
Licentiate in Philosophy

Course Director: Rev Dr Thomas Casey SJ

The *Licentiate in Philosophy* (PhL) is a full-time Level 9 Award. It is a specialised licentiate in the systematic study of Philosophy.

Rationale: The aim of the programme is to enable students to deepen their knowledge and introduce them to research in Philosophy in the Christian Tradition.

Programme Level Learning Outcomes

By the end of this programme, graduates will be able to:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Demonstrate an advanced knowledge and understanding of key texts, events, theories, interpretations and arguments relating to the study of Philosophy within the Christian Tradition, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of the disciplines
- Utilise different methods for approaching philosophical texts
- Identify fruitful questions in different areas of philosophy
- Address philosophical questions on the basis of the Christian Philosophical tradition

Intellectual and Cognitive Skills

- Analyse precisely and assess critically primary and secondary sources
- Assess philosophical theories and methods on the basis of different positions within philosophy
- Carry out an independent and well-defined research project under supervision and in accordance with ethical norms for academic integrity

Practical and Transferrable Skills

- Assess questions from a critical perspective
- Apply knowledge to complex problems
- Communicate research orally and in writing
- Communicate philosophical insight both to peers and to a wider audience

Entry Requirements

- Applicants whose mother-tongue is not English should provide evidence of possessing the necessary level of English, both written and spoken. The requirements correspond to the standards demanded by Maynooth University.
- Applicants should provide certificates to establish that they have received a Baccalaureate or Bachelor's degree in Philosophy from a recognized institution. Students who have done their philosophical studies in a civil Faculty of Philosophy can only be admitted if their preparation meets the requirements for an Ecclesiastical Faculty of Philosophy. Where a deficiency exists, certain modules must be taken to satisfy the ecclesiastical undergraduate requirement.
- Applicants must normally have been awarded at least an upper second or equivalent in their Bachelor's degree in Philosophy.
- Applicants should provide a letter of recommendation showing evidence of their character and integrity. In the case of seminarians or priests, this letter should be provided by their Ordinary or College Rector; in the case of religious or consecrated persons, this should be provided by their Superior or Study Director; in the case of lay students, this should be provided by an ecclesiastical person who knows the candidate well.
- Applicants should provide a personal statement accompanying their application, in which they provide reasons for applying to study for a Licentiate, the prior preparation (undergraduate study) and skills (e.g. knowledge of philosophy, organizational and critical thinking abilities, etc.) they possess, and the goals they have, including both short-term aims for the programme, and long-term goals for their work after the proposed degree.
- Applicants should undergo an interview with two members of staff, which will normally be based on the personal statement they have submitted as well as upon their academic history.
- Applicants should provide evidence that they have a funding plan for their studies.

Programme of Study

Candidates are required to follow, and take examinations in, the required postgraduate courses over two years and submit a dissertation that demonstrates an ability for systematic study in philosophy.

Candidates must complete at least nine graduate Modules, and a minor dissertation, the topic of which must be first approved by the director and reader of the dissertation.

Modules are chosen from the suite of modules available at the appropriate level (Level 9/10) through the Faculties of Philosophy and Theology at the Pontifical University, and the Department of Philosophy, Maynooth University.

The Programme of Study must be arranged in consultation with the Dean of Philosophy.

Requirements for being awarded the Licentiate in Philosophy (LPh) degree:

- If candidates do not already have some proficiency in a second academic language, they must acquire at least a reading knowledge of the same, preferably an academic language that is relevant to their area of research. In order to show their reading knowledge, students must pass a translation examination arranged by the Faculty of Philosophy.
- Candidates must complete all degree requirements within three years after their admission to the programme.
- This minor dissertation should be between 25,000 and 30,000 words in length (excluding bibliography and appendices). Two copies of the dissertation should be submitted in spiral binding to the Pontifical University Office. After an oral examination on the thesis with two members of the Faculty, and once the thesis is finally approved (before which certain amendments may be required), one hard copy should be deposited in the Pontifical University Office. An electronic copy must be submitted for public access in the John Paul II library.
- Candidates must pass the following examinations:
 1. The regular examinations required in each course.
 2. A written examination demonstrating that they can read a second language, ancient or modern, as appropriate.
 3. An oral examination of 30 minutes duration, based on their thesis, before two members of the Faculty.