The Institute of Philosophy offers a comprehensive range of BA, MA, Research Master and PhD degrees, all taught in English. Taken as a whole, our undergraduate and postgraduate degrees aim to give you a comprehensive familiarity with the history of Western philosophy as well as with contemporary movements in analytic and continental philosophy, allowing you to engage with the fundamental areas of philosophical research today. The Institute of Philosophy is proud to offer all its students a broad philosophical education and a wide range of courses and seminars, as well as personalised study support and guidance.

International Profile

Philosophy has been taught at KU Leuven since its founding in 1425. Through the centuries, the university has remained an important and influential centre of philosophical thought, with its education informed by a strong international dimension. In more recent times, the Institute of Philosophy, established in 1889, has continued this tradition and is now an internationally recognised centre of philosophical research and education.

The Institute of Philosophy is international in every sense of the word:

- It offers a complete programme of philosophical studies in English, in addition to a complete programme in Dutch.
- It has its roots in the eminent tradition of European continental philosophy. In recent years, however, it has embraced other philosophical traditions ranging from Anglo-American thought to non-Western philosophy. The Institute is truly committed to philosophical pluralism.
- Members of its teaching staff come from the USA, Italy, the Netherlands, Germany, Austria, and Ireland.
- It attracts visiting scholars and students from all over the world. Some 70 different nationalities are represented.
- With 5 research centres, some 30 full-time staff and more than 150 adjunct faculty members, post-docs, and doctoral students, it is among the largest research groups in philosophy on the continent.
- It hosts several international conferences every year with widely varying themes and involving a mix of well-established and up-and-coming philosophers from near and far.
- It has one of the finest philosophical libraries in the world. The library contains more than 90,000 volumes and maintains subscriptions to more than 300 journals. It is user-friendly, with open stacks, a liberal lending policy, and extensive electronic resources.
- In 2017 the Institute of Philosophy was ranked 30th in the world among philosophy programmes (QS World University Rankings).

DURATION

BA: 3 years (full-time), 180 ECTS
BA (Abridged programme): 1 year (full-time), 64-65 ECTS
MA: 1 year (full-time), 60 ECTS
Research MA: 2 years (full-time), 120 ECTS
Research MA (Abridged programme): 1 year (full-time), 60 ECTS

APPLICATION DEADLINE

1 March (for non-EEA citizens)
1 June (for EEA citizens)

ACADEMIC CALENDAR

1st semester: end of September → end of January (exams in January)
2nd semester: half of February → July (exams in June)

www.kuleuven.be/academiccalendar

TUITION FEES

The tuition fee for a full-time registration is around € 906.10 for EEA students and € 3500 for non-EEA students (subject to final approval).

Please consult the website for the most recent information and for information on partial tuition waivers for non-EEA students:


KU Leuven. Inspiring the outstanding.
Programme

BACHELOR

The aim of the BA programme is to provide a thorough, broad, and comprehensive historical and systematic education in philosophy. At the same time, the programme seeks to provide you with the research skills necessary for successful written and verbal expression in philosophy. You will also learn to use philosophical skills in analysing contemporary societal debates. The BA thus prepares you for further studies in philosophy and many other fields as well as for a variety of careers. The Institute of Philosophy offers 2 BA programmes: the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy and the Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Abridged programme.

Programme Structure: Bachelor of Philosophy (180 ECTS)
The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy programme is a three-year programme of 180 ECTS credits divided into 3 stages. You should earn an average of 60 ECTS credits per stage. The programme is structured around basic and historical philosophy courses (the so-called “Core Courses”), seminars, and electives.

- The Core Courses provide you with the necessary knowledge of the history of philosophy and key philosophical themes and concepts.
- In the seminars, you learn how to read and analyse texts closely, as well as give well-structured presentations.
- Electives, which also include non-philosophical courses, stimulate your interests and encourage interdisciplinarity.
- An important part of the programme is the Bachelor’s Paper with Seminar, a course in which you learn to research and write a more extended piece of philosophical scholarship.

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult www.kuleuven.be/ba/bphill

Advanced Placement

The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy is a three-year programme (180 ECTS credits) but if you have some tertiary education you may be eligible to apply for admission with advanced placement. If you have a BA degree in a field other than philosophy and no academic background in philosophy you are recommended to apply to the one-year Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Abridged programme, which allows you to graduate with a full BA degree in philosophy after just one year of study. The Bachelor’s programme can be followed on a full- or part-time basis.

Programme Structure: Abridged programme (64-65 ECTS)
The Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy Abridged programme is a one-year programme of 64-65 ECTS credits structured on the same principles as the regular BA programme but focusing particularly on the Core Courses, a limited number of seminars, and the Bachelor’s Paper with Seminar.

For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult www.kuleuven.be/ba/bphill
MASTER

The aim of the MA programme is to develop your knowledge of philosophy by exposing you to more detailed study of the central issues of the subject and by equipping you with the research skills needed to proceed to a higher degree.

- **Programme Structure: Master of Philosophy (60 ECTS)**

  The Master of Arts in Philosophy is a one-year programme of 60 ECTS credits. In terms of its structure, the MA provides a broad range of advanced courses, which, together with electives, ensure the comprehensiveness of the programme. At the same time, the MA allows you to focus on specific areas of philosophy and its history, and hence to begin to develop your own specialisation. At the end of the programme, you should be able to make a thorough and critical analysis of philosophical texts, situate these texts in the history of ideas, and conduct proper research work at an advanced level, culminating in a Master’s thesis where you can demonstrate your research, writing, and argumentative skills, as well as thorough insight in your chosen research question. This programme can be followed on a full-time or part-time basis.

  You are encouraged to present your thesis research to an international audience at the yearly Graduate Student Conference that the Institute of Philosophy has hosted with much success for five years now. For any help with the writing process or preparing a presentation, you can turn to the Institute of Philosophy’s Writing Lab.

  For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult [www.kuleuven.be/ma/mphil](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/mphil)

RESEARCH MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

The Research Master of Philosophy programme is primarily research-oriented and functions as a first step towards the doctoral programme. The Research MA allows you to concentrate on a particular field of study, supplemented by courses, seminars, and the oral defence of a research-based thesis.

- **Programme Structure**

  The Institute of Philosophy offers two Research Master programmes: the two-year Research Master of Philosophy programme of 120 ECTS credits and the Abridged programme of 60 ECTS credits. To be eligible for the Research Master programme of 120 ECTS credits you should have already obtained a BA degree in philosophy with good results or have an equivalent academic background.

  The structure of the programme focuses firmly on the development of high-level independent research. There is a strong concentration on a number of fundamental research seminars and on the thesis, during which specialised skills are developed. The research seminars are grouped into 8 “Majors”:

  1. Ancient, Medieval and Renaissance Philosophy
  2. Metaphysics and Modern Philosophy
  3. Aesthetics and Philosophy of Culture
  4. Phenomenology
  5. Continental Philosophy
  6. Political Philosophy
  7. Ethics
  8. Analytic Philosophy

  Upon registration you choose the Major that reflects your specialisation. The Major, includes both course work, a Research Paper, and the Research MA thesis. The thesis should demonstrate your ability to conduct original research and to eventually pursue doctoral studies.

  You are encouraged to present your thesis research to an international audience at the yearly Graduate Student Conference. For any help with the writing process or preparing a presentation, you can turn to the Institute of Philosophy’s Writing Lab.

  Note that, if you already have an MA in philosophy, and are seriously thinking about philosophy as a career, you might be eligible for our Research Master’s Abridged Programme, a one-year, 60-credit programme that is designed to prepare you for philosophy at the PhD level.

  For detailed descriptions of the courses and for the course timetable, please consult [www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnphil](http://www.kuleuven.be/ma/mnphil)
Discover KU Leuven

Founded in 1425, the University of Leuven (KU Leuven) has been a centre of learning for almost six centuries. Today, it is Belgium’s largest and highest-ranked university as well as one of the oldest and most renowned universities in Europe.

As a leading European research university and co-founder of the League of European Research Universities (LERU), KU Leuven offers a wide variety of programmes in English supported by high-quality interdisciplinary research. Boasting an outstanding central location in the heart of Europe, KU Leuven offers a truly international experience, high-quality education, world-class research and cutting-edge innovation.

Your profile

For all of our educational programmes you should possess intellectual curiosity, a strong interest in questions of meaning, a capacity for abstract and conceptual thinking as well as a critical capacity to examine one’s own presuppositions and views.

Admission requirements

To be eligible for admission to the Philosophy Programme in English, you have to meet our general admission requirements and follow the application procedure.

Unless you are a native English speaker, you must submit a certificate proving your proficiency in English. The Institute of Philosophy requires a minimum score of 90 - 100 pt. on the internet-based TOEFL, 600 pt. on the paper-based TOEFL or an IELTS score of 6.5 - 7.5 pt. If you can provide a proof that you successfully completed at least one year of study in secondary or higher education or not less than 54 credits in higher education at a native English speaking institution, you can request that the Board of Admission exempts you from submitting another proof of language proficiency.

In addition to the general KU Leuven requirements, there are specific requirements for each of the different philosophy programmes. For more information, please see: www.hiw.kuleuven.be/eng/admission/specificrequirements.html

Programme admission: www.hiw.kuleuven.be/eng/admission
General admission: www.kuleuven.be/admissions

Application procedure

KU Leuven uses an online application system. You can download and submit your application form via www.kuleuven.be/application, but please check the specific admission requirements for the philosophy programmes beforehand (see above).

Students with a Flemish degree can consult www.kuleuven.be/inschrijven.

Student exchange opportunities

The Institute of Philosophy has Erasmus+ exchange agreements with more than 40 European universities, including universities in Amsterdam, Berlin, Copenhagen, Paris, London, Dublin, Lisbon, Madrid, Siena, and Istanbul. Bachelor-level students have the opportunity to study at a foreign partner university for one semester, in either the second or the third stage of the 180 ECTS BA programme. Erasmus+ exchanges are also possible in the MA and Research Master.

Career perspectives

Graduates in philosophy go on to careers in many different sectors, including business, civil service, politics, education, publishing, media, the socio-cultural sector, journalism and academia.

Many employers seek candidates who are not only well grounded in a specific field, but are also able to handle the diverse challenges that arise in a fast-paced workplace. Graduates in philosophy are trained to think critically and to effectively organize their thoughts in both written and oral communication, making them valuable skills in any work environment.

Contact

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