The Master of Research is a two-year program and is the main pathway to Macquarie’s Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) and Master of Philosophy (MPhil) programs. In Year 1 (BPhil) you will undertake advanced coursework units including the study of research frontiers in your area of study. Year 2 (MRes) is a masters-level postgraduate research training program. You will specialise in research preparation and focus on a specific research topic, and will be required to submit a research thesis of 20,000 words.
PHILOSOPHY
Bachelor of Philosophy / Master of Research (BPhil/MRes)

DISCIPLINARY UNITS

SESSION 1

PHIL701 Foundations of Research in Anglo-American Philosophy
This unit provides the opportunity for an in-depth study of foundational texts in Anglo-American philosophy. This year, we will focus on David Hume’s “Enquiry Concerning Human Understanding” and his “Enquiry Concerning the Principles of Morals”. In these works, Hume developed a unified empiricist study of human understanding and human nature, incorporating influential and controversial examinations of topics including reason, knowledge, causation, free will, religion and morality. We will examine the arguments presented in these texts in detail, and consider the influence of Hume’s thought on later philosophy.
Session 1 – Day, Session 1 – External.
Dr Jennifer Duke-Yonge, W6A–722, jennifer.duke-yonge@mq.edu.au

PHIL703 Foundations of Research in Modern European Philosophy
The focus of this unit is the ‘critical philosophy’ of Immanuel Kant. Kant’s critical philosophy is a key reference point for all the major traditions of modern European philosophy as well as moral theory. Some familiarity with it is essential for understanding subsequent developments in these traditions, and its influence on modern moral philosophy has been profound. The unit examines the critical philosophy as it is presented by Kant the “Critique of Pure Reason”, the “Critique of Practical Reason”, and other key texts.
Session 1 – Day, Session 1 – External.
Dr Michael Olson, W6A–723, michael.olson@mq.edu.au

PHIL704 Foundations of Research in Ethics
This unit will equip students with foundational research knowledge and skills in the broad area of Ethics. The unit will focus on an in-depth reading of foundational texts in the history of ethics and will examine their impact on current debates in the field on such topics as virtue, character, value, autonomy, and the nature of right action. Texts may include: Aristotle’s ‘Nichomachean Ethics’, Hume’s “Treatise” (Books II and III), Kant’s “Groundwork for the Metaphysics of Morals”, and Mill’s “On Liberty”.
Session 1 – Day, Session 1 – External.
Dr Paul Formosa, W6A–728, paul.formosa@mq.edu.au

PHIL705 Research Topics in Philosophy and Cognitive Science
This unit explores some of the cutting edge research questions at the forefront of cognitive science and the philosophy of cognition. The unit explores philosophical problems that arise from the core disciplines of cognitive psychology, cognitive neuropsychology, linguistics, neuroscience and AI and robotics. Topics to be covered may include: embodied and distributed cognition; disorders of the mind; folk psychology and theory of mind; the use of FMRI to understand brain function; is the brain massively modular; can cognitive science explain consciousness, or the self?
Session 1 – Day, Session 1 – External.
A/Prof Richard Menary, W6A–732, richard.menary@mq.edu.au

SESSION 2

PHIL702 Research Topics in Mind and World
The unit will examine contemporary research in one of the traditional fields covered by Metaphysics and Epistemology, especially research concerning the relationship between mind and world, as mediated by language, science, and culture. The unit will revolve around a current ‘hot topic’ of research in this area. Students will be brought up to speed on this topic so that they are in a position to begin to pursue their own research project.
Session 2 – Day
Session 2 – External
Dr Albert Atkin, W6A–727, albert.atkin@mq.edu.au

PHIL703 Research Topics in Modern European Philosophy
The unit will examine contemporary research in the field of Modern European Philosophy. Examples of areas to be explored include recent developments in the Frankfurt School tradition of Critical Theory (especially the ‘recognition’ paradigm’), theories of subjectivity and intersubjectivity, and recent developments in French Philosophy (especially aesthetics). The unit will revolve around a current ‘hot topic’ of research in this area. Students will be brought up to speed on this topic so that they are in a position to begin to pursue their own research project.
Session 2 – Day, Session 2 – External.
A/Prof Jean-Philippe Deranty, W6A–738, jp.deranty@mq.edu.au

PHIL704 Research Topics in Ethics
This unit will examine contemporary research in ethics, moral psychology, applied ethics or political philosophy. The unit will focus on a current ‘hot’ topic of research in one of these sub-disciplinary fields. The topics chosen will align with the research projects and expertise of faculty members. Examples of areas that might be explored include, the philosophy and psychology of emotions: the nature of moral cognition: justice and public health ethics. Students will develop an in-depth knowledge of the major debates relevant to the topic, and acquire the necessary research skills for pursuing their own research project.
Session 2 – Day
Session 2 – External
Dr Mianna Lotz, W6A – room 734, mianna.lotz@mq.edu.au