

Programme Specification

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: LV12

UFPPEBA

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to provide you with a comprehensive degree-level education in Philosophy, Politics and Economics. Each of the three disciplines will enable you to cultivate your skills in oral and written argument, to enhance your global engagement and multi-cultural awareness, and to help you appreciate multiple perspectives and the values of diversity. More specifically, the Philosophy strand will encourage you to confront your deepest beliefs and assumptions in a characteristically philosophical way, to inform you about current debates in philosophy, and to develop a sense of the significance of philosophical thinking in dealing with modern issues. The Politics strand will introduce you to the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics, and will encourage you to compare and contrast very different ways of thinking about political involvement, and to learn about different conceptions of social and civic responsibility, in relation to the three main subfields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. The Economics strand will give you an understanding of key economic principles and tools of analysis, encourage you to develop an awareness of policy issues, and introduce you to applied or statistical study. Bridge modules (Contemporary Political Philosophy; International Ethics; Dissertation) offer you the opportunity to draw together knowledge from at least two of the three disciplines. The programme provides a supportive learning environment with full access to welfare, pastoral and careers support. The programme of study is specifically designed to introduce you to progressive intellectual challenges and to consolidate your previous experience at each new level.

Part 1:	Introduces you to the core topics of Philosophy, Politics and Economics and to the basic concepts and methods of critical thinking, basic logic, and the psychology of reasoning. There is a particular emphasis on developing oral and written skills
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	through small group discussion. You will undertake research to produce coursework essays and to learn how to critically appraise what you discover.
Part 2:	Provides you with a deeper awareness of the disciplines, of the skills of argument and presentation. There is a greater emphasis on developing skills of research and enquiry and to presenting arguments in public meetings in an effective way, anticipating and responding to questions, and using a range of means (speaking, summary-writing, essay-writing, presenting, designing slides).
Part 3:	Gives you the opportunity to develop full mastery of the disciplines across a broad range of different conceptions of what counts as 'Philosophy', 'Politics' or 'Economics'. The emphasis is on developing independent learning, personal effectiveness and self-awareness as well as the ability to reflect effectively on your progress and strengths and on the goals you wish to achieve.

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
EC113	Introductory Microeconomics	20	4
EC114	Introductory Macroeconomics	20	4
PO11PI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
PP1RA	Reason and Argument	20	4

Students must select 20 credits in optional modules on the list available from the Department of Philosophy.

Students must select 20 credits in optional modules on the list available from the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Part 2 Modules:

Your module selection at Part 2 will be determined by the pathway followed.

Tripartite pathway (Philosophy, Politics, Economics)

Compulsory modules:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EC115	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1	10	4
EC116	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1	10	4

In addition:

Students must take 20 credits of optional modules selected from a list provided by the Department of Economics

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules selected from a list provided by the Department of Philosophy

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules selected from a list provided by the Department of Politics and International Relations

Bipartite pathway (Politics & Economics)

Compulsory modules:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EC115	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1	10	4
EC116	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1	10	4
PO2SOP	Study of Politics	20	5

In addition:

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules selected from a list provided by the Department of Economics

Students must take 40 credits in optional modules from a list provided by the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy & Economics)

Compulsory modules:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
EC115	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1	10	4
EC116	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1	10	4

In addition:

Students must take 40 credits of optional modules selected from a list provided by the Department of Economics

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules, from the list available from the Department of Philosophy.

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy & Politics)

Compulsory modules:

Code	Title	Credits	Level
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

In addition:

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules, from the list available from the Department of Philosophy.

Students must take 20 credits in optional modules from a list provided by the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Your module selection at Part 3 will be determined by the pathway followed.

Tripartite pathways

Students must take a 40 credit dissertation module OR the 20 credit Independent Learning module in Philosophy; and

Students who have not taken Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 2 must take at least one of Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 3. Students who have already taken Intermediate

Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 2 must take at least 20 credits of optional modules from a list available in the Department of Economics; and

Students must take at least 20 credits of optional modules from a list available in the Department of Politics & International Relations; and

Students must take at least 20 credits of optional modules from a list available in the Department of Philosophy. Students selecting the 20 credit Independent Learning Module in Philosophy must select a further 20 credit optional module from the lists available in the Department of Philosophy; and

Remaining credits may be taken from the Departments of Economics, Philosophy and Politics & International Relations.

Bipartite pathway (Politics & Economics)

Students must take a 40 credit dissertation module; and

Students who have not taken Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 2 must take at least one of Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 3; and

Students must take 20 credits in optional modules from a list available in the Department of Economics. Students who have already taken Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 2 must take 40 credits of optional modules from a list available in the Department of Economics; and

Students must take 40 credits in optional modules from a list available in the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy & Economics)

Students must take a 40 credit dissertation module OR the 20 credit Independent Learning module in Philosophy; and

Students who have not taken Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 2 must take at least one of Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 3; and

Students must take 20 credits in optional modules from a list available in the Department of Economics. Students who have already taken Intermediate Macroeconomics or Intermediate Microeconomics at Part 2 must take 40 credits of optional modules from a list available in the Department of Economics; and

Students must take 40 credits in optional modules from a list available in the Department of Philosophy. Students selecting the 20 credit Independent Learning Module in Philosophy must select a further 20 credit optional module from the lists available in the Department of Philosophy.

Bipartite pathway (Philosophy & Politics)

Students must take a 40 credit dissertation module OR the 20 credit Independent Learning module in Philosophy; and

Students must take 40 credits in optional modules from a list available in the Department of Philosophy. Students selecting the 20 credit Independent Learning Module in Philosophy must select a further 20 credit optional module from the lists available in the Department of Philosophy; and

Students must take 40 credits in optional modules from a list available in the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Students may exceptionally be permitted to change pathway when entering Part 3, at the discretion of the programme director and programme advisor from the specific subject area.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. Details of optional modules for each part, including any additional costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

There are no textbooks which you must buy and students are encouraged to discuss the purchase of textbooks or other resources with the module convenor before purchasing. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library and through the Departments of Philosophy, Politics and International Relations and Economics. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

The estimate was calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part

of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught through seminars, lectures and computer classes. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 216 hours, Part 2 - 192 hours, Part 3 - 120 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations, class tests.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain at least 40% in all modules in both Philosophy and in Politics; and
- (iv) obtain a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics

(EC113, EC114); and
(v) obtain no mark below 30% in Economics; with
(vi) marks below 40% in Economics amounting to not more than 20 credits.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24
6 March 2024

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