



UiT The Arctic University of Norway

Program description

Master in Philosophy

120 credits (ECTS)/ Tromsø

The program description has been approved by the board of Faculty for humanities, social sciences and education on 24.9.2025

From autumn 2026



Study programme name	English: Master's Programme in Philosophy Bokmål: Master i filosofi Nynorsk: Mastergrad i filosofi
Degree obtained	Master of philosophy
Target group	The master's degree in philosophy is particularly suitable for students who wish to explore philosophical issues at an advanced level, either as a basis for a PhD and further research, or as a starting point for a career outside academia. Relevant fields outside academia include management, administration, and consulting, as well as exciting creative professions in the culture and media sector. The master's degree in philosophy is research-oriented and gives students the opportunity to specialize in various topics concerning human existence, metaphysics, science, ethics, and politics. With support from supervisors and an international academic environment, students are equipped with advanced analytical and methodological tools and learn to formulate critical questions, analyse complex issues, and argue independently. Throughout the program, students develop highly relevant abilities in today's world such as creative, abstract, and structured thinking.
Admission requirements, required prerequisite, recommended prerequisite knowledge	Admission to the master's program in philosophy requires a bachelor's degree in philosophy or related disciplinary field with a specialization of at least 80 credits in philosophy or equivalent. The specialisation should show a progression from introductory to more advanced courses in philosophy. Applicants must have a minimum grade average comparable to a Norwegian C (2,5) in the ECTS scale.
The study programme's Learning Outcome	Knowledge <i>The student will...</i> • acquire advanced knowledge of selected topics within ethics metaphysics, philosophy of mind, political philosophy, epistemology and philosophy of science. • get insight into key ideas and developments in the history of Norwegian philosophy. • acquire specialized knowledge of the topic in their master's thesis. Skills <i>The student can ...</i> • analyse and critically assess philosophical theories and arguments. • develop their own lines of thinking on philosophical questions.

	• conduct an independent research project in philosophy under supervision in accordance with applicable research ethical norms. • apply ideas, arguments and concepts from both contemporary philosophy and the history of philosophy to current social, ethical, and political issues. Competence <i>The student is able to ...</i> • communicate complex ideas clearly and systematically both orally and in writing. • engage in academic debates and discussions in a rigorous and respectful manner. • make classical and contemporary philosophical theories and problems intelligible and engaging to non-expert audiences (for example pupils and students at lower levels). • use analytical skills to think through complex issues and arguments in a critical and systematic way.
Academic content and description of the study programme	The master's degree program consists of a master's thesis on a self-chosen topic (60 ECTS), a training part in advanced topics in philosophy (50 ECTS), and a mandatory interdisciplinary course in sustainability and innovation (10 ECTS) (see the table below). In the first semester, the student takes two advanced courses in philosophy, one in ethics, and the other one in metaphysics and philosophy of mind. In addition, there is the course in sustainability and innovation mandatory for all master students at UiT. In the second semester the student takes three courses in philosophy, this time one in Norwegian philosophy, one in political philosophy and one in epistemology and philosophy of science. The third and fourth semesters are dedicated to working on the master thesis. In the beginning of the third semester, the student needs to develop a project description with a list of literature and a plan for development. In the fourth semester, the student finalizes the master thesis. See the individual course descriptions for information on work requirements, exams, and lecturing.

Table: programme structure	Semester	10 ECTS	10 ECTS	10 ECTS
	1. semester	TVR-3000 Sustainability and Innovation	FIL-3026 Topics in Ethics	FIL-3027 Topics in Metaphysics and Philosophy of Mind
	2. semester	FIL-3025 Norwegian Philosophy	FIL-3028 Topics in Political Philosophy	FIL-3029 Topics in Epistemology and Philosophy of Science
	3. semester	FIL-3900 Master's Thesis in Philosophy		
	4. semester	FIL-3900 Master's Thesis in Philosophy (60ECTS)		
Learning activities, examination and assessment	The teaching is given in the form of lectures, seminars and supervision sessions. The examination mainly consists of take-home exams in combination with sit-in or oral exams. All courses are assessed on an A-F grading scale, where A is the best grade, E is the worst passing grade, and F means that one has not passed. With a grade of F, the student is given the opportunity to take a re-sit exam. For details about teaching, examination methods, and re-sit exams, see the individual course descriptions.			
The study programme's relevance	Subject to given grade requirements, a master's degree in philosophy qualifies for admission to the PhD program in philosophy and possibly other subjects. The study program provides relevant expertise for professions within schools and education, cultural institutions, political organizations, nature management, non-profit organizations, public administration, journalism, the publishing, media and communication industries, and in business.			
Work scope	The master's degree in philosophy is designed as a full-time program with a workload equivalent to an average working week. Teaching takes place at UiT's campus in Tromsø. As a general rule, students are expected to actively participate in three weekly two-hour teaching sessions (lectures or seminars), and to come to meetings well prepared. In addition, students are expected to work independently on course readings as part of their exam preparations. Students who work more than 20% outside of their studies may progress more slowly.			

For master's theses/independent work in master's degrees	The master's thesis is an independent work of approximately 80 pages, on a self-chosen topic, which is followed up by a professional supervisor. The student is also required to submit a list of relevant literature (700-800 pages), at least half of which must be primary literature. Both the topic of the thesis and the literature list must be approved by the supervisor.
Language of instruction and examination	The program is in English. Teaching is therefore in English in all mandatory 3000-level courses. Also, the course literature is in English, but students have the opportunity to choose whether to take the exam in English, Norwegian, or another Scandinavian language. This holds for the master's thesis as well.
Internationalisation	The department has an international profile, and there are several employees who have worked or studied outside of Norway. In addition, there are often foreign students on exchange at the department, as well as other visitors who are on research stays. The institute also organizes international conferences where students are invited to participate.
Student exchange	The master's thesis must be taken at the Department of Philosophy at UiT, but you can take philosophy courses at the department's partner universities. The department recommends that you take a study abroad early in your studies. Approval for study abroad is based on application. We have several exchange agreements, which we believe are well suited to philosophy students. Depending on the place and time of the exchange, you study philosophy or other relevant subjects. The department has a good track record when it comes to student exchange and the academic community is continuously working to expand the portfolio of exchange agreements. Exchange agreements are entered into and renewed frequently, so if you are thinking of going on an exchange, it is recommended that you contact the program manager well in advance of the planned exchange.
Administrative responsibility and academic responsibility	The Faculty of Humanities, Social Sciences and Teacher Education is administratively responsible for the program. There is also a program manager at the department, who has academic responsibility for the BA and MA programs in philosophy.
Quality assurance	The study program is evaluated annually. The courses included in the study program are evaluated at least once during the program period. The course evaluation consists of the students' and lecturers' evaluation.

