

# Philosophy / University of Edinburgh

## MSc Philosophy Specialisation

# Ethics: The Fundamentals



School of Philosophy,  
Psychology and  
Language Sciences



“I came to Edinburgh to work with some of the best minds in the moral philosophy business but found something I didn't expect. There's a buzz here that can't be conveyed through course lists and event calendars. The faculty working in ethics and throughout the department are on the cutting edge of their fields, yet they always manage to find time to deal with my work and my concerns. When everyone's exploring new terrain it really motivates you to do original work that might not get a hearing somewhere more conservative. However, since the faculty always manage to make time for their students, you're not nearly as likely to go off a cliff. That combination of creativity and rigour make this a special place to learn how to do philosophy.”

*Raymond Critch, former Edinburgh PhD working in moral theory*

“I liked that there was a real sense of community and support from lecturers and other students, even ones I didn't have classes with, and there was always plenty going on, socially and academically...I enjoyed all the classes and thought the occasionally wildly varying viewpoints/approaches of the different lecturers, even within the comparatively small ethics specialisation, was great in terms of encouraging an atmosphere of fresh debate.”

*Ruth Yates, former Edinburgh MSc working in moral theory*

Based in the beautiful city of Edinburgh (frequently ranked the most liveable city in the UK), you will study Philosophy at this world-renowned University. Edinburgh is also the centre of the largest Arts festival in the world, the Edinburgh Festival Fringe.

Edinburgh has one of the world's largest and most vibrant postgraduate communities in Philosophy. We also host an extremely active research community, with a regular programme of research events. Indeed, in the latest UK Research Assessment Exercise (RAE), Philosophy's research activity was judged to be either 'world-leading' or 'internationally excellent'.

Ethics: The Fundamentals is a new intensive specialisation (within the MSc/Dip Philosophy programme) designed to provide training in philosophical method and expertise in all of the fundamental areas of moral philosophy.

With seven members of staff doing internationally recognised research in moral philosophy, the research environment in that area is one of the strongest in the world.

A natural contrast is with terminal masters degrees in philosophy in the US. Our intensive but more specialised one year masters specialisation offers many of the same benefits as these degrees, but in *half* the time.

We make a point of ensuring that students in this specialisation are properly trained in all of the major areas of moral philosophy. Moral philosophy as a field is traditionally divided into meta-ethics, normative ethics and practical ethics, and our specialisation provides classes in each of these core areas. Students also participate in two advanced seminars in moral philosophy in which members of staff, invited speakers and advanced PhD students present their own cutting edge research for discussion.

We now offer a rather unique system of assigning a senior postgraduate as a mentor for incoming postgraduates. This is in addition to assigning a member of staff as a PG Advisor for all incoming postgraduates, thereby ensuring support from both staff and more experienced fellow postgraduate students.

### Academic Programme

This MSc programme is a research-focussed degree. We keep programme sizes small so that all students will have extensive one-to-one supervision and direction with leading academics in the field throughout the year.

The required courses correspond to the three main areas of moral philosophy, two advanced seminars in moral theory, and a training course in methods.

For full details please contact the Postgraduate Office at the School of Philosophy, Psychology & Language Sciences [ppls@ed.ac.uk](mailto:ppls@ed.ac.uk) or visit: <http://www.ppls.ed.ac.uk/postgraduate>