MASTER OF ARTS IN PHILOSOPHY

This is a credit-based qualification.

These regulations should not be read in isolation. It is important that you read them in conjunction with the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses).

MA–Phil 1   DEGREE NAME

MA–Phil 1.1   The University offers the Master of Arts in Philosophy, referred to as the MA in Philosophy. Holders of this qualification are permitted to use the letters MA (Phil) (Open) after their names.

If you qualify for this degree on or before 31 December 2018, you must qualify under the structure described in Regulation MA-Phil 3.1 to MA-Phil 6.3.

If you qualify for this degree after 31 December 2018, you must qualify under the structure described in Regulation MA-Phil 7.1 to MA-Phil 10.3

MA–Phil 2   REGISTRATION

MA–Phil 2.1   To be registered as a student you must adhere to registration regulations in the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses) and show evidence of suitable preparation for postgraduate study. The minimum entry requirement is an honours degree conferred by a UK university or other recognised degree-awarding body. The subject content of your first degree must be acceptable to the Faculty Teaching Committee.

MA–Phil 2.2   To be awarded the degree, you must declare it as an intended qualification and ensure that your credit is linked to it.

MA–Phil 3   CREDIT REQUIREMENT

MA–Phil 3.1   To qualify for the MA in Philosophy, you must obtain a minimum of 180 credits through the successful completion of modules specified in the degree profile (unless regulation MA–Phil 3.2 applies). Of these 180 credits, no more than 60 may come from postgraduate foundation modules. At least 60 of the 180 credits must come from each of:

(a) a postgraduate foundation module in philosophy
(b) a subject module in philosophy or recognised by the philosophy line (unless regulation MA–Phil 3.2 applies)
(c) a dissertation in philosophy.

MA–Phil 3.2   The degree will be awarded with distinction if you obtain a distinction grade in a minimum of 90 credits, including your dissertation.

MA–Phil 3.3   If you qualify for the degree on or after 31 May 2012 the degree will be awarded with merit if you obtain a merit grade in a minimum of 120 credits, including your dissertation.

MA–Phil 3.4   The Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you have 180 credits, of which not less than 120 are from successfully completed MA in Philosophy modules and not more than 60 are transferred credits.

MA–Phil 3.5   You may count up to 300 credits towards the degree.
MA–Phil 3.6  The credit for this qualification must include from Open University modules a minimum amount of credit that meets the University’s unique study regulations; that minimum amount is 60 credits.

MA–Phil 4  CREDIT TRANSFER

MA–Phil 4.1  The credit transfer scheme for the MA in Philosophy is governed by the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses).

MA–Phil 4.2  Any award of transferred credit must take the form of module exemption and/or general credit exemption. No award of credit transfer is permitted in place of any postgraduate foundation module or the dissertation.

MA–Phil 4.3  The maximum award of transferred credit allowed towards the MA is 60 credits: one third of the credit requirement of the degree.

MA–Phil 5  PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEGREE

MA–Phil 5.1  In order to actively continue your studies, you must satisfy the assignment and examination requirements and make satisfactory progress as specified for the qualification. If you fail to satisfy the assignment and examination requirements for the qualification for which you are registered or to make satisfactory progress, you will cease to be registered for the MA in Philosophy and will have no more right to continue your studies than a new applicant.

MA–Phil 5.2  The credit required from modules or any permitted credit transfer for the MA in Philosophy must be obtained during a period not exceeding 10 years. Modules do not need to be studied consecutively.

MA–Phil 5.3  You must take a postgraduate foundation module in your first year of study either as your only module, or together with one or more subject modules to a maximum of 120 credits. You must pass a postgraduate foundation module, or be registered for an examination resit, before you take any subject module in any successive year.

MA–Phil 5.4  The dissertation must form the final credit for your degree. You may not take any other modules, or examination resits, or examinable component re-submissions together with the dissertation.

MA–Phil 5.5  Credit from particular modules may cease to be countable towards the MA in Philosophy at a specified point in time after their final presentation.

MA–Phil 6  DISSERTATION

MA–Phil 6.1  You must submit a dissertation conforming to the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses). The topic for your dissertation must be appropriate to the subject of your postgraduate foundation module or at least one of your subject modules, in or recognised by the subject line.

MA–Phil 6.2  The dissertation must be between 12,000 and 18,000 words, including footnotes and excluding bibliography. You may be required to attend a *viva voce* (oral) examination on your dissertation.

MA–Phil 6.3  The dissertation will be submitted to examiners appointed by the Senate. It may be found to be:

(a) Pass with distinction
(b) Pass with merit
(c) Pass
(d) Pending – but with permission for you to re-submit (only one re-submission permitted)
(e) Fail – with permission for you to re-register for the dissertation on a different topic.

If you qualify for this degree after 31 December 2018, you must qualify under the structure described in Regulation MA-Phil 7.1 to MA-Phil 10.3

MA–Phil 7 CREDIT REQUIREMENT

MA–Phil 7.1 To qualify for the MA in Philosophy, you must obtain a minimum of 180 credits by successful completion of modules specified in the degree profile where:

(a) 60 credits are from a specified compulsory Part 1 module or a specified discontinued module
(b) 120 credits are from a specified compulsory Part 2 module which includes a dissertation

MA–Phil 7.2 The degree will be awarded with distinction if you obtain a distinction grade in the compulsory 120 credit Part 2 module and a distinction, merit or pass in the compulsory 60 credit Part 1 module.

MA–Phil 7.3 The degree will be awarded with merit if you obtain a merit grade in the compulsory 120 credit Part 2 module and a distinction, merit or pass in the compulsory 60 credit Part 1 module.

MA–Phil 7.4 The Senate may permit you to qualify for the degree if you have 180 credits, of which not less than 120 are from successfully completed MA in Philosophy modules and not more than 60 are transferred credits.

MA–Phil 7.5 The credit for this qualification must include from Open University modules a minimum amount of credit that meets the University’s unique study regulations; that minimum amount is 60 credits.

MA–Phil 8 CREDIT TRANSFER

MA–Phil 8.1 The credit transfer scheme for the MA in Philosophy is governed by the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses).

MA–Phil 8.2 Any award of transferred credit must take the form of module exemption against the specified compulsory 60 credit Part 1 module. No award of credit transfer is permitted in place of the specified compulsory 120 credit Part 2 module.

MA–Phil 8.3 The maximum award of transferred credit allowed towards the MA is 60 credits: one third of the credit requirement of the degree.

MA–Phil 9 PROGRESS TOWARDS THE DEGREE

MA–Phil 9.1 In order to actively continue your studies, you must satisfy the assignment and examination requirements and make satisfactory progress as specified for the qualification. If you fail to satisfy the assignment and examination requirements for the qualification for which you are registered or to make satisfactory progress, you will cease to be registered for the MA in Philosophy and will have no more right to continue your studies than a new applicant.

MA–Phil 9.2 The credit required from modules or any permitted credit transfer for the MA in Philosophy must be obtained during a period not exceeding 10 years. Modules do not need to be studied consecutively.

MA–Phil 9.3 You must take the compulsory 60 credit Part 1 module in your first year of study. You must pass this module, or be registered for an examination resit or examinable component resubmission, before you take the compulsory 120 credit Part 2 module in any successive year.

MA–Phil 9.4 Credit from particular modules may cease to be countable towards the MA in Philosophy at a specified point in time after their final presentation.
MA–Phil 10  DISSERTATION

MA–Phil 10.1 You must submit a dissertation conforming to the Academic Regulations (Taught Courses). The topic for your dissertation must be appropriate to the subject of the taught modules and approved by your tutor.

MA–Phil 10.2 You must comply with the dissertation word length detailed in the appropriate Dissertation Guide/Module Guide/Study Guide. You may be required to attend a *viva voce* (oral) examination on your dissertation.

MA–Phil 10.3 The dissertation will be submitted to examiners appointed by the Senate. It may be found to be:

(a) Pass with distinction

(b) Pass with merit

(c) Pass

(d) Pending – but with permission for you to re-submit (only one re-submission permitted)

(e) Fail – with permission for you to re-register for the MA in Philosophy Part 2 module.