

School of Social Sciences
and Philosophy

Philosophy – Undergraduate Degree Programmes



Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

www.tcd.ie/philosophy

Department of Philosophy

Trinity College Dublin is recognised internationally as Ireland's leading university and as one of the top universities in the world. Trinity was founded in 1592, and today the university is a cosmopolitan community of students from around the world. Its bustling 47 acre campus, in the heart of Dublin, is the ideal environment for studying, learning, relaxing and living.

There has been a rich tradition of philosophical excellence at Trinity College since its foundation. George Berkeley (1685–1753), one of the world's greatest philosophers, was educated at Trinity and wrote some of his most important philosophical works while an academic of the College. Political philosopher Edmund Burke (1729–1797), who established the University's debating society, also studied at Trinity. The department of philosophy is a close-knit, lively intellectual community of researchers, teachers and students which combines high-quality teaching with expansive research activity.

Why Study Philosophy?

If you are interested in examining questions concerning the nature of reality, in questioning society's basic assumptions and in analysing the moral, political, aesthetic and religious questions lying at the heart of our culture you will find philosophy a stimulating and challenging subject.

Philosophy students receive a solid, scholarly grounding in the classical texts that form the basis of western philosophy; these are texts that have been, and continue to be, formative influences on western culture and society. Students also learn invaluable analytical, communication and problem solving skills — transferrable skills which can be applied to a wide range of careers and postgraduate programmes.

Undergraduate Programmes

Although philosophy is a rigorous and challenging discipline in its own right, it also has clear applications to other fields of study. Students therefore have the option to combine the study of philosophy with another subject, or subjects, depending on their interests. At Trinity philosophy may be studied through the following three degree programmes:

Single Honors Philosophy (TR005)

Provides an intensive and in-depth education in philosophical theory, method and practice. In the first two years students study traditional courses in the history of philosophy as well as engaging with certain fundamental philosophical problems such as: the debates surrounding free will, the nature of morality, the existence of God and the limits of human knowledge. In the final two years students may choose to specialise in the subject areas they have found most interesting and most suitable to their skills.

PPES - Philosophy, Political Science, Economics and Sociology (TR015)

Brings together some of the most important approaches to understanding the social and human world, developing skills relevant to a wide range of future careers and activities. There is a gradual specialisation over the course of the degree with students ultimately having the option to just study philosophy or to combine it with political science, economics or sociology.

TSM - Two Subject Moderatorship (TR001)

Allows students to study two subjects to degree level with advanced specialisation in one or both subjects depending on their course choices. The TSM programme offers a choice of 19 subjects which complement the study of philosophy such as psychology, history, mathematics, English and a range of other languages.



“ Everyone in the Department has his or her own expertise in various areas, and as a student you see the same questions approached in different ways by different people; from this you get a much better understanding of what you were asking in the first place.”

Fintan Mallory,
SINGLE HONORS PHILOSOPHY
GRADUATE 2012

“ Why should you study philosophy at Trinity? One reason is the breadth of the course. During my time at Trinity I took classes on almost all of the main traditions of philosophy and was introduced to most of the core problems in philosophy.”

David Boylan,
SINGLE HONORS PHILOSOPHY
GRADUATE 2013

“ Philosophy provides you with the tools necessary to critically engage with any subject, to analyse arguments and to communicate your thoughts clearly and cogently. I have found these skills to be invaluable in both my professional life and in my day-to-day interactions.”

Michelle Garvey,
SINGLE HONORS PHILOSOPHY
GRADUATE 2003

Career and Postgraduate Opportunities

From a career perspective Trinity graduates are extremely well regarded worldwide. Many philosophy graduates have gone on to postgraduate study both at Trinity College Dublin and other leading universities around the world such as Stanford University, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), King's College London, the University of Edinburgh and the University of Cambridge.

Philosophy graduates find that their ability to be analytical, to question assumptions and to be innovative thinkers opens up a range of opportunities in fields as varied as accountancy, teaching, journalism, media, law, film making, banking, computing and advertising. The following are just a few examples of the organisations where philosophy graduates work:



How to Apply

If you are interested in applying for a philosophy degree programme please visit: www.tcd.ie/study

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