

# M.A. in Philosophy

Discipline of Philosophy,  
University of Galway  
Ollscoil Na Gaillimhe

Handbook 2024/25



OLLSCOIL NA GAILLIMHE  
UNIVERSITY OF GALWAY

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## Course Structure

### FULL-TIME (MPI1)

The full-time programme is completed over one academic year. Students must take modules and complete a minor dissertation to the value of 90 ECTS in total.

A minimum of 30 ECTS should be from the optional Philosophy modules.

The modules for 2024-25 are as follows:

#### Semester 1:

<b>PHILOSOPHY modules</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
<b>PI6114 Research Methods in Philosophy (over two semesters) [Mandatory]</b>	<b>5 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6101 Philosophy of Emotion</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6110 Ethics and Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6112 Self-directed Learning</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Other subjects' optional modules</b>	
<b>MIC504 The Art of Reading</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

#### Semester 2:

<b>PHILOSOPHY modules</b>	
<b>PI6114 Research Methods in Philosophy (over two semesters) [Mandatory]</b>	<b>5 ECTS</b>

<b>PI6115 Research Seminar: Participation and Management [Mandatory]</b>	<b>5 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6106 Dissertation [Mandatory]</b>	<b>30 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6102 Political Values in the Modern World</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6112 Self-directed Learning</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6113 Philosophy of Nature and Technology</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Other subjects' optional modules</b>	
<b>MIC6100 Resisting through Culture: Conflicts in Europe and Beyond</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>SP6158 Political Theory and Political Obligation: Authority, Autonomy and Reason</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>SP6149 Conflict, Peace and Security</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

**PART-TIME:**

- Students must take modules and complete a minor dissertation to the value of 90 ECTS in total over two years
- A minimum of 30 ECTS should be from optional Philosophy modules.
- Students must attain 45 ECTS in year 1 to progress to year 2. Students must attain 45ECTS in year 2.
- Students will need to take a minimum of 20 ECTs optional philosophy modules and 5 ECTS for PI6115 in year 1.
- In such case as a student takes the minimum philosophy modules in year 1, then they will have to take one optional Philosophy module in year 2.

The course structure for part-time students is as follows:

**Year 1:**

**Please note that you must take PI6115 Research Seminar: Participation and Management (5 ECTS), plus four other modules from the list below:**

**Semester 1:**

<b>Philosophy modules</b>	
<b>PI6101 Philosophy of Emotion</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6110 Ethics and Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6112 Self-directed Learning</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Other subjects' modules</b>	
<b>MIC504 The Art of Reading</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

**Semester 2:**

<b>Philosophy modules</b>	
<b>PI6102 Political Values in the Modern World</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6112 Self-directed Learning</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6113 Philosophy of Nature and Technology</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Other subjects' modules</b>	
<b>SP6149 Conflict, Peace and Security</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>SP6158 Political Theory and Political Obligation: Authority, Autonomy and Reason</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>MIC6100 - Resisting through culture: Conflicts in Europe and beyond</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

**Year 2:** The core modules, PI6114 and PI6106 must be taken plus one Optional module from below. Module offering is subject to change.

**Semester 1:**

<b>Philosophy modules</b>	
<b>PI6114 Research Methods in Philosophy [Mandatory]</b>	<b>5 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6101 Philosophy of Emotion</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6110 Ethics and Artificial Intelligence</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6112 Self-directed Learning</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>Other subjects' modules</b>	
<b>MIC504 The Art of Reading</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

**Semester 2:**

<b>Philosophy modules</b>	
<b>PI6114 Research Methods in Philosophy [Mandatory]</b>	<b>5 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6102 Political Values in the Modern World</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6112 Self-directed Learning</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6113 Philosophy of Nature and Technology</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>PI6106 Dissertation [Mandatory]</b>	<b>30 ECTS</b>
<b>Other subjects' modules</b>	
<b>MIC6100 Resisting through Culture: Conflicts in Europe and Beyond</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>SP6149 Conflict, Peace and Security</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>
<b>SP6158 Political Theory and Political Obligation: Authority, Autonomy and Reason</b>	<b>10 ECTS</b>

## Important Dates

### **Semester 1:**

Orientation to take place on **Friday, 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024, 11-1.30pm (including lunch)**. Students will be contacted by email near the time.

### **Term dates:**

#### **Semester One:**

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September – Friday 29<sup>th</sup> November 2024

#### **Semester Two:**

- Monday 13<sup>th</sup> January – Friday, 4<sup>th</sup> April 2025

### **Dissertation submission date:**

- Wednesday, 13<sup>th</sup> August 2025

**Timetable  
Philosophy Modules**

**Semester 1**

Ethics and Artificial Intelligence (PI6110)	Tuesdays 9-11 AC204
Research Methods in Philosophy (PI6114)	Tuesdays 11-12 Philosophy Seminar Room
Philosophy of Emotion (PI6101)	Wednesday 2-4 Philosophy Seminar Room

**Semester 1**

Other subjects'  
Modules

The Art of Reading (MIC504)	Mondays 3-5 Venue TBC
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**Semester 2  
(times liable to  
change)**

Philosophy Research Seminar: Participation and Management (PI6115)	Mondays, 11-1 Philosophy Seminar Room
Research Methods in Philosophy (PI6114)	Tuesdays, 12-1 Philosophy Seminar Room
Political Values in the Modern World (PI6102)	Mondays, 2-4 Philosophy Seminar Room
Philosophy of Nature and Technology (PI6113)	Tuesdays, 3-5, Philosophy Seminar Room



Other subjects'  
Modules

Conflict, Peace and Security (SP6149)	Wednesdays, 10-12 Aras Moyola MY330
Political Theory and Political Obligation: Authority, Autonomy, and Reason (SP6158)	Thursdays, 11-1, Venue TBC
Resisting through culture: conflicts in Europe and beyond (MIC6100)	Wednesdays, 11-1 Venue TBC

## Philosophy Module Descriptions

### Mandatory modules

**PI6114 Research Methods in Philosophy – Dr Nora Ward & Professor Felix Ó Murchadha**

This course will support students in developing advanced research skills in philosophy. Students will develop familiarity and competence with the advanced use of library resources and electronic databases relevant to philosophy research and will be introduced to the use of reference management programmes. They will discuss basic elements of advanced philosophical writing and will be supported throughout the different stages of developing their MA thesis. The module will comprise via Blackboard.

**PI6115 Research Seminar: Participation and Management - Dr. Tsarina Doyle**

This module allows students to do a substantial presentation of their research at discipline level, and to receive training and experience in both chairing seminars and contributing to them. Assessment is based on the presented paper in semester 1 or 2.

**PI6106 Dissertation**

Each student will write a 15,000-word dissertation, based on research into a topic of their choice, and supervised by a member of staff in Philosophy.

### Optional Modules

**PI6110 Ethics and Artificial Intelligence – Dr. Heike Felzmann**

Artificial intelligence technologies have evolved dramatically in recent years, impacting on many areas of human life. Societal responses to these developments have ranged from enthusiastic optimism to deep suspicion. The module will explore prominent ethical issues arising in relation to the design, use and societal impact of Artificial Intelligence. Topics addressed in the module include Philosophy of Technology, Value Sensitive Design, Responsible Research and Innovation (RRI), Privacy and consent, Contextual integrity, Transparency and explainable AI, Trust and

Trustworthiness, Datafication, Algorithmic surveillance, Algorithmic Bias, Autonomous artificial agents and responsibility, and Human replacement.

**PI6102 Political Values in the Modern World – Dr. Richard Hull**

This course will look at the ways in which political values interact with the modern world. It will begin with an introduction to central political and ethical theories along with exploration of key distinctions that tend to be relied upon, whether implicitly or explicitly. It will then focus on current issues in political theory, concentrating on themes such as justice, equality, freedom, toleration and genetics. It will look at how these themes are contested in modern diverse democracies.

**PI6101 Philosophy of Emotion – Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha**

This course will explore emotion and feeling from a phenomenological perspective. Taking account of classical phenomenological texts and contemporary debates, this course will consist in a discussion of the nature of emotion, an analysis of specific emotions and finally an exploration of some broader themes with respect to emotion, specifically with respect to the constitution of the self and the nature personhood.

**PI6113 Philosophy of Nature and Technology - Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha**

This course will examine fundamental themes in the philosophy of nature in the context of the philosophy of technology. Beginning with Schelling in the context of German Idealism and Romanticism, the mechanical account of nature will be put in opposition to an organic model. We will then explore various philosophical accounts of technology (drawing on Heidegger, Anders, Stiegler, Idhe and Verbeek) with a view to analysing the understandings of nature underlying them. The course will conclude by examining contemporary New Materialist, Feminist and Object-Orientated ontological approaches to these issues.

**PI6112 Self-directed Learning** - Dr. Felzmann (Semester 1 only), Prof. Ó Murchadha (Semesters 1 & 2), Dr Elvis (Semesters 1 & 2) Dr. Doyle (Semester 2 only), Dr. Hull (Semester 2 only)

This course is designed for students to develop a research topic along with members of academic staff. Working on the basis of an initial reading list agreed with the student, this module will involve intensive engagement on the topic with a view to developing a research paper.

## Assessment

Individual lecturers will give details about assessment and submission dates at the beginning of the module.

## Marks and Standards

Honours are awarded only on completion of the programme according to the following scheme:

H1 70% on the aggregate

H2.1 60% on the aggregate

H2.2 50% on the aggregate

H3 40% on the aggregate

Honours are awarded only on the aggregate performance at an Examination as a whole.

Honours are not awarded on the basis of results obtained in individual modules.

For information on marks and standards and how your degree is calculated, see [QA236 PG Marks and Standards](#).

## Essay Writing and Referencing

For guidelines on writing an essay and referencing, see examinations [section](#).

## Plagiarism and Academic Integrity

### What is Plagiarism and how is it defined in the University?

Plagiarism is taking the credit for someone else's ideas and making out that you thought of these ideas yourself. This is a form of intellectual theft. In third level colleges, plagiarism is a serious offence. It merits a severe penalty, and the student may lose the entire marks for that assignment

and receive disciplinary action. You need to be aware of how serious an offence plagiarism is, and take care to avoid it in your assignments, and particularly in a thesis.

**Plagiarism is defined by the Academic Council of the University as follows:**

1. Plagiarism is the act of copying, including or directly quoting from, the work of another without adequate acknowledgement. The submission of plagiarised materials for assessment purposes is fraudulent and all suspected cases will be investigated and dealt with appropriately by the University following the procedures outlined here [University of Galway Code of Practice for Dealing with Plagiarism] and with reference to the Disciplinary Code.
2. All work submitted by students for assessment purposes is accepted on the understanding that it is their own work and written in their own words except where explicitly referenced using the accepted norms and formats of the appropriate academic discipline.
3. Whilst some cases of plagiarism can arise through poor academic practice with no deliberate intent to cheat, this still constitutes a breach of acceptable practice and requires to be appropriately investigated and acted upon. (See University of Galway [Code of Practice for Dealing with Plagiarism at University of Galway Academic Integrity](#).)
4. The Discipline of Philosophy has a dedicated Academic Integrity advisor, Dr Richard Hull, who is responsible for dealing with suspected and reported cases of breaches of academic integrity including plagiarism and the use of generative AI. Please see the Academic Integrity Policy and Procedures [here](#) for further details. dealing with breaches of academic integrity,

**Examples of plagiarising the work of other students**

- Getting someone else to write your essay, report, assignment or thesis.
- Using ChatGPT or other generative AI applications inappropriately in the development of your work, by generating academic content (even if the wording is rephrased) or specific written material and presenting those as your own.
- Taking material written by someone else, putting your own name to it, and handing it in as your own work.
- Copying parts of the work of another student/author and including them in your own essay, report or thesis without acknowledging the source.
- Taking ideas, theories, direct quotations, diagrams, statistics, tables, photographs, graphs from a published source or the Internet, and including them in your assignment without stating a source.
- Allowing another student to copy your work is also considered to be plagiarism and both students are subject to penalty.
- Plagiarised work in group assignments or projects can be caused by the contribution of a single student, but the group submits and is therefore fully responsible for that. The penalty affects all students in the group.

To avoid plagiarism, you must give credit whenever you use: another person's idea, opinion, or theory; any facts, statistics, graphs, drawings — any pieces of information whatsoever that are not common knowledge; quotations of another person's actual spoken or written words; or paraphrase of another person's spoken or written words.

## Examples of plagiarism from published sources

- **Direct quotation:** Using the exact words of another person without giving them credit for it.
- **Paraphrasing:** Putting someone else's ideas into your own words without giving them credit by citing the source for the ideas.
- **Using statistics, tables or a graphic** (diagram, figure, picture and so on) without citing a source.
- **Summarising material** from a source without acknowledging where the ideas came from.

**Fair use:** Remember, you cannot base your thesis on chunks of material 'borrowed' from your reading materials. Instead, you must form your own opinions about the thesis topic and use your reading materials fairly to support your own ideas, making sure to cite the sources of everything you use.

**Common Knowledge:** A lot of information is considered 'common knowledge', so you do not have to quote a source for it. For example, Galileo discovered that the earth goes around the sun. Up until his discovery, everyone thought that the sun circled the earth. Even though this new idea was thought up by Galileo, we do not need to cite him as the source □ this information (fact) has become common knowledge, something that 'everyone knows'. As a rule of thumb, any fact that you would be able to find in ten different books, you do not need to cite a source for it. Such facts are 'common knowledge'.

You must, however, cite a source for any new facts; say for example recent information about the impact of global warming on the climate of Ireland. It is only facts that have become common knowledge that you can use without citing a source. You must always cite a source for opinions someone's personal point of view about a fact.

For example, if you are doing an assignment on a social issue, like equality in the workplace, you will probably draw facts from a range of published works, use ideas drawn from your own experiences, and may carry out some primary research like a survey based on a questionnaire. You will need to cite sources for all the opinions and facts taken from your reading materials and explain clearly what information comes from your survey.

## Essay Writing and Referencing

For guidelines on writing an essay and referencing, see

<https://www.universityofgalway.ie/colleges-and-schools/arts-social-sciences-and-celtic-studies/history-philosophy/disciplines-centres/philosophy/examinations/>

## Academic Writing Centre

The Academic Writing Centre offers advice on academic writing. For further information, see

[www.library.nuigalway.ie/awc/](http://www.library.nuigalway.ie/awc/)

## Choosing a Dissertation Topic and Dissertation Supervision

Students must consider their dissertation topic in consultation with a member of staff. You should choose a topic or question that you are interested in. Your topic may be one that has been addressed in one of your taught modules, but it does not have to be. However, you should choose a topic that can be supervised by one of our members of staff. You should, therefore, consult with a member of staff whose research interests are similar to your own for advice about your topic. The topic should be one that can be addressed and managed in the context of a 15,000-word dissertation. A common mistake made by MA students is to choose a topic that is more suited to a larger project such as an M.Litt or PhD. The Coordinator of the programme is always happy to advise students about topics and potential supervisors.

Students are advised to begin consulting with a member of staff about their dissertation topic no later than January of the second semester with a view to having a secure plan for the thesis by the end of the second semester.

Students should contact the Programme Coordinator with the name of their supervisor and provisional title of their dissertation by **1<sup>st</sup> February 2025**.

Students should note that staff members may not be available for consultation throughout the summer due to annual leave and professional commitments off-campus. It is important, therefore, that you consult with your supervisor fully during the course of the second semester.

## Submission of Dissertation

You must submit your thesis electronically on Canvas. Once your thesis is successfully passed you may upload a copy of it to the James Hardiman Library making it available to others for reference. You do this via the Library website under [Special Collections Support](#)

The dissertation should contain the following front matter:

1. A title page (containing the title of the thesis and subtitle, if applicable, the student's name, supervisor's name, name of programme, month and year of submission)
2. Table of Contents: The 'Table of Contents', which should not be over-detailed, shall immediately follow the title page. The text must be printed on good quality (110g/m<sup>2</sup>) A4 size paper. Line-spacing should be a maximum of one-and-a-half; text must be left justified with a left-hand margin of 4 cm and may be right justified. The main body of the text should be formatted in Times New Roman Font 12 and printed on one side of the page only. More compact formats, with smaller font sizes, are usually appropriate for certain sections, such as reference lists, bibliographies and some kinds of appendices. Pages must be numbered consecutively, with page numbers located centrally at the bottom, and chapter headers at the top of each page. Diagrams, graphs, photographs and tables should be properly numbered and located in relation to the text.
3. Declaration regarding the work: The candidate must certify that the thesis is all his/her own work and he/she has not obtained a degree in this University, or elsewhere, on the basis of this work. This declaration should follow the Table of Contents.
4. A 'Summary of the Contents', not exceeding 300 words in length
5. Acknowledgements (if appropriate)

## Class Representative

Students will elect a class representative who will mediate between the student body and the Philosophy Discipline. In general, the class representative meets with the Coordinator of the programme at least once a semester. Students may consult with the MA Coordinator or a member of staff directly if they wish. Staff are always happy to discuss any issues that may arise either with individual students or through the mediation of the class representative.

## Student Services

For information and advice on career development, disability support, mature student's services, societies and sport, accommodation, crèche services, financial aid, student health, Chaplaincy services, counselling, health and well-being, see [Student Support Services](#).



## **Student Information Helpdesk**

For replacement ID cards, exam transcripts, registration and custom statements, change of name/address, validation and stamping of forms, course withdrawal and lost and found, visit their [website](#).

## **University policies and procedures relating to students**

For information on anti-bullying policy for students; alcohol policy; supports for students experiencing pregnancy, maternity and paternity; authorised absences; drug policy; student sexual harassment policy; mental health strategy; student code of conduct and other university policies relating to students, see students' [policies and procedures](#).

## **Campus Map**

### **The College Library**

The James Hardiman Library is located in the Hardiman Research Building, which is a few paces away from the Philosophy Discipline on Distillery Road. For further information, see University of Galway [Library](#)

### **Desk Space**

Students may apply to use hot desks in the Arts Millennium Building. Please contact the College of Arts office for further information: [artspostgrad@universityofgalway.ie](mailto:artspostgrad@universityofgalway.ie)

## Contacts

<p><b>Programme Coordinator:</b> Prof. Felix Ó Murchadha</p>	<p>Morrisroe House, Room 202, 19 Distillery Road</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:Felix.omurchadha@universityofgalway.ie">Felix.omurchadha@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
<p><b>School Administrator:</b> Ms. Helena Condon</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Sohap@universityofgalway.ie">Sohap@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
<p><b>Discipline Administrator:</b> Ms. María Bernal Navarro</p>	<p><a href="mailto:Philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie">Philosophyadmin@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
<p>Dr. Tsarina Doyle (On sabbatical in Semester One)</p>	<p>Room 101, Morrisroe House, 19 Distillery Road</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:tsarina.doyle@universityofgalway.ie">tsarina.doyle@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
<p>Dr. Lucy Elvis</p>	<p>Morrisroe House, Room 102, 19 Distillery Road</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:lucy.elvis@universityofgalway.ie">lucy.elvis@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
<p>Dr. Heike Felzmann (On sabbatical in Semester Two)</p>	<p>Morrisroe House, Room 201, 19 Distillery Road</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie">heike.felzmann@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
<p>Dr. Richard Hull (Semester Two only)</p>	<p>Morrisroe House, Room 104, 19 Distillery Road</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:richard.hull@universityofgalway.ie">richard.hull@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>

<p>Dr Nora Ward (Semester One only)</p>	<p>Morrisroe House, Room 104, 19 Distillery Road</p> <p>E-mail: <a href="mailto:nora.ward@universityofgalway.ie">nora.ward@universityofgalway.ie</a></p>
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## Thinking of applying for a PhD after the MA?

Our PhD programmes are available on a full (over four years) and part-time (over six years) basis. Applications for the PhD programme should be submitted through the Postgraduate Application System (PAC). Course codes are available on PAC ([www.pac.ie](http://www.pac.ie)).

To apply for the PhD programme, you will need a proposal that describes your research project, outlines your central research questions and that indicates how your project will contribute to current research in the area. You should consult with a potential supervisor for advice about the research project before submitting an application. You should also examine the requirements of the applications for the Irish Research Council and Galway Doctoral Scholarships (details below) as guidelines for writing the proposal.

You should consult with the Programme Director about application requirements, such as transcripts of academic results and references.

## Potential Sources of Funding for PhD Research

Irish Research Council: see [www.irc.ie](http://www.irc.ie)

Hardiman Research [Scholarship](#)