members of the Philosophy Faculty. Listed below are the permanent staff of the Faculty with their major research interests. A full, online list of Faculty Staff, including permanent and temporary staff members and their research interests, can be found here:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/people>

[Dr Arif Ahmed](#), Gonville and Caius College
Philosophical Logic, Metaphysics

[Dr Julia Borcharding](#)
Early Modern Philosophy

[Dr. Angela Breitenbach](#), King's College
Kant, Philosophy of Science, Philosophy of Biology, Aesthetics

[Dr. Jeremy Butterfield](#), Trinity College
Philosophy of Physics

[Dr. Tim Button](#), St John's College
Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophical Logic, Metaphysics

[Dr. Clare Chambers](#), Jesus College
Political Philosophy, Feminist Philosophy, Social Thought

[Dr. Tom Dougherty](#), Trinity Hall
Ethics, Political Philosophy

[Professor Richard Holton](#), Peterhouse
Moral Psychology, Ethics, Philosophy of Law, Philosophy of Language

[Professor Rae Langton](#), Newnham College
History of Philosophy, ethics, political philosophy, metaphysics, and feminist philosophy

[Professor John Marenbon](#), Trinity College
Medieval Philosophy

[Dr Jessie Munton](#)
Philosophy of mind, Epistemology and Philosophy of Psychology

[Professor Alex Oliver](#), Gonville & Caius College

Metaphysics, Philosophical Logic, Philosophy of Mathematics

[Professor Michael Potter](#), Fitzwilliam College

Philosophy of Mathematics, Philosophical Logic, History of Analytic Philosophy (especially Frege, Russell and early Wittgenstein)

[Professor Huw Price](#), Trinity College

Pragmatism, Philosophy of Physics, Metaphysics, Philosophy of Language

[Dr. Paulina Sliwa](#), Sidney Sussex College

Ethics, Epistemology, Philosophy of Mind, Philosophy of Physics

Other senior members of the University with philosophical interests include:

- Dr. Anna Alexandrova, Dept. of History & Philosophy of Science
- Dr. Duncan Bell, Department of Politics and International Studies
- Prof. Gábor Betegh, Faculty of Classics
- Dr. Christopher Brooke, Department of Politics and International Studies
- Dr. Jude Browne, Centre for Gender Studies
- Prof. Hasok Chang, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science
- Dr. Marta Halina, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science
- Prof. Partha Dasgupta, Faculty of Economics
- Mr. Nicholas Denyer, Faculty of Classics
- Professor David Feldman, Faculty of Law
- Dr. Douglas Hedley, Faculty of Divinity
- Dr. Stephen John, Dept. of History & Philosophy of Science
- Dr. Duncan Kelly, Department of Politics and International Studies
- Prof. Matthew Kramer, Faculty of Law
- Prof. Tim Lewens, Dept. of History and Philosophy of Science
- Prof. David Runciman, Department of Politics and International Studies
- Dr. Janet Soskice, Faculty of Divinity
- Dr. Findlay Stark, Faculty of Law
- 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.

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

- Endurance Theory: An Examination and Defence
- Testing Interventionist Causation: The Case of Organic Chemistry
- Mindreading for animals: psychology without propositional attitudes
- Weakness of the will
- The Common Foundation of Neo-Logicism and the Frege-Hilbert Controversy
- The Trouble with Tokens: Old Problems for the New Agency Problem of Causation
- Fregean Sense in Context(s)
- The Credit Problem
- The Truth Norm Account of Justification
- Democracy, Socialism, and Human Development: A Realist and Comparative Critique of Capitalism
- Action, Intention and Knowledge
- Attitudes and Attribution
- 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
- 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
- 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
- Can we require moral obligations when we benefit non-voluntarily?
- Objective truth
- Groundwork for a new causal realism

Course Details

The Faculty of Philosophy accepts graduate students as candidates for the MPhil and PhD degrees. The MPhil provides an excellent foundation for doctoral research, in Cambridge or elsewhere. Many of our PhD students enter the doctoral programme via this route, although we also welcome PhD applications from students with Masters degrees from other institutions.

MPhil in Philosophy

This degree provides a rigorous introduction to philosophical research. For those considering a PhD it provides the skills needed for doctoral studies, and an opportunity to pursue selected philosophical topics in considerable depth. Some of our students stay for a PhD in Cambridge, others go on to PhD programmes elsewhere. Many take it with other careers in mind, simply for the opportunity to broaden their philosophical knowledge in one of the world's leading centres.

Students choose the topics for their written work in consultation with their advisor and supervisor, and then work with the supervisor, typically through several drafts. They develop their abilities in structuring lengthy pieces of work, and in presenting philosophical arguments clearly and effectively. The MPhil class also meet as a group for a weekly seminar, which uses a collaborative format to help students to develop the presentation and discussion skills essential in philosophy.

Course structure

Candidates are examined on the basis of two research essays: the first of up to 4,000 words, and the second of up to 8,000 words; and a thesis of up to 12,000 words. At least one essay topic must be in one of the following areas of Philosophy, including their history: *Metaphysics and Epistemology*, *Philosophy of Mind*, *Logic and Philosophy of Language*, *Philosophy of Science*, *Ethics and Moral Psychology*, *Aesthetics*, and *Political and Legal Philosophy*. With Degree Committee approval, one essay can be in some other area, provided it is still appropriately related to Philosophy. Both essays cannot come from the same area.

MPhil 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 MPhil thesis must not reproduce any significant part of the essays (see below).

The first essay is submitted at the end of Michaelmas Term (usually early December) and the second at the end of Lent Term (mid-March). The submission date for the thesis is in mid-June.

The MPhil degree is awarded on the basis of the marks given for the essays (taken together) and the thesis. MPhil candidates are also examined orally in a *viva voce* for the thesis.

MPhil candidates wishing to go on to a PhD usually choose a thesis topic related to their proposed PhD research. MPhil students who move on to become PhD students at Cambridge cannot incorporate their MPhil theses directly into their PhD theses, but the latter may be based on the former.

PhD

The Faculty accepts applications for the PhD in a wide range of philosophical areas. The PhD 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.

Registration

Candidates accepted initially for the MPhil can apply while at Cambridge to continue to the PhD, and are considered alongside external applicants for admission. MPhil students accepted to the PhD generally need to satisfy some further conditions, including successful completion of the MPhil, before they can be admitted to the PhD. For further description of these conditions, see page 18, of the Graduate Handbook: 'PhD degree; Steps towards registration'.

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

Before registering graduate students as PhD 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 PhD candidates whose work does not show sufficient progress may at this stage be registered only as MLitt candidates. (The MLitt is a lesser degree to the PhD, now used only in these rare circumstances.) They may be re-registered as PhD 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 MLitt or PhD candidates without good cause (such as illness); and the Student Registry 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 PhD 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 PhD thesis is required to contain some substantial original ideas, while an MLitt 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 PhD at other Universities who wish to do research in Cambridge may also apply to be admitted for a maximum period of a year, as graduate students not registered for a Cambridge degree. More information can be found on the Faculty's webpage for visiting students:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/prosp-students/prosp-visiting-students>

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. The course is amply demanding: 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 Graduate Admissions 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 related to Philosophy in other Faculties

Gender Studies

The Centre for Gender Studies, which is located in the Department of Politics and International Studies, offers an MPhil and a PhD in Multi-disciplinary Gender Studies. See attached link for more details.

<http://www.gender.cam.ac.uk/mphil>

Political Thought

The Faculties of Classics, History, and Social and Political Sciences offer an inter-disciplinary MPhil in Political Thought and Intellectual History, as well as related PhDs.

<http://www.hist.cam.ac.uk/prospective-graduates/courses/mphil-pol>

Philosophy of Science

The Department of History and Philosophy of Science is institutionally separate from the Philosophy Faculty and runs its own MPhil and PhD degrees.

<http://www.hps.cam.ac.uk/studying/graduate/options.html>

Public Policy

The Department of Politics and International Studies offers an MPhil in Public Policy.

<http://cambridgemppblog.org/mphil-in-public-policy/>

Candidates interested in any of these subject areas may wish to consider these alternative degrees, in addition to the options available in the Philosophy Faculty.

Teaching and Teaching Terms

Supervisors

The MPhil and PhD degrees in philosophy are awarded on the basis of individual study and research, but each student has a supervisor whose role is to help and advise the student. The Degree Committee will not accept graduate students for whom it cannot find suitable supervisors, a fact that applicants should bear in mind when framing research proposals. Supervisors may be over-committed or on leave and so 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. Graduate students are expected to discuss their work with more people than their supervisor. They are expected to take the initiative in discussing 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 weekly seminar for MPhil students, at which they present and discuss their work – the seminar focusses on developing presentation and discussion skills, as well introducing students to a very wide range of philosophical topics. The Faculty also arranges other seminars especially for graduate students,

including a graduate seminar, which runs throughout the academic year. Graduate students are encouraged to attend upper-level lectures and seminars that are relevant to their work. Many graduate students run seminars themselves on special topics. The Faculty website has details of current groups and research events. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to attend the Moral Sciences Club, which meets weekly in term to discuss papers normally given by visiting philosophers: <https://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/seminars-phil/seminars-msc>

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. 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. Candidates for the MPhil must come into residence at the beginning of the Michaelmas Full Term; candidates for the PhD will usually do so.

Additional Course Costs

Philosophy does not generate large additional course costs, but naturally there are sundry expenses involved in studying. 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 PhD, 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. Colleges will not consider an application for membership until the student has first been accepted by the Faculty's Degree Committee.

Most colleges of the University admit graduates; Darwin, Hughes Hall, and Wolfson admit only graduates. Three colleges, Lucy Cavendish, Murray Edwards and Newnham, admit only women. All colleges of the University accept students for a wide range of higher degrees, diplomas and research. Further information on each college can be found here:
<http://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/colleges>

Faculty Resources and Support for Students

Libraries

All graduate Philosophy students have access to the Philosophy Faculty's Casimir Lewy Library, the University Library, other faculty libraries, their college library and the electronic resources that are provided centrally.

The **Casimir Lewy Library** on the second floor of the Raised Faculty Building provides support for philosophical study, teaching and research in Cambridge. The book collection comprises more than 16,000 volumes, focusing on Western analytic philosophy, but also covering related interdisciplinary material. In term-time the library is currently open Monday-Friday from 9.00am-6.00pm, Saturdays from 11.00am-5.00pm. For further information, see the library website:

<http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk/library>

The University Library, as one of Britain's five copyright libraries, holds every book published in the UK since the early eighteenth century as well as extensive stocks from overseas. The Faculty libraries in Classics, Divinity, History, and History of Philosophy of Science libraries are also useful to philosophy students.

Training is readily available on how to access the many useful resources for research that are available online. This is provided by the Faculty Librarian and also by the graduate skills programme.

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.

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. The Faculty's annual welcome event introduces new graduate students to each other, to the administration of the Faculty and to the philosophical opportunities in Cambridge. There are also sessions organised to introduce the Library, computing facilities, and research aids.

Two sessions are run for MPhil students. The first covers time management, the effective generation and development of ideas and arguments, the process

of writing and presenting MPhil 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.

PhD students contribute significantly to our teaching programme and in support of this, the Faculty offers a series of tailor-made workshops devoted to teaching and transferable skills. Topics discussed include leading a discussion group, effective small group teaching, and supervising and supporting students with special needs. The Centre for Personal and Professional Development runs additional courses on supervising and lecturing.

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

The University Careers Service gives advice and information about careers throughout a graduate student's time at Cambridge and afterwards. Notes on the preparation 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 for academic reading in German and French, as well as general instruction in other languages. The Classics Faculty provides courses in Greek.

<http://www.langcen.cam.ac.uk/lc/graduates/graduates-training-index.html>

Computing

In addition to the Faculty's Graduate Study Centre, most colleges provide word processing and, through the University Network, e-mail facilities for their students. All graduate students have free access to computing facilities of the University Computing Service, and the wireless network.

<http://www.ucs.cam.ac.uk/wireless/>

Funding for Research

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

Financial Support, Fees and Expenses

Graduate Students in Philosophy at Cambridge are funded from a considerable variety of sources. Each year the Faculty is able to nominate the top ranked applicants for funding from Cambridge sources that are managed centrally. However, it is possible for students who are not nominated to be successful in finding funding sources outside of the Faculty's nominations, such as college awards. Applicants are strongly advised to consult the [Cambridge Graduate Admissions webpage](#), which provides further details and more guidance through what is potentially a complex and confusing field. Students are encouraged to use the [Cambridge Student Funding Search](#), which provides the most comprehensive overview of the funding opportunities available to applicants.

Sources of Funding

Listed below are some of the main 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.

[Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP Studentships](#)

Available to PhD students from the UK and other EU countries

The Open-Oxford-Cambridge DTP offers at least 77 studentships each year, across the range of arts and humanities subject areas. In addition to funding for fees and living costs (depending on eligibility), OOC DTP students benefit from being able to access a variety of other funding sources and a wide range of training available at the three partner universities. Please see the following web site for more information, as it becomes available.

<https://oocdtp.web.ox.ac.uk/our-studentship>

These awards provide UK students with a full studentship for the duration of the funded period, covering both fees and maintenance. For students ordinarily resident in an EU country other than the UK, a fees-only award covers the University tuition fees for the duration of the funded period.

To apply for an award please make this clear on your application form.

School of Arts and Humanities Masters Studentships

Available to students from the UK, other EU countries and overseas

The Faculty is able to offer two Master's studentships to the value of a year's fees at the Home/EU rate. To apply for an award please make this clear on your application form.

Grants from the University of Cambridge

(i) [Vice-Chancellor's Awards & Cambridge International Scholarships](#)

On behalf of the University, the Cambridge Trust is pleased to offer the Vice-Chancellor's Awards (for UK and EU students) and the Cambridge International Scholarships (for international students) for those undertaking PhD studies.

The aim of the Vice-Chancellor's Awards and Cambridge International Scholarships is to ensure that the 250 highest ranked students, irrespective of nationality, receive full financial support to undertake research leading to a PhD. The Scholarships pay the University Composition Fee and a maintenance allowance sufficient for a single person (note application deadline of 5th December 2018).

(ii) 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.

Grants from the Cambridge Trusts

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. Please consult the Gates website before writing your statement since the criteria for a Gates Scholarship are not purely academic.

(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 Student Funding Search](#) for details. The following colleges usually or always offer 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 £3,000, 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.

<https://www.divinity.cam.ac.uk/study-here/graduatefunding#section-9>

Darwin Philosophy Fund

Darwin College will offer annually, by competition, one or more Philosophy Studentships of up to £6,000 to students commencing graduate work in the Faculty of Philosophy. No special application forms are necessary. More information can be found on the link below.

<https://www.darwin.cam.ac.uk/awards-and-scholarships>

Onora O'Neill Studentship

Newnham College will offer annually a studentship of between £3,000 - £12,000 to students commencing graduate work in the Faculty of Philosophy. Current first year Newnham Ph.D students can also apply.

Application forms are available from the College Tutorial Office. More information can be found on the link below.

<http://www.newn.cam.ac.uk/admissions/graduates/funding-financial-support/studentships/>

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 MPhil and/or 3-year PhD course.

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 PhD 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 approx. £28 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 PhD'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 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 PhD). In addition to tuition fees, students must budget for their own maintenance (including accommodation) and for the living expenses of any dependents who might accompany them. Although liability is incurred on a termly basis, colleges - who are responsible for collecting University fees - may require students to pay a full year's fees in advance. Estimated annual fees for the 2019/2020 academic year are as follows.

University composition fee

	PhD	MPhil
Home and EU rate	£ 8,337	£11,460
Overseas rate	£23, 361	£24,960

General living expenses

As well as allowing for University 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.

In order to be admitted to the University of Cambridge, applicants are required to show evidence of funds to cover maintenance costs while studying. The Graduate Admissions website has a useful maintenance calculator, which calculates an estimate for your absolute minimum living expenses while studying at Cambridge. The calculator can be found here:

<http://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/finance/maintenance>

Applications

Students who wish to do graduate work in philosophy at Cambridge should apply through the University [Graduate Admissions website](#). Applications are made online and applicants upload all supporting documents electronically.

Applicants for the MPhil must have or be expecting the equivalent of at least a good 2i BA Honours degree (i.e. at least 67%/GPA 3.6) with a minimum of two years' full-time undergraduate study in Philosophy (10 courses in the USA). In practice, successful candidates will usually have or be expecting a First class degree or the international equivalent.

Applicants for the PhD should usually meet the criteria for the MPhil degree just given, and must also have or be studying for a Masters degree in Philosophy or a philosophical subject.

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 2018 are as follows:

10th October 2018	United States applicants wishing to apply for Gates funding
5th December 2018	Final deadline for all other applications (including any applications from UK, EU or Overseas students for AHRC/ Gates/CISS/CCT funding)

<http://www.graduate.study.cam.ac.uk/how-do-i-apply/deadlines>

Please note that it is your responsibility to ensure that your referees send their references by the due date.

Applications should be accompanied by two *separate* pieces of recent philosophical work **in English**. For PhD applicants, at least one of these writing samples should be in the proposed area of study. Each piece of work should be 3,000–5,000 words long. (An applicant needs to be able to write concisely as well as clearly, so exceeding this limit will harm an application.) Applicants for the MPhil should propose an area of philosophy on which they will concentrate their work and indicate whether they intend to study for the PhD in Cambridge thereafter. Applicants for the PhD should also submit a detailed research proposal of approximately 500 words as a separate document.

The Faculty of Philosophy Degree Committee will recommend acceptance (usually conditional) or rejection of applications in the light of applicants'

academic records, references, submitted work, proposed research and the availability of suitable supervisors. Every effort is made to accommodate students' preferences about supervisors, but this cannot be guaranteed. Applicants applying to begin a course in October 2019 should receive notification of the outcome of their application by the end of the April 2019. The Faculty is unable to give feedback on admissions decisions.

PhD applicants may be asked to attend an interview, usually by Skype. Applicants who are offered a place on the MPhil or PhD course starting in October 2019 will be invited to attend an Offer-Holders' Open Day on Monday 18th March 2019 in order to learn more about the Faculty and their programme of study. Invitations to attend this Open Day will be sent out, by e-mail, in early March 2019.

For Further Information

Contact the Faculty for all enquiries about programmes of study:

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Cambridge CB3 9DA
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Telephone: (01223) 335078

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

Web-page: <http://www.phil.cam.ac.uk>

Postscript: What Our Students Say

Rachel Robertson

The MPhil at Cambridge was a chance to write longer papers and 'do philosophy' in more depth. This formed an important bridge for me – over the course of the year, I narrowed down what I was interested in, and considered whether or not to do a PhD. My supervisors were very generous with their time and rigorous in their feedback. Our regular meetings were a constant encouragement during a sometimes- hectic programme, and the highlight of my MPhil experience. The MPhil seminars provided a welcoming space to learn from others in my year group. Under the friendly guidance of two members of the teaching staff, we got plenty of practice at giving and chairing talks, as well as asking and answering questions. Apart from this, the flexibility of the MPhil allowed time to pursue areas of interest through attending some of many lectures, seminars, reading groups and conferences going on in the university, which are open to all students. Overall, it was a great year allowing a taste of many aspects of academia – research, discussion, and even a bit of teaching.

Rachel Robertson, MPhil student 2014-15, current PhD Student (2017)

Matthew Dougherty

The MPhil at Cambridge is one of the most challenging and enjoyable experiences I've had, and there are two primary reasons for that. The first is the amount of freedom and independence allowed in the program. The MPhil student's schedule is largely his or hers to make, and this leads to a fair amount of pressure but also allows for time to explore topics that might have been considered only fringe-interests before. It also allows for time to enjoy college life and explore the city of Cambridge, both of which are like nothing I had experienced. There are concerts every week, the city is easy to get to know on foot or bicycle, and there are college dinners and frequent student events, both in the colleges and the Faculty. The second reason is the high quality of supervisions and seminars. My supervisors were a great source of critique and encouragement, so I especially looked forward to my meetings with them; and seminars were an additional way to learn and be engaged in philosophy while also recuperating from intensely studying my then-current topic of research. I would recommend the MPhil to anyone who finds these things appealing.

Matthew Dougherty, MPhil Student 2013-14; current PhD Student (2017)

Shyane Siriwardena

I have studied here in Cambridge for four years, starting with the MPhil in 2011. The MPhil was excellent training for the PhD which I am now undertaking. My experience here has been overwhelmingly positive. The philosophical community is a very active one, there are ample opportunities to attend seminars, present work, and join reading groups. And even apart from these, I've found that people, faculty, and students alike are so often willing to chat

about the work you're doing. Many of the faculty are wonderfully generous with their time; I've never felt at a loss for support in my studies.

What is more, the Faculty supports more than just our studies; they are also mindful of preparing PhD candidates for the job market. I have had the opportunity to do a great deal of teaching in my time here, and this has proved a most rewarding experience. Indeed, once finished my degree here, my plan is to continue teaching philosophy at either the university or sixth-form level.

Finally, I would be remiss if I did not mention the graduate community here: the supportive atmosphere and easy camaraderie have been invaluable to my success. Whether I'm in a philosophical bind, or I'm worried about my progress, I know I can always turn to my peers. We have a great working environment: people are always bouncing ideas and problems off of each other, helping whenever they can. It's a community I'll be sad to leave in a year's time.

Shyane Siriwardena, MPhil Student 2011–12; PhD Student (2012-2016)

Luke Cash

I started my PhD in 2014, having completed the MPhil the previous year. Beginning with the MPhil allowed me to gain valuable research experience in diverse topics from the philosophies of mathematics, language, and mind to the history of the subject. Exploring these areas channelled my interests into a form specific enough for a sustained research project and I started this year with a relatively clear sense of direction. Since then, I have profited tremendously from the unique research environment that Cambridge offers. Not only are there workshops, seminars, and discussion groups to take part in within the faculty, the college environment provides graduates with the opportunity to discuss their work with researchers from other disciplines. I have found this to be particularly helpful – having your work subjected to a diversity of perspectives ensures that your thought is not blind to them, but it can also provide you with the impetus to think about a certain problem differently. For anyone with an interest in pursuing graduate study in philosophy, I cannot recommend such an environment highly enough.

I would also add that I have benefitted tremendously from the opportunity to supervise undergraduate students in a one-on-one setting. Not only does this mean that they get your undivided attention, it also forces you to be up to speed on multiple topics that are potentially far removed from your own research interests. Though this requires more effort, the pay-off is considerable as it provides you with continual reminders that the world of philosophy extends beyond your thesis (something it is all too easy to forget).

Luke Cash, MPhil Student 2013–14; current PhD Student (2017)