Philosophy

ABOUT PHILOSOPHY

Almost everyone has been puzzled about a philosophical question at one time or another: For example, what is justice? What is personal identity? Is morality objective, or simply a matter of opinion? Is it rational to believe in God? What is consciousness? These are some of the central issues we address in Philosophy.

Why study Philosophy?

Philosophy will give you the opportunity to join discussions you may not get a chance to experience outside of a university context. You will contribute to dialogue that explores notions of life, death, and the human mind; study theories from past and present philosophers; and learn to structure and analyse arguments while improving your reasoning skills.

A philosophy student becomes a natural at communication; forming clear and persuasive arguments, conceiving complex ideas and developing as an independent thinker.

Philosophy studies are extremely popular with Arts/Law students. Like many other graduates, you'll feel inspired to think outside the square and look at the world in a different way.

Complementary areas of study

Having a foundation in Philosophy can enhance almost any other area you study. Just a few examples are:

- Ancient Cultures
- Economics
- Human Rights
- Politics & International Relations
- Bioethics
- Law

What are some of the topics Philosophy explores?

We make sure you have many options to choose from in later years, while providing a rigorous foundation in first year. Foundation units you will take are:

- Life, death, and morality
  (Introduction to Philosophy A)
- Time, self, and mind
  (Introduction to Philosophy B)

In second and third year some of our units include:

- Philosophy of mind
- Political philosophy
- God, freedom and evil
- Symbolic logic
- Topics in Indian philosophy
- Theory of knowledge
- Stoic and epicurean philosophy

How Philosophy fits into your Arts degree

You can take units in Philosophy towards a major, an extended major, a minor, or simply as elective units in your degree.

Career prospects

As a graduate of philosophy, you’ll be a high-level thinker suited to employment in a wide variety of areas. Your skills and knowledge in the field can be applied to almost any industry including:

- Not-for-profit sector
- Business
- Journalism
- Law
- Policy and/or government departments
- Teaching or Academia
- Research

From our students

“Doing a Philosophy unit for a semester has shaped my understanding in how we construct the world and how a group of people can influence many. This, along with critical thinking skills has really helped me in my other Arts studies as I have learnt how to support my arguments. I have also learnt analytical and evaluative skills during tutorials; however, the most important skill that Philosophy teaches you is how to develop a strong, valid conclusion. Philosophy is also not just debating about fruitless, non-existent concepts but about how society develops to influence our thinking, especially in why we tolerate things we do, and why we criticise other groups. I definitely recommend studying it!”

Kin Panti
Current Student

For more information:
future.arts.monash.edu/ug-philosophy