Welcome Back to Philosophy at Edinburgh!

This year, you'll hone your philosophy skills and explore new topics in your mandatory modules

- *Mind, Matter, and Language* – the place of minds and language in nature
- *Knowledge and Reality* – origins of knowledge and identity

In addition, you may consider taking the optional course

- *Philosophy of Science 1* – what’s so special about science anyway?

**Advancing to honours.** In order to advance to honours, it is critical that you pass both your year 2 modules *on first sit*, with a combined *average of 50.*

Last year, single honours students will have taken the 1st year pre-honours modules in an outside subject in addition to their mandatory modules, and you are all very strongly encouraged to follow up with the 2nd year pre-honours modules in that same subject as outside courses this year.

*Joint honours students should note that their degree may have slight differences in requirements—contact your Personal Tutor or check your DPT for details.*
The structure of 2nd year modules is largely the same as that of 1st year modules. However, you can expect some differences.

*Difficulty Level* – topics covered and assigned readings may be more challenging than those you encountered in first year.

*Expectations* – you will be expected to achieve a greater level of understanding of readings; you will be held to higher standards in your written work.

*Tutorials* – In *Knowledge and Reality*, your tutorials will be run by the lecturers on the course. This will put you in closer contact with your instructors, and prepare you for year 3, when lecturer-led tutorials are the norm.

More challenging material means it’s important to take advantage of all the resources available to you on each module. To get the most out of your course, remember to

- Attend all lectures and actively engage with the material.
- Read actively, underlining and taking notes. Consider reading assigned readings twice, once before, and once after, lecture.
- Attend tutorials having thought about the material and prepared for discussion.
- Go to office hours, especially if you have any questions about course material.
- *Ask questions!*

**New Opportunities**

- *Philosophy Skills Workshops* – These workshops are aimed at improving critical philosophy skills in reading, writing, and argument outside the ordinary classroom setting. The format has been changed from last year to tie material more closely to your module’s content.  
  [https://writingcentre.ppls.ed.ac.uk/PhilSkills/](https://writingcentre.ppls.ed.ac.uk/PhilSkills/)

- *Writing Centre* – The PPLS Writing Centre offers one-on-one sessions for 2nd – 4th year students for reading and advice on essay drafts.  
  [https://writingcentre.ppls.ed.ac.uk/](https://writingcentre.ppls.ed.ac.uk/)

- *Student Initiative Fund* – PPLS offers students the opportunity to organize their own events, from hosting an academic speaker to supporting a cultural or social celebration; so long as it will benefit the PPLS undergraduate community, you can apply for financial support.  
  [https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/philosophy/current/undergraduate/funding-student-initiatives](https://www.ed.ac.uk/ppls/philosophy/current/undergraduate/funding-student-initiatives)