

An overview of common pathways in Philosophy at Australasian Universities (please be aware that pathways may vary at each University):

Bachelor of Arts: The Bachelor of Arts degree generally consists of three (but sometimes four) years of study. In choosing to major or minor in Philosophy students are expected to take an assigned number of Philosophy classes each year.

Bachelor of Arts (Honours): The Bachelor of Arts (Honours) is a separate degree to the regular Bachelor of Arts. It involves one year of study, including classes at a postgraduate level, and often requires completion of a research project or short thesis.

Master of Arts: When a Master of Arts degree follows on from a BA (Hons) degree it is usually one year in length. When taken without a prior postgraduate qualification it is generally two years in length. Some Universities offer coursework based Masters degrees, but generally these still involve a significant research component. The Master of Arts by research requires a thesis which often takes one year to complete.

Master of Philosophy: The Master of Philosophy is a research focused degree. The primary focus throughout that time is on completing a thesis, but classes may also be taken to support that goal. It is generally two years in length.

Doctorate of Philosophy: The PhD is a research degree which requires successful completion of a comprehensive thesis. It is generally 3-4 years in length.

Philosophy, Politics, Economics: More commonly Universities offer Philosophy, Politics, Economics (degrees). These require students to take courses in all three subjects, with the hope that the combined insight into each will provide a more in depth understanding of our world. Generally PPE is taken as a major through a Bachelor of Arts degree, but some Universities offer postgraduate PPE options too.

Philosophy Modules: Increasingly, many Universities now offer modules in areas of Philosophy. Ethics or Critical Thinking are two common examples. This allows students to complete a qualification in Philosophy as part of a degree taken outside of Philosophy. Modules often involve a combination of several classes.

Electives: Electives are classes which can be taken as part of a degree in another subject. By taking electives students can continue to major in another subject, while taking class(es) in Philosophy. Students undertaking an Arts based degree will be permitted to take a greater number of electives in Philosophy, though students studying outside of the Arts may still be able to take courses in Philosophy this way.

Professional Development: In recent times various programs are also offered for professionals. These programs provide excellent opportunities for gaining many of the skills most beneficial for the workplace, outside of a traditional degree. The University of Queensland's Critical Thinking program (<https://critical-thinking.project.uq.edu.au/>) provides a great example of this. It's worth checking Universities near you to see what's available.

Universities of the Third Age (U3A): As an alternative option, Universities of the Third Age provide a great opportunity, primarily for seniors, to continue learning in a community-oriented, casual manner. A range of organisations within Australasia provide such opportunities, through short courses, lectures, study sessions and other events. For more information see <https://u3aaa.org/member-contacts/>