

# Philosophy, Open Day







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# Today

Admissions Tutor:

- Joe Saunders

A Brief Overview of the Philosophy Degree

Student Ambassador:

- Vicky Gray

Answering your questions



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## What we offer

- Pluralistic philosophical community
- Research-led teaching
- Multiple methods of learning
- Inclusive learning environment
- Extra-curricular activities
- Subject-focused career support
- Opportunity to study abroad

# Who we are

*Clare Mac Cumhail*

Teaches Reading Philosophy,  
Philosophy of Mind

Works on: Philosophy of Mind,  
Philosophy of Action,  
The Wartime Quartet



# Who we are

*Simon James*

Teaches Ethics and Values

Works on: Environmental Philosophy,  
Buddhist Philosophy



# Who we are

*Aness Webster*

Teaches: Ethics and Values, Applied Ethics

Works on: normative ethics, rationality and agency, and philosophy of law.



# What we teach

Post-Kantian  
Philosophy

Knowledge  
and Reality

Philosophy  
of Science

Ethics and  
Values

The  
Philosophical  
Traditions

Reading  
Philosophy



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# Research-led Teaching

- Philosophy of mind
- Metaphysics
- Philosophy of science
- History of philosophy
- Ethics
- Social philosophy
- Philosophy of medicine
- Environmental philosophy
- Logic



# Multiple Methods of Learning

Lectures (large  
and smaller)

Seminars

Discussion  
Groups/Tutorials

Online methods,  
e.g. discussion  
boards

Dissertations



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# Dissertation Topics

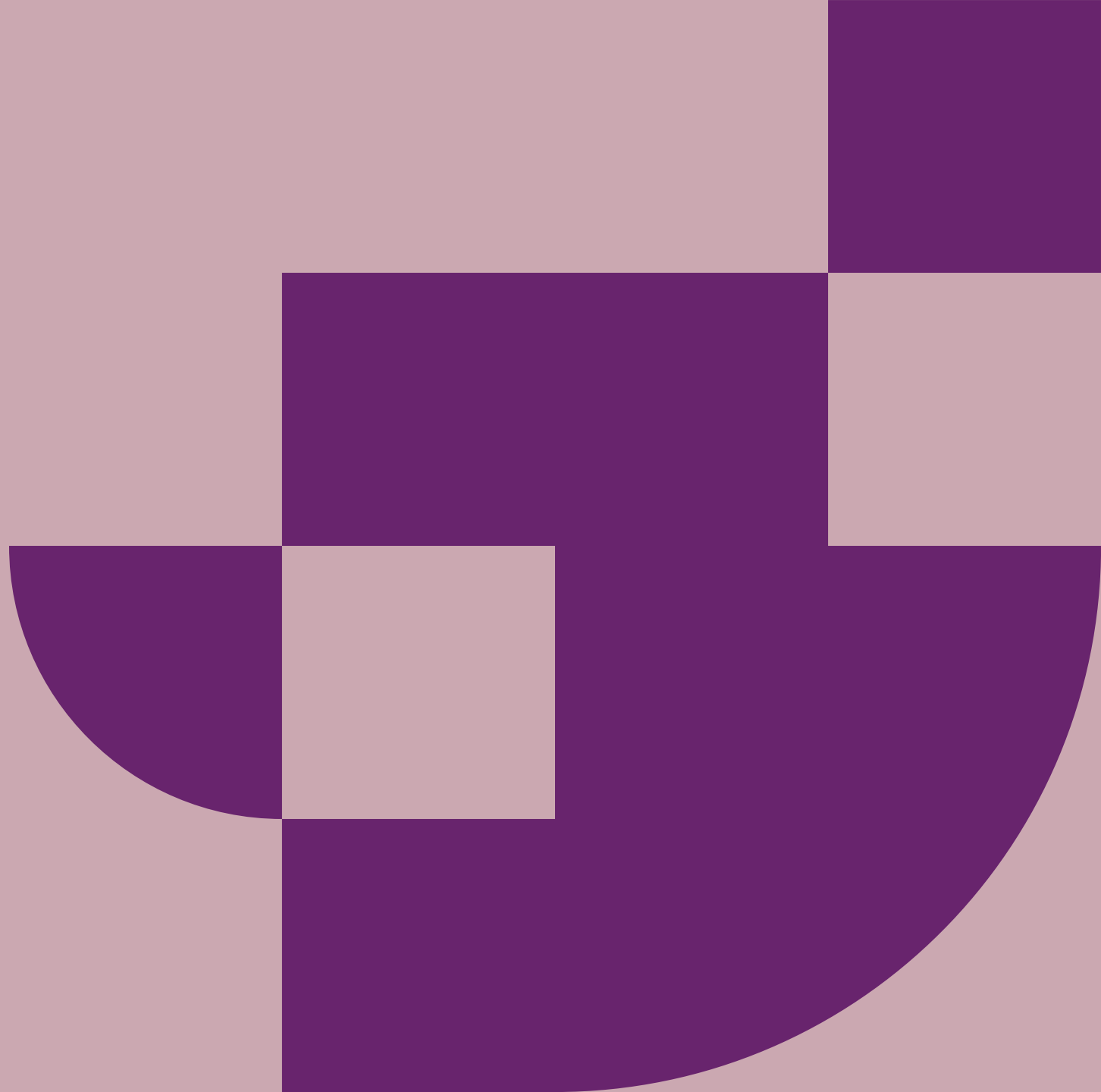
- How can you love the same person over the course of your/their life?
- The ethics of culling animals
- Can artificial intelligence *think*?
- Sweatshop labour and exploitation
- Do psychopaths have moral responsibility?
- The ethics of AI

# Inclusive learning environment

First generation scholars network

Increased representation of issues  
relating to race, gender, disability etc in  
curriculum

Diversity and Inclusion Group





# Extra-curricular activities

Dedicated student experience officer

Recent activities:

- Film nights
- Theatre trip
- City walk
- Hamsterley forest walk





# Subject-focused career support

Department careers and alumni officer

Works closely with specialists in Arts and Humanities placements in career service

3<sup>rd</sup> highest employability rate across all Durham departments

# Study Abroad

Non-European 'Overseas exchange'

European scheme

Additional year taken after 2 years in Durham

Also possibility of placement years in industry  
(again, after 2 years)





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# Your Questions

How does the teaching work?

What is day-to-day life like for a philosophy student at Durham?

1. Lectures
2. Discussion Groups
3. Office Hours



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# Your Questions

How large is the course?

Typically, how many students would be in a small group tutorial?

It depends.

Some of the lectures, especially in first-year, are large, but the discussion groups are always small.



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# Your Questions

How long would a typical essay have to be in the course?

Varies year to year.

In first year, typically 1,000 or 1,500 words. This then grows to 2,500 in third year, and of course there is ...

The dissertation! 12,000 words.



# Your Questions

- What's it like to be a philosophy student at Durham?
- I don't know!
- But we have someone who does.
- Over to Vicky Gray