

PhD in Philosophy – General Information

University of Beira Interior
Covilhã, Portugal



2023/2024

Goals

The PhD Program in Philosophy aims to provide a high-level education in the field of scientific research, particularly in practical philosophy. In this Third Cycle Program, doctoral students participate in a set of doctoral seminars that have the dual objective of exposing them to the most significant results obtained by cutting-edge research in various fields of philosophy (especially practical philosophy) and training them as researchers and philosophers. Additionally, throughout the course, they will also have the opportunity to participate in colloquia and conferences – either actively (by presenting papers) or passively – in which nationally and internationally renowned researchers participate. The doctoral students in this course will dedicate the bulk of the last two years to writing a doctoral thesis that should be an original and high-level research work in philosophy.

Skills

- a) To possess knowledge and understanding skills in the field of philosophy at a level corresponding to the expectations of a doctoral degree.
- b) To possess knowledge and skills in the field of philosophy that form the basis for original developments and applications in a research context.
- c) To be able to apply specific knowledge of the relevant field of study, as well as their problem-solving and understanding skills, in broad and multidisciplinary contexts.
- d) To have the ability, in the context of theoretical scientific reflection and its practical applications, to integrate knowledge, deal with complex issues, develop solutions and make judgments in situations of limited or incomplete information.

Professional Opportunities

Secondary and higher education. Research in the field of philosophy and other fields. Careers and professions that require ethical and/or political skills in decision-making with social or human implications in complex situations.

UBI's Infrastructures

The Central Library of the University of Beira Interior has a vast collection of philosophy books, particularly in the field of practical philosophy (ethics, political philosophy, social philosophy, philosophy of law, philosophical anthropology, philosophy of culture), contemporary philosophy, and phenomenology.



UBI's Central Library



Faculty of Arts and Letters

- Integration of doctoral students in the research work of PRAXIS, belonging to the research and development unit “Communication, Philosophy and Humanities.”
- Participation of students in colloquia, conferences, and seminars organized by PRAXIS.
- Support for the active participation (including presentations) of doctoral students in national and international colloquia and conferences.
- Annual competition for exclusive scholarships for students of the PhD program in Philosophy at the University of Beira Interior.
- Support for doctoral students in applying for external scholarships (FCT and others).
- Support for international contacts and mobility.

Admission

- 1) Master's degree in philosophy or in another field; in the latter case, the candidates' professional background and motivations are taken into consideration.
- 2) Bachelor's degree, either in philosophy or in other fields, taking into account the philosophical and cultural education already acquired, the candidates' professional background, and their motivations.

Available slots: 20 (2023)

Cost: 1.625.00€ / Year

Study Plan

Year 1/2 – 1st Semester

Political Philosophy Seminar

Goals

General objective:

1. To demonstrate mastery of a thematic area of Political Philosophy and of related fundamental categories, from a research perspective. Part of this objective is to familiarize the doctoral student with the recent research results.

Specific objectives:

2. To enable the doctoral student for in-depth philosophical reflection;
3. To guide students in relevant bibliography and prepare them for research in the field;
4. To enable the student to write a paper on a specific issue of political philosophy.

Program

*António Bento (1st half of the semester) - **Topics in Political Philosophy***

- The first five classes of the semester will be chosen/shared by the students in a colloquium with the professor from a selection of twelve "topics" in Political Philosophy. Part of the first session will be dedicated to explaining the concept of "topic" and attempting to find answers to the question: - *What does the adjective "political" mean in the expression "Political Philosophy"?*

*Maria João Cabrita (2nd half of the semester) - **Around the Commons***

- In these seminars, we will clarify the concept of "commons" and its relevance in emancipating people from poverty, shrinking opportunities and governmental systems that deny them political voice, action, and responsibility.

More information available at : <https://www.ubi.pt/en/discipline/13029>

Research and Project Methodologies

Goals

1. In general terms:

- Promote the discussion of the assumptions of thoughtful prose.
- Imply the characterization of philosophical research methods and work activities.
- Allow for the preparation of a doctoral thesis project.

2. In specific terms:

- Proceed with the examination and selective operationalization of specific philosophical methods of knowledge and investigation.
- Write about problems, concepts and the development of arguments in the field of philosophy.
- In the end, the student should write a synthesis of the research project study.

Program

A) Epistemological-critical elements of philosophical research and dissertation

1. Epistemological and morphological characterization of the philosophical prose inherent to philosophical research and dissertations.

B) Methodology of philosophical analysis

1. Methodological characterization of the dissertation and text commentary.
2. Methodological characterization and selective operationalization of the analysis tools for problems, discussion of theories and conceptual distinctions; the analytic and continental approaches.

C) Methodology of philosophical research project. The Thesis Project

1. Methodological characterization and selective operationalization of primary and secondary bibliography.
2. Methodological characterization and selective operationalization of the elaboration of a philosophical research project on a specific problem: characteristics of the introductory

examination, elaboration of the state of the art, study of the development of the problem and conclusion.

More information available at <https://www.ubi.pt/en/course/860>

Year 1 – 2nd Semester

Seminar on Ethics and Phenomenology I

Goals

At the end of this Seminar, students should be able to:

1. Discuss, explain and justify the genesis of problems, notions and fundamental implications of Phenomenology in their specific historical and thematic contexts, in the light of consecrated texts and fundamental authors;
2. Deepen and cross themes and plural perspectives of phenomenological reflection and its *in fieri* project with a view to the structured and thoughtful possibility of transition to a practical philosophy;
3. Write a written work demonstrating a global understanding of the problems and an ability to apply this knowledge in making methodological and theoretical decisions within the scope of a concrete topic.

Program

Module I (Professor: Urbano Sidoncha)

«Phenomenology in its self-understanding as Transcendental Philosophy: the Husserlian stage»

1. The idea of Phenomenology: from descriptive psychology to Transcendental Philosophy;
2. Background of Transcendental Philosophy: the Cartesian heritage of phenomenology and its Kantian moment;
3. Revisiting some central topics of Phenomenology
4. About the reach of Phenomenology

Module II (Professor: António Amaral)

1. On the way to the Gulag
2. Welcome to Samarkand
3. Postpone the catastrophe? From the phenomenology of life's work to the lived phenomenality of work

More information at: <https://www.ubi.pt/en/discipline/13031>

Year 1 – 2nd Semester

Thesis Project

Goals

1. Having elaborated, in its fundamental lines, a thematic research project in philosophy and being able to present/defend it, orally, spontaneously, with philosophically founded arguments;
2. Be able to make explicit and issue critical and reasoned judgments about complex historical-philosophical processes, e.g., the western 'onto-theo-ego-logy', the 'occultation of the Being by entities', the critical relationship between Philosophy and Culture , between others;
3. Reveal mastery of essential bibliography, sources and studies, on the topic you are investigating, as well as bordering bibliography, and in particular, be aware of recent results in the area of your research (books and articles);

1. Stimulate a taste for questioning, for 'looking from an angle', for self-gnosis;
2. Foster skills of analysis, synthesis and criticism, as well as the capacity for initiative and own thinking;
3. Encourage reasoned discussion and instill habits of autonomy.

More information at: <https://www.ubi.pt/en/discipline/13032>

Seminar on Ethics and Phenomenology II

Goals

This curricular unit aims to encourage reflection on ethical issues associated with ecology and the philosophy of the environment.

At the end of the UC students should be able to: identify the distinctive elements of different ecologically relevant ethical paradigms; discuss the merits and limitations of each of the paradigms.

Program

Module I

1. Introduction to Hans Jonas: the problems of ancient ethics facing the challenges of the present; 2. Operational concepts in Hans Jonas: the Life phenomenon (to be and to be), mortality and morality; nature and technology; the power and imperative [of] responsibility; 3. An Ethics for an Age of Technology: the archetype of a new Ethics and the issue of the fear heuristic; 4. Criticism: the value of life and the issue of anthropocentrism in Hans Jonas.

Module II

1. From ecological anthropocentrism to deep ecology. 2. From ecology to ecosophy: Arne Naess' proposal. 3. Links between deep ecology and ecofeminism

Module III

In the footsteps of new materialism, we seek to illuminate the deep link between matter and otherness as a way of instructing a practical ecological reason that overcomes anthropocentrism. A critique of the conception of matter capable of unleashing its relational power would bring far-reaching consequences for the understanding and everyday life of an ecological coexistence.

More information at: <https://www.ubi.pt/en/discipline/13034>

Year 2/3

PhD thesis

Goals

Development of the initial and intermediate phases of the Doctoral thesis, with finalization of the literature review chapters.

More information at: <https://www.ubi.pt/en/discipline/13035>

UBI's website: <https://www.ubi.pt/en/>

Applications: [Balcão Virtual - Serviços Académicos da Universidade da Beira Interior \(ubi.pt\)](#)