How to apply for an MPhil/PhD in Philosophy

The Centre for Research in Modern European Philosophy (CRMEP) welcomes applications from research students in any field that falls within its remit. New research students can enrol at two points in the year October and March.

Admission criteria
Applicants should normally have obtained a good result (merit or distinction, or the equivalent) in an MA programme in Philosophy or a related subject. Consideration is also given to applicants with other kinds of qualifications on an individual basis.

Application process
We are delighted you are considering a PhD course at Kingston. Please make your application here using these proposal guidelines below.

Potential applicants should first contact the member of staff whom they would like to consider as their Director of Studies, for preliminary discussion of their research plans: http://fass.kingston.ac.uk/research/crmep/staff/

You should then send a copy of their CV and a draft research proposal to that member of staff, copied to the Philosophy Research Degrees Coordinator, Professor Peter Osborne: mailto:p.osborne@kingston.ac.uk

Guidance notes for writing a research proposal

This research proposal must be organised as follows (the whole proposal should not exceed four pages of A4)

1. Title of proposed research
   Your title should itself serve as a summary of your project, and should identify the main problem and material on which you plan to work.

2. Research context/state of the field
   What is the philosophical or theoretical context of the proposed research? What is the relation of the proposed research to the existing literature on the topic? How is the proposed research positioned in relation to the most important current debates in the relevant field(s)?

3. Research questions/problems
   What are the philosophical or theoretical problems that the research will investigate? Why is it important that these questions/problems be investigated?
4. Proposed research
How will the proposed research address the research questions/problems? How will the proposed research make an original contribution to the relevant field(s)? (Along with section 3, this is the most important section.)

5. Research plan
Give an outline of the initial plan for the proposed research, for example a chapter-by-chapter breakdown of the proposed plan of study. (The initial plan is indicative, not prescriptive.) This plan should take into account the timeframe within which the research degree must be completed by (three or four years' of full-time study, or six years part-time).

6. Indicative bibliography
This should comprise a concise selection of your main primary texts and a selection of secondary texts, as well as other sources and resources where appropriate.

7. Institutional rationale
Briefly explain why the CRMEP is the best place for you to undertake the proposed research. This section may include your reasons for wishing to work with a particular supervisor.

8. Personal statement
Briefly explain how your previous study, or your academic or professional background, has prepared you to undertake the proposed research.

If your draft proposal is accepted, you will be asked to come to the Penrhyn Road campus for an interview, and to meet current students and staff. We rely on skype (or, exceptionally, telephone) interviews for some international applicants. Applicants who are able to visit the campus are encouraged to time it so as to coincide with one of our research seminars; these provide a good opportunity to meet other students and staff, and to get a general feel for the place. See

Fees and Funding
Fee information for UK/EU and international students is available here: http://www.kingston.ac.uk/research/research-degrees/fees/

The main national source of research funding (for UK and EU students only) is the Arts and Humanities Research Council (AHRC). Kingston University is part of the AHRC TECHNE consortium. If you wish to apply to this scheme, in order to enrol, as a PhD student at Kingston will need to apply through the TECHNE Block Grant Partnership Consortium.