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. Study Ancient, Modern, and post-19th Century thinkers as they investigate key questions in Metaphysics, Epistemology, Ethics, and Political Philosophy. Our courses offer a range of perspectives, from broad investigations of perennial topics to problem-based inquiries.

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

Degree OPTIONS

- Bachelor of Arts (Honours)
- Major/Medial/Minor in Philosophy
- Bachelor of Arts (General)
- Internship option available

Queen’s ADMISSION

Students apply to Queen’s Arts (QA) through the OUAC (Ontario Universities Application Centre) website (ouac.on.ca). 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. Choose from options including Continental Philosophy, Bioethics, the Philosophy of Law, Business and Ethics, and the Philosophy of Mind. Don’t miss our second-year courses on Animals and Society, Humans and the Natural World, and Perspectives on Social Diversity.

That is a degree from Queen’s.
quartsci.com
### 1ST YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- In first year take PHIL 111 or 115. Each Plan will have at least one required first-year course, including minors. It is important to take a variety of first-year courses to keep as many pathways open as possible for you going into second year. For more information see the Arts and Science Academic Calendar, speak to an Academic Advisor in the Arts and Science office, or the Undergraduate Chair in the Department of Philosophy.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Join teams or clubs on campus. See the AMS Clubs Directory or the Queen’s Get Involved page for more 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.
- Visit careers.queensu.ca/majormaps.html for the online version with links!

**GET READY FOR LIFE AFTER GRADUATION**

- Grappling with program decisions? Go to Majors Night or get some help with career options from Career Services.
- Build your transferrable skills in time management, organization, writing and more with Student Academic Success Services.

### 2ND YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- Majors and Medials take PHIL 250 and 257. Enjoy a range of PHIL option courses.
- Contact the Undergraduate Chair at PHILUG@queensu.ca for advice if necessary.
- Please see the Academic Calendar to ensure you are taking the correct courses.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- Take more responsibility within different clubs or extracurriculars.
- Think about applying to positions in student services such as Ultraviolet Magazine or the Queen’s Journal.

**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 the International Programs 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 YEAR

**GET THE COURSES YOU NEED**

- Majors take PHIL 361 and a required History of Philosophy course plus 4 option courses.
- Medials need a required History of Philosophy course in 3rd year and 3 option courses.

**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 Connects. Check out Career Services networking workshops.
- Attend the Philosophy Colloquium series. Connect with professors 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 QUIC’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 2-400 level option courses and your remaining 300-level courses. Consider taking a Directed Study course.

**GET RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

- By fourth year you should be working on your remaining option and elective courses. Make sure to map your minor and / or certificate(s) as well.
- Apply to graduate in SDLUS.

**GET CONNECTED WITH THE COMMUNITY**

- Consider publishing in an undergraduate journal, such as McMaster’s Perceptia or UBC’s Hemlock.
- 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 THINKING GLOBALLY**

- Consider serving on the Executive of the PHIL DSC. Keep attending the Colloquium.
- Consider joining the Canadian Philosophical Association.
- Join groups on LinkedIn reflecting specific careers or topics of interest in Philosophy.

**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.

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**Where could I go after graduation?**

- Academic 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

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

Use the 5 rows of the map to explore possibilities and plan for success in the five overlapping areas of career and academics. The map just offers suggestions – you don’t have to do it all! To make your own custom map, use the My Major Map tool.

A balanced approach leads to long-term success. While you will learn a lot from your studies, taking time to get relevant experience outside of the classroom, build your network, and gain international experience, will position you to be more competitive in your job search or grad school applications.

Get started thinking about the future now – where do you want to go after your degree? Having tentative goals (like careers or grad school) while working through your degree can help with short-term decisions about courses and experiences, but also help you keep motivated for success.

Get the help you need

Queen’s provides you with a broad range of support services from your first point of contact with the university through to graduation. At Queen’s, you are never alone. We have many offices dedicated to helping you learn, think and do.

Ranging from help with academics and careers, to physical, emotional, or spiritual resources – our welcoming living and learning environment offers the programs and services you need to be successful, both academically and personally, and Queen’s wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Succeed in the workplace

What employers want

The Canadian Council of Chief Executives list the top 6 skills sought by employers as:

1. People skills
2. Communication skills
3. Problem-solving skills
4. Analytical abilities
5. Leadership skills
6. Industry-specific knowledge

Take the time to think about the unique skills you have developed at Queen’s, starting with the skills list here for ideas. Explaining your strengths with compelling examples will be important for applications to employers and further education. For help, check out the Career Services skills workshop.

What can I learn studying PHILOSOPHY?

- Think critically and systematically
- Generate ideas about complex subjects
- Use methods of analysis and logical reasoning
- Form and defend positions
- Consider unfamiliar ideas and evaluate opposing arguments
- Identify underlying assumptions across a range of issues
- Summarize complex material
- Speak and write at a superior level
- Interpret historical and contemporary ideas and texts
- Listen attentively, to read carefully, and to reflect thoughtfully
- Work in groups to solve problems and make presentations
- Manage your time and resources

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