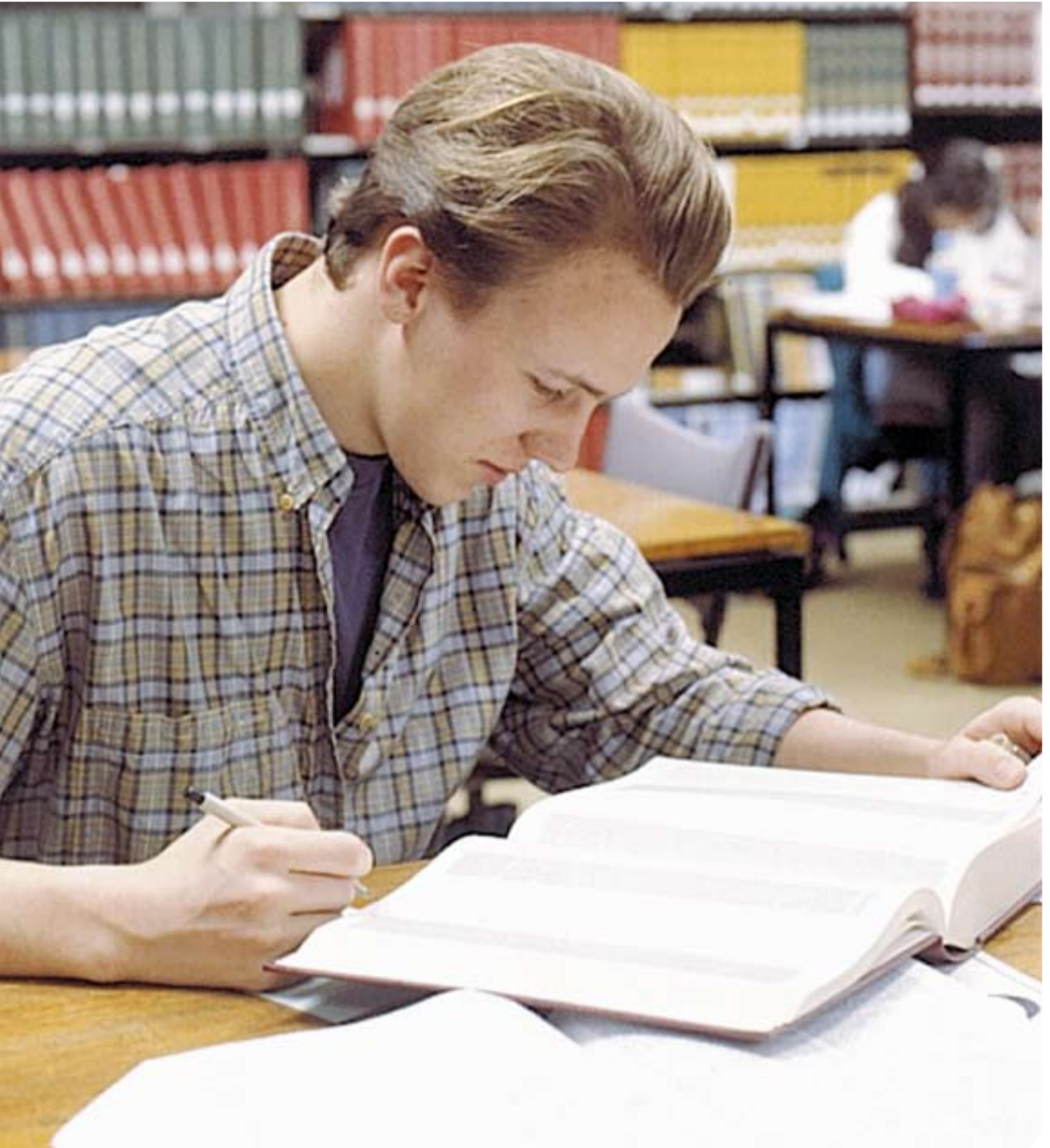




Research degrees in Philosophy and Bioethics

Course information for prospective students



Research degrees in Philosophy and Bioethics

Australia and New Zealand have an international reputation for excellence in philosophy. The Monash School of Philosophy and Bioethics is an important part of this reputation.

The Centre for Human Bioethics was founded in 1980 by Professor Peter Singer. It is among the oldest and best known of the world's research centres devoted to ethical issues in medicine and biotechnology.

In addition to Bioethics, Monash Philosophy concentrates on research in the areas of:

- Logic and Metaphysics
- Moral Philosophy
- History of Philosophy

It's just as well that philosophy is not an Olympic sport. In the last few decades, Australasia has produced more good philosophers per head than almost anywhere else.

Professor Hugh Mellor
Cambridge University

The School offers three higher degrees by thesis: Master of Bioethics (MBioeth), Master of Arts (MA), PhD in Philosophy or Bioethics.

Australian and New Zealand students who qualify for entry to these courses do not pay tuition fees. There are also a limited number of scholarships available to international students.

Students enrolled in research degrees complete a substantial thesis that makes an original contribution to knowledge in the field. This sounds intimidating, but you will be helped to develop your idea for a research project by two supervisors. You will also participate in a series of induction seminars in which you will learn more about the craft of research: how to formulate your ideas into research questions; how to break down your problem into smaller, workable steps; and how to make best use of the research tools available to philosophers and bioethicists. You will also participate in our weekly work-in-progress seminar in which

research students trial new ideas from their thesis projects. Finally, all research students are invited to participate in the weekly staff seminar series. Friday afternoons are given over to papers by visiting philosophers and bioethicists, followed by question time, and then informal discussion over refreshments.

Many students undertake research degrees in philosophy and bioethics because they aspire to careers as academics. Over the past decade Monash has placed over half of its PhDs into post-doctoral fellowships or academic positions here and abroad.

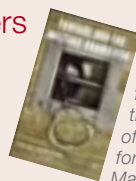
The school's large undergraduate enrolments also provide considerable scope for our MA or PhD students to undertake tutoring. For those who wish to pursue an academic career, this experience can be both valuable and rewarding.

Monash also enjoys reciprocal exchange relations with universities in the US and UK. Our research students are able to use these arrangements in order to work with leading philosophers abroad.

The Centre for Human Bioethics, in conjunction with the Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law at the World Health Organisation, has established an annual Fellowship, enabling one Monash Master of Bioethics student per year to undertake an internship in the Department of Ethics, Trade, Human Rights and Health Law at the WHO in Geneva.

The philosophers at Monash are extremely supportive of postgraduate students, and the diversity of philosophical areas that they work in is a great source of inspiration and education.

Dr Jessica Wolfendale
ARC Post-doctoral Fellow



My PhD thesis formed the basis of my book for Palgrave Macmillan.

Monash is strong across a range of specialties including logic, metaphysics and ethics. It is unusually strong in areas of philosophy not readily found elsewhere, for example ancient Greek and Indian philosophy.

Dr Steve Matthews
Research Fellow
Centre for Applied Philosophy and Public Ethics

These international connections, as well as the highly professional culture of the School of Philosophy and Bioethics, give our graduates an edge in the pursuit of academic careers.

Students who have not sought academic careers have also found their research degrees valuable.

Philosophy in the Monash style emphasises clarity of expression, freedom from obfuscating jargon, and a clear sense of why a particular problem matters.

Our graduates frequently transfer the skills engendered through the completion of their theses to positions in private companies or public service. Because philosophy and bioethics engage with issues in science, logic and mathematics, our graduates can and do move into positions that require literacy in these areas.

Members of staff and their research

Continuing staff

Dirk Baltzly	Ancient Greek philosophy, metaphysics, virtue ethics
Professor John Bigelow	Metaphysics, philosophy of mathematics, philosophy of science, philosophy of language
Monima Chadha	Philosophy of language, epistemology, philosophy of mind, Indian philosophy
Ian Gold	Cognitive science, metaphysics, epistemology (on leave 2007–09)
Associate Professor Karen Green	Philosophy of language, Simone de Beauvoir, Christine de Pizan, history of women's ideas
Toby Handfield	Metaphysics, political philosophy, philosophy of law, moral theory
Jakob Hohwy	Philosophy of mind, cognitive science, philosophy of psychiatry
Lloyd Humberstone	Philosophy of logic, metaphysics, modal logic and its applications
Jeanette Kennett	Ethics, moral psychology, philosophy and friendship (on leave 2007–09)
Professor Homer LeGrand	History and philosophy of science
Associate Professor Justin Oakley	Ethical theory and professional roles, ethical issues in patient care, surrogacy, virtue ethics, theory of emotion, reproductive ethics
Professor Graham Oppy	Philosophy of language, philosophy of religion, philosophy of science, aesthetics, logic, metaphysics, philosophy of mind
Rob Sparrow	Bioethics, moral philosophy, social and political philosophy, media ethics, environmental philosophy

Fixed-term staff

Jo Asscher	Applied ethics, bioethics, environmental ethics, professional ethics, graphic philosophy
Linda Barclay	Bioethics, moral theory, political philosophy
Elizabeth Burns-Coleman	Philosophy of art, political philosophy, philosophy of law
Sam Butchart	Philosophy of mathematics, logic, epistemology, philosophy of science
Fiona Leigh	Ancient Greek philosophy, ethics, contemporary European philosophy
Nick Trakakis	Philosophy of religion, epistemology, metaphysics

Emeritus

Edward Khamara	History of early modern philosophy, metaphysics
Associate Professor Helga Kuhse	Medical end-of-life decisions, new reproductive technologies, feminist ethics
Professor J. J. C. Smart	Metaphysics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of science, ethics
Aubrey Townsend	Philosophical logic, philosophy of mind, philosophy of language, history of philosophy

Monash has philosophers who are at the cutting edge of an astonishing range of fields. At Monash, a student can learn as much and be part of as much first-rate philosophy as at practically anywhere in the world.

Professor Brian Weatherston
Rutgers University
Editor, *Philosophy Compass*

The philosophical atmosphere at Monash is clear and unstuffy and the discussions are lively and diverse. I think that's what appealed to me.



Dr Simon Burgess
Senior Project Officer, Cape York
Institute for Policy and Leadership

Undertaking a PhD in philosophy at Monash gave me the skills and confidence to tackle complex public policy issues and projects. I was able to approach my work with well-developed analytical, conceptual, writing and research skills and deliver great results.

Dr Jo Waghorne
Senior Policy Advisor
Department of Sustainability
and Environment
Victorian State Government

Further information

For more information on what Monash philosophers and bioethicists are working on, visit our website:
www.arts.monash.edu.au/philosophy-bioethics

School of Philosophy and Bioethics

Building 11
Wellington Road
Clayton, Victoria 3800

Phone +61 3 9905 3209
Fax +61 3 9905 3206

School coordinator for research degrees

Professor John Bigelow
john.bigelow@arts.monash.edu.au

School administrative officer for research students

Colleen Claudius
colleen.claudius@arts.monash.edu.au

Home page of the Australasian
Association of Philosophy
aap.org.au

Home page of the Australasian
Bioethics Association
www.australasian-bioethics.org.au

