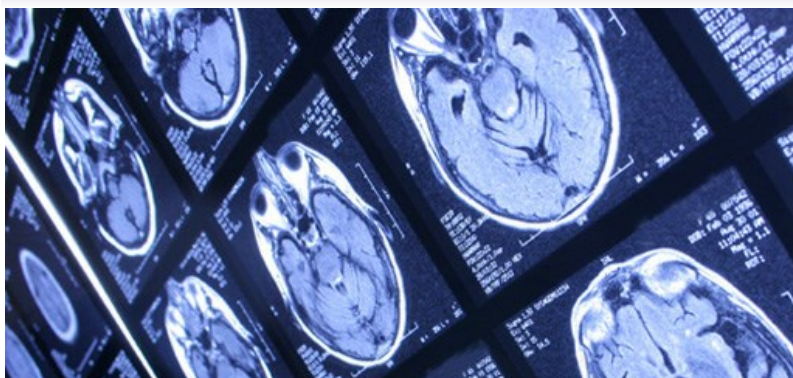


## Philosophy PhD (On-Campus or by Distance Learning)



We offer promising candidates the opportunity to study in a department that is strongly committed to delivering the highest quality of philosophical research. Our expert supervision spans across a wide range of areas, including: Philosophy of Mind and Cognitive Science; Philosophy of Language; Moral Philosophy (theoretical and applied); Metaphysics and Epistemology; and Philosophy of Religion.

**[Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham was awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)**  
 (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx>)

### Course fact file

**Type of Course:** Distance learning, doctoral research

**Study Options:** Full time

**Duration:** PhD – 3 years full-time; 6 years part-time, MA by Research – 1 year full-time; 2 years part-time

**Start date:** September

### Contact

Dr Ian Rumfitt

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Tel:+44 (0)121 41 45599

**[School of Philosophy, Theology and Religion \(/schools/ptr/index.aspx\)](/schools/ptr/index.aspx)**

**[Department of Philosophy \(/schools/ptr/departments/philosophy/index.aspx\)](/schools/ptr/departments/philosophy/index.aspx)**

### Details

The **PhD** – the most advanced research degree – leads to a dissertation of up to 80,000 words under the expert guidance of a supervisory committee. You will be assigned a lead supervisor from our full-time staff and one or more co-supervisors drawn from our entire staff, including Distinguished Research Professors. You can study for a PhD on campus or by Distance Learning.

You can study an MA by Research or PhD programme on campus or **[by Distance Learning \(/students/courses/postgraduate/research/arts-law-inter/distance-learning.aspx\)](/students/courses/postgraduate/research/arts-law-inter/distance-learning.aspx)**.

All PhD candidates are provided with regular meetings with the members of their supervisory committee. The principal role of these meetings is to guide candidates through the process of conceiving, researching and writing their dissertations. In addition, the departmental Director of Research Students will function as an academic advisor, providing general academic assistance and guidance. And you will also be given a departmental Mentor to assist with pastoral care and more practical issues. Additional research training is available and you will be provided with office space and computer, printing and copying facilities.

You are also encouraged to attend a weekly PG Research Seminar and the regular meetings of the Department's Philosophy Society, and Staff Seminar, as well as to apply for funds to attend and participate in graduate conferences.

If you are interested in our postgraduate research programmes in Philosophy, please have a look at our research areas and contact the departmental Director of Research Admissions (Professor Scott Sturgeon, [s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk) (<mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk>)), for advice on formulating your research proposal.



Profiles of our current doctoral researchers  
in Philosophy



At Birmingham you also have the option of **[studying languages](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/calgs/personal-development/languages.aspx)**  
 (<http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/schools/calgs/personal-development/languages.aspx>), free of charge. Almost no other UK University offers you the opportunity to learn the intense graduate academic language skills which you may need to pursue your research.

### Fees and funding

We charge an annual tuition fee. Fees for 2015/16 are currently as follows:

- Home / EU £4,090 full-time; £2,045 part-time
- Overseas: £13,195 full-time; £6,597.50 part-time

For part-time students, the above fee quoted is for year one only and tuition fees will also be payable in subsequent years of your programme.

Tuition fees can either be paid in full or by instalments.

Eligibility for Home/EU or Overseas fees can be verified with Admissions. Learn more about [fees for international students \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/International/students/finance/fees.aspx).

Learn more about [postgraduate tuition fees and funding \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/postgraduate/dr-fees/index.aspx).

## Scholarships and studentships

Scholarships to cover fees and/or maintenance costs may be available. To be eligible for these awards, candidates must hold either an offer of a place to study or have submitted an application to study at the University. To discover whether you are eligible for any award across the University, and to start your funding application, please visit the University's [Postgraduate Funding Database \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/fees/funding/FundingFilter.aspx).

International students can often gain funding through overseas research scholarships, Commonwealth scholarships or their home government.

## Entry requirements

Candidates are normally required to have at least an upper second-class honours degree with a significant philosophical component.

Learn more about [entry requirements \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/index.aspx).

## International students

### Academic requirements

We accept a range of qualifications; our [country pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/international/students/country/index.aspx) show you what qualifications we accept from your country.

### English language requirements

You can satisfy our English language requirements in two ways:

- by holding an [English language qualification \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/index.aspx) to the right level
- by taking and successfully completing one of our [English courses for international students \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/requirements/requirements-pg/international/english-courses.aspx)

## How to apply

### Before you make your application

You may wish to [register your interest with us \(https://bham.hobsons.co.uk/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=postgraduate\)](https://bham.hobsons.co.uk/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=postgraduate) to receive regular news and updates on postgraduate life within this Department and the wider University.

### Making your application

### For applicants to the PhD Distance Learning study mode only:

As part of the application process for the distance learning study mode, we will ask you to provide evidence to demonstrate that you have the time, commitment, facilities and experience to study for a PhD by Distance Learning. Please be prepared to provide evidence, and details, of the following:

- Examples of your postgraduate research experience and ability to work independently e.g. papers/presentations at professional and academic conferences or publications in professional journals or previous completion of an independent research project, etc.
- Full reasons (academic and personal) for registering for the distance learning mode of study rather than by standard full or part-time on-campus options. In particular, how you will be able to carry out your project in your chosen location.
- Access to local library facilities (where needed)
- Access to IT facilities
- Access to communications, including e-mail and visual communication media e.g. Skype and Facetime
- Access to facilities to support any study-related disability (where appropriate)

You can upload this information at the time of application - when asked to provide supporting documentation - or via your applicant portal once you have submitted your application.

### For all applicants:

When clicking on the Apply Now button you will be directed to an application specifically designed for the programme you wish to apply for where you will create an account with the University application system and submit your application and supporting documents online. Further information regarding how to apply online can be found on the [How to apply pages \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/courses/postgraduate/apply-pg/index.aspx)

[Apply now \(https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CAL106.htm\)](https://pga.bham.ac.uk/lpages/CAL106.htm)

## Related links

[Postgraduate funding - Department of Philosophy \(/schools/ptr/departments/philosophy/postgraduate/funding.aspx\)](/schools/ptr/departments/philosophy/postgraduate/funding.aspx)

## Research interests of staff

### **[Distinguished Research Professor Paul Boghossian \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/boghossian-paul.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/boghossian-paul.aspx)**

- Epistemology
- Philosophy of mind
- Philosophy of language

Professor Boghossian will co-supervise students with other members of staff. For more information, please contact [Professor Scott Sturgeon](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk).

### **[Professor Lisa Bortolotti \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/bortolotti-lisa.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/bortolotti-lisa.aspx)**

- Philosophy of psychology
- Philosophy of psychiatry
- Empirically informed philosophy of mind
- Biomedical ethics

### **[Dr Darragh Byrne \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/byrne-darragh.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/byrne-darragh.aspx)**

- Reference
- Consciousness (especially semantic and epistemic issues)
- First-person knowledge
- A priori knowledge
- Objectivity, realism and anti-realism
- Rule-following and the normativity of meaning

### **[Distinguished Research Professor Hartry Field \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/field-hartry.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/field-hartry.aspx)**

- Philosophy of mathematics
- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Logic
- Philosophy of science
- Philosophy of language

Professor Field will co-supervise students with other members of staff. For more information, please contact [Professor Scott Sturgeon \(mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk).

### **[Distinguished Research Professor Kit Fine \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/fine-kit.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/fine-kit.aspx)**

- Metaphysics
- Logic
- Philosophy of language

Professor Fine will co-supervise students with other members of staff. For more information, please contact [Professor Scott Sturgeon \(mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk).

### **[Dr Nikk Effingham \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/effingham-nikk.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/effingham-nikk.aspx)**

- Analytic metaphysics (including areas that crossover into philosophy of mind and philosophy of science)
- Certain areas of philosophy of religion

### **[Dr Nicholas Jones \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/jones-nicholas.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/jones-nicholas.aspx)**

- Metaphysics
- Philosophy of language

### **[Dr Iain Law \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/law-ian.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/law-ian.aspx)**

- Metaethics
- Applied ethics
- Philosophy of medicine
- Ethical theories

### **[Dr Elizabeth Miller \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/miller-elizabeth.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/miller-elizabeth.aspx)**

- Metaphysics
- Philosophy of Science

### **[Professor Yujin Nagasawa \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/nagasawa-yujin.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/nagasawa-yujin.aspx)**

- Philosophy of religion
- Philosophy of mind
- Applied philosophy (medical ethics, meaning of life, death)

### **[Distinguished Research Professor Stephen Neale \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/neale-stephen.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/neale-stephen.aspx)**

- Philosophy of language and linguistics
- Logic
- Philosophy of mind
- Metaphysics

Professor Neale will co-supervise students with other members of staff. For more information, please contact [Professor Scott Sturgeon \(mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk).

**[Professor Ian Rumfitt \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/rumfitt-ian.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/rumfitt-ian.aspx)**

- Philosophy of language
- Philosophy of logic
- Philosophy of mathematics

**[Distinguished Research Professor Susanna Siegel \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/siegel-susanna.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/siegel-susanna.aspx)**

- Perception
- Philosophy of mind
- Epistemology

Professor Siegel will co-supervise students with other members of staff. For more information, please contact **[Professor Scott Sturgeon \(mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk)**.

**[Dr Alex Silk \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/silk-alex.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/silk-alex.aspx)**

- Philosophy of language
- Normative ethics
- Metaethics
- Formal semantics and pragmatics

**[Dr Maja Spener \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/spener-maja.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/spener-maja.aspx)**

- Philosophy of mind
- Philosophy of psychology and cognitive science
- Epistemology

**[Professor Scott Sturgeon \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/sturgeon-scott.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/sturgeon-scott.aspx)**

- Epistemology
- Metaphysics
- Philosophy of science
- Philosophy of mind

**[Dr Jussi Suikkanen \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/suikkanen-jussi.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/suikkanen-jussi.aspx)**

- Metaethics
- Ethical theories
- Happiness and wellbeing
- Population ethics and ethics of global warming
- Practical reason, reasons, rationality, and value
- Certain topics in political philosophy such as distributive justice

**[Distinguished Research Professor Ralph Wedgwood \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/wedgwood-ralph.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/wedgwood-ralph.aspx)**

- Metaethics
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of mind
- Philosophy of language

Professor Wedgwood will co-supervise students with other members of staff. For more information, please contact **[Professor Scott Sturgeon \(mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk\)](mailto:s.sturgeon@bham.ac.uk)**.

**[Professor Heather Widdows \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/widdows-heather.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/widdows-heather.aspx)**

- Bioethics and public health
- Global ethics, global justice, and duties beyond borders
- Iris Murdoch
- Moral theory, particularly virtue ethics
- Neo-colonialism and multiculturalism
- Women's rights and reproductive rights
- Ethics of war, terrorism and torture
- The application of moral theory to policy and practice

**[Dr Jeremy Williams \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/williams-jeremy.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/williams-jeremy.aspx)**

- Moral and political philosophy
- Applied ethics (especially abortion and ethics of war)

**[Dr Alastair Wilson \(http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/wilson-alastair.aspx\)](http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/staff/profiles/philosophy/wilson-alastair.aspx)**

- Metaphysics
- Epistemology
- Philosophy of physics
- Philosophy of science

## Employability

The University of Birmingham has been ranked 8th in the UK and 60th in the world for post-qualification employability in the latest global survey of universities commissioned by the International Herald Tribune.

Your degree will provide excellent preparation for employment and this will be further enhanced by the employability skills training offered through the College of Arts and Law Graduate School.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. [Get the latest Flash Player](#) [Get the latest version of QuickTime](#)

Birmingham's Philosophy postgraduates develop a range of skills that are highly desirable in the job market, including: articulacy; precise analytical thought; clarity; rigour in formulating complex problems; and the ability to analyse and construct sound arguments.

Over the past five years, over 93% of Philosophy postgraduates were in work and/or further study six months after graduation. Due to the transferable nature of their skills, Philosophy postgraduates traditionally enter a wide range of employment areas, from the Civil Service to finance. Employers that graduates have gone on to work for include: Afrikids (child rights organisation); Birmingham and Solihull Mental Health Foundation Trust; Muslim Scout Fellowship; Rights and Humanity; University of Birmingham; and University of Edinburgh.

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