

MA IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Western Sydney University

FAQs for Domestic Students

1) Why should I get an MA in Continental Philosophy at Western Sydney University?

The MA in Continental Philosophy is unique in the entire Australian and Asian Pacific region. There is no other MA that focuses exclusively on the history, traditions, and contemporary shape of Continental Philosophy.

Our MA is designed to address the individual needs of students who often come to us with varied backgrounds in philosophy. Central to the program is a formal mentorship arrangement that comes into effect as soon as a student starts the MA. Every student is paired with a mentor who provides advice and guidance throughout the entirety of the MA.

The formal articulation of this mentorship is the unit “Research Project in Philosophy.” In this unit the mentor designs a reading schedule for the mentee and they meet regularly to track progress and discuss questions. At the end, the student produces an essay based on their reading. This work can form the basis of the MA thesis.

The mentor will work with the student as they plan their next steps in applying for PhD programs at the conclusion of the MA. While there is a formal mentoring structure at the heart of the program, all of the faculty members are committed to working closely with students in their courses.

2) Where can I find information online about the MA Program at Western Sydney?

All the information you need can be found on the Philosophy webpage at:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/philosophyMA

3) How do I apply?

You have to apply online through UAC. For the link, see:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/philosophy/home/postgraduate_studies/PhilosophyMA/ma_-_application_process

When applying online, keep in mind the following UAC codes:

- **950617** for Master of Arts in Continental Philosophy
- **950618** for Graduate Diploma in Continental Philosophy

4) What are the dates for the academic year at Western Sydney University?

The Autumn semester courses typically start in late February and end in late May; the Spring semester typically starts in mid-July and runs to late October. Our MA courses are offered in both semesters. Current and prospective academic calendars can be found online at:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/dates/2017_academic_year_dateline

5) Why should I enroll in the Graduate Diploma?

There is no difference between the first year of the MA in Continental Philosophy and the Graduate Diploma in Continental Philosophy. This is the coursework year and the program is identical.

We recommend that domestic students opt for the Graduate Diploma because by enrolling in the Graduate Diploma instead of the MA, your fees will be covered by Fee Help. For 2017, the cost of the MA per annum is AU \$18,480, but if you are enrolled to the Graduate Diploma, then you are eligible for Fee Help:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/currentstudents/current_students/fees/postgraduate_fees/fee_help

6) If I enroll in the Graduate Diploma, then how will I complete my MA?

You can complete the second year of the MA by transferring to the Masters by Research or MRes.

See [www.westernsydney.edu.au/future-](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate/postgraduate/postgraduate_courses/research_studies_courses/master_of_research)

[students/postgraduate/postgraduate/postgraduate_courses/research_studies_courses/master_of_research](http://www.westernsydney.edu.au/future-students/postgraduate/postgraduate/postgraduate_courses/research_studies_courses/master_of_research)

When you transfer to the MRes for the second year of study, you will continue to receive the same supervision for the writing of your thesis from the supervisor you have chosen from Philosophy. But you will

receive the following additional advantages:

- Your fees will be waived
- If you have graduated from the Graduate Diploma with an average Grade of 75% or higher you will receive a scholarship. The scholarship may vary from year to year, so please contact the Graduate Research School for updated information.
- You will be eligible for additional research funding to attend conferences or do other research off-campus.
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The Graduate Diploma in Continental Philosophy is fully articulated with the MRes. The transfer to the MRes is a straightforward process.

7) What is the deadline for applications?

There is no hard deadline for applications. An application can be made any time of the year. The MA is designed in such a way as to be possible for the students to start either in the Autumn or in the Spring semester.

Please keep in mind, however, that applications close to the start of the semester will be charged a small UAC fee for processing. To find the deadline for applying to avoid this fee, please email EnquiriesHCA@westernsydney.edu.au

8) What requirements need to be met before I can apply?

For the Western Sydney University online application you will need to provide documentation of the successful completion of a B.A. degree or its equivalent from an accredited institution.

There are some additional documents required by the Philosophy Research Initiative that will need to be included in your application:

- academic transcript
- two academic references
- a Curriculum Vitae
- a short statement outlining the student's background and areas of research interest
- a writing sample

For details about the requirements and the application process,

see www.westernsydney.edu.au/philosophy/home/postgraduate_studies/PhilosophyMA/ma_application_process

Conditional offers pending formal graduation from an Undergraduate Program are possible. In that case, the applicant needs to obtain a statement from the University where they are completing their undergraduate studies indicating that they are about to graduate. This can be information can be provided in one of the references required for the application.

9) Can I study part time?

Yes, there is no impediment to enrolling part-time in the MA or the Graduate Diploma.

10) Are there any other funds available during my study?

Yes. The University offers travel bursaries for attending conferences or doing research under the International Mobility Scheme. These are available upon application and they can amount to AU \$2,000 per annum. More information on this program can be found online

at: www.westernsydney.edu.au/philosophy/home/postgraduate_studies/international_mobility_workshops

11) Can I find accommodation on campus?

If you want to stay on campus, the University offers flexible accommodation options. For students arriving from outside Sydney, it may be an attractive option to book accommodation in the Student Village while looking for more permanent accommodation.

The most suitable on-campus accommodation would be at the Bankstown Student Village, as this is the campus where the MA is taught. For more information,

see: www.mystudentvillage.com/au/westernsydneyuv/bankstown/

12) Whom should I contact for assistance?

If you have further questions or need any clarification, you can contact the Convenor for the MA, Dimitris Vardoulakis at d.vardoulakis@westernsydney.edu.au

or the Deputy Convenor, Jennifer Mensch at j.mensch@westernsydney.edu.au