MEL and Philosophy Year Abroad

If you are a Language and Philosophy student, you will spend your third year abroad learning the language. This document is meant to provide information about the philosophy component of your degree during that time.

The normal degree programme for a MEL and Philosophy joint honours student requires that they take 40 credits of philosophy during their year abroad. To achieve this, you will be enrolled in the 40 credit “Philosophy Work” course.

Credit for this course can be achieved in two ways.

First: If you are at a university and they offer a philosophy degree, you can earn the credits by proposing a list of courses amounting to 20 ECTS credits (which equals 40 University of Edinburgh credits). These should be courses which students at the host university might take in their third year, but they must correlate roughly with our 3rd year level. You and the exchange coordinator in philosophy will then sign a Learning Agreement. The courses may be taken in English (where available) or the appropriate foreign language. Note that courses taken in English will not satisfy requirements imposed by the language component of your degree so talk to your personal tutor.

- The Learning Agreement should be discussed and signed before you depart.
- However, in some cases it may be necessary to change the Learning Agreement depending on the “facts on the ground.” This is permissible, but you should contact the philosophy exchange coordinator as soon as possible.
- When you return, your marks will be translated to the scale in the Edinburgh degree and count towards your degree classification.

Second: If you are not at a university, they do not offer philosophy courses, or you are not yet sufficiently capable with the foreign language to take 3rd year philosophy courses, then you take a year-long online module called “Philosophy Work” worth 40 credits covering philosophical methodology. This module involves video lectures, online posting, two 1500-word essays, and two 2500-word essays.

Before you leave, please get in touch with the philosophy exchange coordinator and tell them whether you are taking philosophy abroad or whether you are taking the online course.