Philosophy

Get to know PHILosophy

Philosophy is the attempt to understand the truth about ourselves, the world we inhabit, and our place in it. Philosophy asks the big questions: What is the general structure of reality? What makes something good or beautiful? What is knowledge? How should society be organized? What is the relationship between mind and body? In answering these questions, philosophers subject our most basic ideas to detailed analysis, critically reflect on cutting edge empirical investigations, and work to construct satisfactory, large scale theories of reality.

The Philosophy program at Queen’s provides students with critical thinking and reading skills, enabling them to uncover hidden assumptions, identify core premises, evaluate arguments and communicate ideas effectively. Courses, such as Philosophy of Education, Philosophy of Medicine, Epistemology and Metaphysics, and Moral Philosophy offer a variety of perspectives on important philosophical issues as they range from historical to contemporary, and from broad topical investigations to problem-based inquiries.

“A world-class philosophical education in a small, personalized setting.”

Degree OPTIONS

Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
Major / Medial / Minor
Bachelor of Arts (General)

Queen’s ADMISSIONS

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario University Application Centre) website. Secondary School prerequisites include Six 4U and 4M courses, including a minimum of three 4U courses, one of which must be ENG4U. Applicants outside of Ontario may have additional requirements.

Course HIGHLIGHTS

Courses in Philosophy will ask the Fundamental Questions – in fact there’s even a course with that title where you will discuss and debate moral obligations, free will, gender roles, taking responsibility for the environment and the meaning of life. Moral issues and ethics are popular course options, offering many courses within each of those themes. The Philosophy and Medicine course and Animals and Society are favourite options for those interested in medicine or veterinary medicine; whereas the Ethics and Business course or Philosophy of Law are a great fit for students interested in business and commerce.

That is a degree from Queen’s.

quartsci.com
**Philosophy MAJOR MAP**

**1ST YEAR**
- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Take PHIL 111 or 115.
  - For plan requirements or thresholds, see the Arts and Science website. Speak with an Academic Advisor at the Arts and Science Office or the Undergraduate Chair for help.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Join teams or clubs on campus. Look in the Co-Curricular Opportunities Directory or AMS Clubs Directory for ideas.
- Consider contributing to publications on campus such as Ultraviolet Magazine or the Queen's Journal.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Volunteer on or off campus with different community organizations such as Frontier College Queen's Students for Literacy.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- The Queen's University International Centre is your first stop to learn how to internationalize your degree or to leverage your existing cross-cultural experience.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their events.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night programs, events and training opportunities.
- Speak to a QUIC advisor or get involved in their events.

**2ND YEAR**
- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Declare as a Major or Medial.
  - Majors and Medials take PHIL 250 and 257. Enjoy a range of PHIL options.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars.
- Think about applying to positions in student services or the Alma Mater Society. Look into summer jobs by talking to the dep. or Career Services about work through SWEP or Work Study.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Get involved with the Philosophy Departmental Student Council (DSC).
- Start or continue volunteering with organizations such as Queen's Model Court. If interested, attend the Queen's Media and Journalism Conference or the QIAA Global Passport Online Database and Internship Fair.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- Is an exchange in your future? Start thinking about where you would like to study abroad. Apply in January for a 3rd year exchange through your faculty's International Office. If exchange isn't for you, come talk to QUIC about some other options to gain international experience.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Explore different careers of interest by reading books in the Career Services Information Area, such as the Philosophy Major's Career Handbook. For more information check out Career Cruising or by finding and connecting with alumni on LinkedIn.

**3RD OR FINAL YEAR**
- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Majors take PHIL 361 and a required History of Philosophy course plus Option courses.
  - Medials only need a required History of Philosophy course in 3rd year.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Deepen or expand your experience with extracurriculars. Think about participating in student or University government.
- If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF). Consider applying to do a 12-16 month QUIP internship between your third and fourth year.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Do targeted networking with alumni working in careers of interest by joining the LinkedIn group Queen's Alumni Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.
- Attend the Philosophy Colloquium series. Connect with professionals at events or workshops hosted by the DSC.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- Build your intercultural competence by getting involved with other cultures or by practicing or improving your language skills. Check QUC's resources for ideas to go abroad, and volunteer or attend one of their events.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Start focusing on areas of interest. Research education requirements for careers of interest. If needed, prepare to take any required tests (like the LSAT or GMAT) and get help thinking about grad school from Career Services.

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**
- **GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**
  - Take 400-level requirements. Consider taking a Directed Study course.
  - Apply to graduate on SQUIS.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**
- Consider publishing in an undergraduate journal, such as McMaster's Perperto or UBC's Prologomena. Investigate requirements for full-time jobs or other opportunities career related. Assess what experience you're lacking and fill in gaps with volunteering, clubs, or internships - check out the Career Services skills workshop for help.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**
- Consider serving on the Executive of the PHIL DSC. Keep attending the Colloquium.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Philosophy.

**GET THINKING GLOBALLY**
- Prepare for work or studies in a multi-cultural environment by taking QUC's Intercultural Competency Certificate, and research possible immigration regulations.
- International students interested in staying in Canada can speak with an International Student Advisor.

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**
- Apply to jobs or future education, or make plans for other adventures. Get help from Career Services with job searching, resumes, interviews, grad school applications, or other decisions.

**C O N S I D E R A 1 2 - 1 6 M O N T H Q U I P I N T E R N S H I P**

**Where could I go after graduation?**
- Academia
- Advertising
- Applied ethics
- Archives
- Bioethics
- Consulting
- Counsellor
- Cultural affairs
- Entrepreneur
- Ethics
- Foreign service
- Fundraising
- Human rights
- Information technology
- International development
- Law
- Marketing
- Media and communications
- Medical ethics
- Medicine
- Non-governmental organizations
- Politics and government
- Professor
- Public and private research
- Public policy
- Teacher
- Training, recruitment, and development

*Note: Careers may require additional training.

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Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!
How to use this map

• Got questions about careers and classes?
• Feeling a little lost or overwhelmed by choices?
• Wondering what you are “supposed” to be doing?

Use this map to plan for success in five overlapping areas of career and academic life. Each map helps you explore possibilities, set goals and track your accomplishments. To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

Don’t stress if you haven’t done all of the suggested activities. The map is not a prescription – it’s a tool for finding your own way at Queen’s.

Getting what you need to succeed in the workplace

WHAT DO EMPLOYERS WANT?
In a recent survey from the Canadian Council of Chief Executives the top 6 skills sought by employers were:
1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

WHAT CAN I LEARN STUDYING PHILOSOPHY AT QUEEN’S?
• To think critically and systematically
• To generate ideas about complex subjects
• To use methods of analysis and logical reasoning
• To form and defend positions
• To consider unfamiliar ideas and evaluate opposing arguments
• To identify underlying assumptions across a range of issues
• To summarize complex material
• To speak and write at a superior level
• To interpret historical and contemporary ideas and texts
• To listen attentively, to read carefully, and to reflect thoughtfully
• To work in groups to solve problems and make presentations
• To manage your time and resources

WHAT MAKES ME SPECIAL?
No one will get exactly the same experience as you. Take the time to think about what skills you have developed to be able to best explain them with compelling examples in future applications to employers and further education. For help with this, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

Philosophy
Faculty of Arts and Science
John Watson Hall
49 Bader Lane
613.533.2182
queensu.ca/philosophy