



**UNIVERSITY OF L'AQUILA**  
*Department of Human Studies*

**Degree profile of**

***2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Degree in***  
***PHILOSOPHY***

**Laurea Magistrale in**  
**FILOSOFIA**

**DEGREE PROFILE OF  
LAUREA MAGISTRALE IN FILOSOFIA  
SECOND CYCLE DEGREE IN *PHILOSOPHY***

TYPE OF DEGREE & LENGTH	Masters degree (120 ECTS credits, 2 years)
INSTITUTION(S)	Università degli Studi dell'Aquila Italy
ACCREDITATION ORGANISATION(S)	Ministry of Education (Italy)
PERIOD OF REFERENCE	MIUR 2012, for 3 years
CYCLE /LEVEL	QF for EHEA: 2 <sup>nd</sup> cycle; EQF level: 7; Italian NQF: <b>Laurea Magistrale</b>

<b>A</b>	<b>PURPOSE</b>
	<p>The two years of the Master degree in Philosophy aim at reinforcing the philosophical knowledge acquired by students during the bachelor, through courses on the main branches of philosophy and text analyses. The Programme teaches students the critical rationality that has characterised philosophy ever since Socrates and provides the tools and methods required for this exercise, through two main axes: the study of great authors and their texts throughout the history of philosophy, with classes dedicated to the field's main periods (ancient times, middle ages, modern era and contemporary era), and the study of the major branches of philosophy (metaphysics, theory of knowledge, logic, epistemology, moral philosophy, political philosophy, aesthetics, etc.).</p> <p>Graduates acquire a deep knowledge of philosophical topics and of the complexity of the various philosophical disciplines, and at the same time the methodological instruments for managing the fundamental moments of the western philosophical thought from ancient to modern times and establishing connections between different ages and stages of thought.</p>

<b>B</b>	<b>CHARACTERISTICS</b>		
1	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">DISCIPLINE(S) / SUBJECT AREA(S)</td> <td>Theoretical philosophy. Logic and philosophy of science. History of philosophy (ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary). Moral philosophy. Epistemology. Philosophy and theory of languages. History of Science and technique. Foundations of human sciences (general sociology, general psychology) History. Aesthetics. Italian linguistics. Comparative literatures.</td> </tr> </table>	DISCIPLINE(S) / SUBJECT AREA(S)	Theoretical philosophy. Logic and philosophy of science. History of philosophy (ancient, medieval, modern and contemporary). Moral philosophy. Epistemology. Philosophy and theory of languages. History of Science and technique. Foundations of human sciences (general sociology, general psychology) History. Aesthetics. Italian linguistics. Comparative literatures.
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2	<table border="1" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 30%;">GENERAL / SPECIALIST FOCUS</td> <td> <p>General, but students can choose to follow either a teaching focus, which will prepare them to teach History and Philosophy in secondary schools, or a research focus, which will allow them to take their first steps in research, by attending seminars with teachers, researchers and fellow master students, and by attending specialisation courses.</p> <p><u>The teaching focus</u> includes didactics and pedagogy courses, given as a part of the programme destined to future philosophy teachers;</p> <p><u>The research focuses</u> are available as manifold programmes: phenomenology, <i>moral and political philosophy, metaphysics and theory of knowledge, aesthetics and philosophy of art, and philosophy of science</i>. Optional courses offer support and integrate the chosen orientation.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	GENERAL / SPECIALIST FOCUS	<p>General, but students can choose to follow either a teaching focus, which will prepare them to teach History and Philosophy in secondary schools, or a research focus, which will allow them to take their first steps in research, by attending seminars with teachers, researchers and fellow master students, and by attending specialisation courses.</p> <p><u>The teaching focus</u> includes didactics and pedagogy courses, given as a part of the programme destined to future philosophy teachers;</p> <p><u>The research focuses</u> are available as manifold programmes: phenomenology, <i>moral and political philosophy, metaphysics and theory of knowledge, aesthetics and philosophy of art, and philosophy of science</i>. Optional courses offer support and integrate the chosen orientation.</p>
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3	ORIENTATION	Research orientation, with a strong component of application skills in several contexts
4	DISTINCTIVE FEATURES	An Erasmus mobility is recommended but not compulsory.

<b>C EMPLOYABILITY &amp; FURTHER EDUCATION</b>		
1	EMPLOYABILITY	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Publishing and other fields of cultural industry</li> <li>✓ Facilities and offices in charge of promoting cultural activities in state, regional and local public service</li> <li>✓ Cultural management and supervision of museums, libraries and other cultural institutions</li> <li>✓ News agencies, public relation, staff management, state and private administrative centers</li> <li>✓ Planning and management of professional training courses</li> <li>✓ Business management</li> <li>✓ Secondary school teaching (for which further degrees are necessary according to the law)</li> </ul>
2	FURTHER STUDIES	PhD

<b>D EDUCATION STYLE</b>		
1	LEARNING & TEACHING APPROACHES	Lectures, laboratory classes, seminars, small group workshops, individual study based on text books and lecture notes, individual consultations with tutors, preparing Diploma dissertations
2	ASSESSMENT METHODS	<p><b>Philosophy</b> is a free access 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Degree</p> <p><u>Entry requirements:</u> To be enrolled to the Master degree in Philosophy students must have a Bachelor degree in Philosophy or other programmes with at least 36 ECTS from exams in the field of Philosophy. Otherwise students have to do an oral interview with a committee composed by some of the teachers of Philosophy in order to verify their motivations and competences.</p> <p><u>Formative assessment</u> is a fundamental part of the teaching and learning activities. Throughout the Programme students are encouraged to become independent and self-motivated learners, thriving on challenge and opportunities to think for themselves. Small-group or individual tutorials, run alongside the lecture course allow the students to consolidate lecture material, as well as test understanding of the main philosophical questions and arguments presented by major figures in the history of philosophy. Throughout the programme, students are engaged in class discussions, short seminars and essays and outline research for dissertation, building up flexibility, open-mindedness, interdisciplinary knowledge and self-motivation. Furthermore students are invited to present Seminars with a variety of structures that involve a high proportion of collaborative learning: the ability to work with others on shared problems or to debate alternative viewpoints. Some taught options involve more in-depth co-operation on a presentation or on a written assignment. Building up networks of contacts for concrete application of philosophical thinking and concepts in dealing with problems arising in specific contexts of jobs and real life is also a key professional skill that the sheer breadth of teaching facilitates.</p> <p><u>Summative assessment</u> is performed in several ways, according to the characteristics of each Module. Written exams (essays), oral exams, oral presentations, continuing assessments, course work evaluation, final comprehensive exam.</p> <p>Students are informed of the assessment procedure before the courses start and are also provided with previous examples.</p> <p>Regardless of the student's choice, the programme concludes with a master's thesis. Dedicated either to one or several authors, to a specific question, or to a philosophical problem, chosen by the student, the thesis is produced under the authority of an advisor who supervises the work's conception and drafting. The thesis must follow specific criteria: formulation and development of a hypothesis, footnotes, attention to texts and quotations, etc. The thesis is orally presented to a jury comprising 11 members of the teaching staff, including the student's advisor, who evaluate the degree of independence in making</p>

	<p>judgments and the capacity of explain concepts and theories autonomously conceived.</p> <p><u>Re-assessment</u> procedures follow the principles decided at institutional level. Students can do the exams at the end of the each semester, in three officially established dates (appelli) or in September, for a total of 8 times a year and repeat the failed exam at any time, according to what is decided by academic authorities.</p>
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<b>E</b>	<b>PROGRAMME COMPETENCES</b>
1	GENERIC
	<p>The Master degree programme in <i>Philosophy</i> meets the competences and quality assurance procedures required by the National Higher Education Quality Assurance Agency (AVA) for degree courses at second level and the main national and local employers associations. This includes the Generic Competences expected for the second cycle graduated, as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>— <b>Written and oral communication:</b> Ability to speak and write correctly, according to the various communication registers, and especially to produce texts with a coherent argumentative structure.</li> <li>— <b>Critical thinking:</b> Ability to read texts/documents, analyze them in scientific terms, and propose personal point of view.</li> <li>— <b>Interpretative skills:</b> Ability to analyze texts and theories, historical and geographical contexts where they were developed, recognizing their cultural diversity and provide their personal comments.</li> <li>— <b>Ability to work autonomously:</b> ability to take individual initiatives, manage and program time, and produce results on schedule.</li> <li>— <b>Teamwork:</b> Ability to work with others in a multidisciplinary and multicultural setting.</li> <li>— <b>Popularization skills:</b> Ability to summarize and explain difficult ideas and concepts also to non-experts.</li> <li>— <b>Learning ability:</b> Ability, through independent study, to enter new fields by using interdisciplinary knowledge.</li> <li>— <b>Communication skills:</b> Ability to communicate effectively and to present complex information in a concise manner orally and in writing and using ICT and appropriate technical language.</li> </ul>
2	SUBJECT SPECIFIC
	<p>The Programme meets all the Specific Competences as established and agreed in collaboration with the field stakeholders and experts, clustered within the key overarching competences summarized below.</p> <p>Degree holders at 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle level in <i>Philosophy</i> are expected to have acquired</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Sound knowledge of</b> the history of the philosophical and scientific thought from ancient to modern times, as well as a wide breadth of information concerning current debates in various areas of philosophical research (theory, logic, epistemology, linguistics, aesthetics, ethics, religion, politics);</li> <li>- <b>Knowledge and understanding</b> of the central figures and themes in the history of philosophy;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to apply knowledge in practice:</b> ability to use background information to discuss a critical problem and to apply philosophical positions to practical issues involving ethics, social, and political philosophy, by finding and using connections between different fields and methodological approaches;</li> <li>- <b>Awareness</b> of the the fundamental issues of the contemporary historical-philosophical debate in the logic, linguistic, metaphysical, epistemological, aesthetical, political and ethic field (the latter up to the most recent acquisitions in bio-ethics, applied ethics and bio-politics);</li> <li>- <b>Command</b> of the terminology and methods regarding the analysis of problems, and <b>ability</b> to debate points and approach texts, at times in the original language;</li> <li>- <b>Capacity</b> to use appropriate Italian language to the production of scientific texts and <b>acquaintance</b> with the bibliographical instruments;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to use and apply</b> rhetoric and reasoning techniques in providing personal considerations;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to use</b> the appropriate terminology in every discipline in oral and written form in their own language and in a second language;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to use</b> appropriate research methodology and work tools specific to philosophy;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to perform</b> a critical reflection with a special emphasis on European identity, integration and multiculturality;</li> <li>- <b>Critical understanding</b> of the modern and ancient philosophical texts;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to identify</b> the relevant scientific literature, bibliography and sources to approach a philosophical question;</li> <li>- <b>Ability to communicate</b> research results in various ways according to the target audience in cultural context;</li> <li>- <b>Capacity to develop and defend</b> philosophical arguments, both orally and in writing;</li> <li>- <b>Awareness</b> of influential critical and interpretive methods;</li> <li>- <b>Capacity to apply</b> the critical reasoning skills necessary to effectively analyze and critique abstract concepts and arguments;</li> <li>- <b>A broad general culture</b> in human and social sciences through the introduction of disciplines such as history and historical criticism, psychology and sociology, literature and linguistics, arts;</li> <li>- <b>Capacity to apply</b> critical reasoning skills in a wide range of career settings;</li> </ul>

- Advanced level of knowledge of at least one EU language different from Italian.

F	COMPLETE LIST OF PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES
	<p>A newly graduated Master of <i>Philosophy</i> will acquire:</p> <p>Knowledge and understanding</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Thorough knowledge of the history of philosophical thought</li><li>2. In-depth understanding of the major philosophical thinkers and major philosophical movements over time.</li><li>3. Exposure to the major philosophical problems of human existence, and ability to discuss them on an intellectually informed basis, and to review them critically.</li><li>4. A broad-based education in the liberal arts, including exposure to the humanities, the social sciences, and the natural sciences, that may be considered complete in itself or suitable as preparation for graduate study.</li><li>5. Ability to process critically the general as well as the specific matters</li><li>6. Ability to provide an accurate account of the positions to major philosophical questions in ethics, social, and political philosophy</li><li>7. Understanding of concepts of right, wrong, good and bad; understanding of moral principles and their application in everyday life</li></ol> <p>Applying knowledge:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ability to apply the philosophical tools correctly</li><li>2. Ability to interpret and carry on a philological and critical analysis of texts</li><li>3. Ability to search for, process and analyze information from a variety of sources</li><li>4. Ability to manage complex information in a coherent and creative way, even in not strictly philosophical fields</li><li>5. Ability to apply philosophical positions to practical issues involving ethics, social, and political philosophy</li></ol> <p>Making judgement:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ability to judge and evaluate a philosophical text, and more generally, ideas and cultural topics</li><li>2. Ability to apply theoretical models to the contemporary age and issues in a critical and selective way</li><li>3. Ability to debate appropriately and evaluate the arguments in favor and against a philosophical, political, ethic and aesthetical thesis</li><li>4. Ability to analyze complex systems of thought and to provide a clear account of a view on major systematic problems in the areas of ethics, social, and political philosophy</li><li>5. Ability to provide an accurate account of the defense presented by major figures in the history of philosophy to challenges against their positions and arguments</li><li>6. Ability to verify the statements and the research methodology in a scientific way</li><li>7. Ability to recognize, express, and analyze arguments in philosophical texts</li><li>8. Ability to summarize and explain difficult ideas and concepts.</li></ol> <p>Communication skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ability to communicate philosophical topics and questions clearly.</li><li>2. Ability to identify and classify alternative conceptual models.</li><li>3. Ability to communicate both orally and through the written word in the first and in a second (foreign) language</li><li>4. Ability in writing that reflects careful attention to language, logic, and subtleties of reasoning</li><li>5. Ability to write philosophical essays that have coherent theses and reasonable supporting arguments</li><li>6. Ability to provide a strong argument on behalf of a philosophical position relevant to problems that arise in the context of a specific job or vocation</li><li>7. Ability to use information and communication technologies</li></ol> <p>Learning skills:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Ability to move within the philosophical field and to update knowledge</li><li>2. Ability to use the traditional bibliographical instruments as well as the most recent IT instruments.</li><li>3. Ability to verify the statements and the research methodology in a scientific way</li><li>4. Ability to read and interpret philosophical texts and to produce scientifically correct texts</li><li>5. Ability to understand reality from different perspectives and clearly, thoroughly, probingly thus to understand that different people will define issues in different ways.</li></ol>

**Comprehensive Scheme of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Cycle Degree in  
PHILOSOPHY**

YEAR	CODE	COURSE	Credits (ECTS)	Semester
I	DQ0244	Theoretical Philosophy (12 ECTS)	24	1/2
	DQ0029	Metaphysics and the Theory of Knowledge (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0015	Moral Philosophy (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0101	History of Philosophy (6 ECTS)	18	1/2
DQ0115	History of Ancient Philosophy (6 ECTS)			
DQ0054	History of Medieval Philosophy (6 ECTS)			
I	DQ0111	Cultural Anthropology (6 ECTS)	12	1
	DQ0127	General Sociology (6 ECTS) <i>(not held in the A.Y. 2015-16)</i>		
I	DQ0012	<i>1 Module chosen between the following is compulsory:</i> History of Scientific and Philosophical Thought (6 ECTS)	6	1/2
	DQ0186	General Psychology (6 ECTS)		
II	DQ0164	<i>2 Modules chosen between the following for a total of 12 ECTS:</i> Data Processing Systems (6 ECTS)	12	1/2
	DQ0129	Greek Epigraphy (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0041	Roman History M/A (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0049	History of Italian Language (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0026	Theory of Literature (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0141	Aesthetics (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0243	Logic and Language (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0052	Medieval History of Abruzzi (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0083	Methodology of Historical Research (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0045	Social and Cultural History (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0142	History of Christianity (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0142	Ecology (6 ECTS)		
	DQ0143	<i>Free choice courses/activities for a total of 6 credits:</i> <b>Work Placement</b> (3 ECTS)	6	1/2
DQ0144	Other activities for enhancing working skills (3 ECTS)			
DQ0145	Further language competences (3 ECTS)			
DQ0146	Computer skills (3 ECTS)			
		<i>Free choice Module/Modules for a total of 12 ECTS</i>	12	1/2
	DQ0148	<b>Thesis</b>	30	2