Philosophy

Philosophy, according to Plato, concerns itself with the good, the true, and the beautiful. Grappling with life's big topics, it also provides students with critical thinking skills that enable you to uncover hidden assumptions, identify core premises, and evaluate arguments. We offer courses that span the history of philosophy, from the ancients to contemporary thinkers, and others that cover broad philosophical topics – from ethics and aesthetics to metaphysics and the nature of truth.

Alumni Story

“The Queen’s Philosophy department became a second home for me. Not only did it provide me with an exceptional, well rounded education, it also gave me the chance to engage with professors who became my mentors, and peers who became my closest friends. Upon graduating, I had numerous doors open to me, as well as relationships with incredible people.”

-Hallie Jones, PHIL BAH


That is a degree from Queen's.

queensu.ca/philosophy
**2ND YEAR**

In first year you will have the chance to explore the foundations of Philosophy along with some electives. Attend Majors Night in the Winter term to learn more about Plan options.

Start going deeper into the discipline of Philosophy, while considering a minor and/or certificate such as Employment Relations. Attend Degree in the Fall term to learn more about Certificates and Internship options. Want to make sure your academics are where you want them to be? Visit SAAS Student Academic Support Services and the Writing Centre for some help.

**3RD YEAR**

A chance to start grouping courses in areas of interest, or to keep it more general and explore many areas of Philosophy. Meet with an Academic Advisor to make sure you are on track and have planned out your courses for next year.

Deepen or expand your student experience with extracurriculars. Think about participating in student or University government. If interested, apply for an Undergraduate Student Summer Research Fellowship (USSRF).

**4TH OR FINAL YEAR**

In fourth year you will have the chance to participate in research-based courses that can lead to Graduation School or to your future career path. Make sure to finish up all your courses for your major and your optional minor and/or certificate(s).

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.

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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**What will I learn?**

A degree in Philosophy can equip you with:

- 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 and communicate complex material
- Speak and write at a superior level
- Interpret historical and contemporary ideas and texts
- Listen attentively, read carefully, and reflect thoughtfully
- Work in groups to solve problems and make presentations
- Manage your time and resources

**Where can I go?**

A degree in Philosophy can take your career in many directions. Many students choose to continue their academic inquiry with a Master’s. Our students are equipped with a strong foundation for careers in:

- Applied ethics
- Archives
- Cultural affairs
- Human rights
- Media and communications
- Medical ethics
- Politics and government
- Public and private research
- Public policy

Taking time to explore career options, build experience and network can help you have a smooth transition to the world of work after graduation.

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**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.
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. Queen's wants you to succeed! Check out the Student Affairs website for available resources.

Why study in Kingston?
For 175 years, our community has been more than a collection of bright minds – Queen's has attracted students with an ambitious spirit. Queen's has the highest retention rates, the highest graduation rates, and one of the highest employment rates among recent graduates. We are a research intensive university focused on the undergraduate experience. The BBC has identified Kingston as one of the GREATEST UNIVERSITY TOWNS in the world – and it is often awarded the safest city in Canada. It is a university city at the core; just a quick drive to Toronto, Montreal, Ottawa and even New York. A university with more clubs per capita than any other university in Canada, and a city with more restaurants per capita than any other city in North America – you will have the experience of a lifetime at Queen’s – and graduate with a degree that is globally recognized among the best.