

MA IN CONTINENTAL PHILOSOPHY

Western Sydney University

Frequently Asked Questions for International Students

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

The MA in Continental Philosophy is the only program of its kind in the entire Australian and Asian Pacific region. There is no other MA degree program 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 can fill out an application for international students online at:
www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions

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

The Fall 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) 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 so that students may start in either the Fall or the Spring semester.

Although there are no hard deadlines, an applicant should keep in mind that the application process—which includes obtaining a student visa and making flight and housing arrangements—can take several months. With this in mind, we strongly recommend the following soft deadlines:

- For start in the Spring Semester: **March 1 deadline.**
- For start in the Autumn Semester: **October 1 deadline.**

There may also be a benefit in applying at particular times. For instance, an applicant may consider applying in time for the “early bird” scholarships: www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/scholarships/international_early_bird_scholarships

6) 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. General information on academic entry requirements can be found online at:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/entry_requirements

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

Conditional offers pending formal graduation from an Undergraduate Program are possible. Such offers are based on submission of final academic transcript and award testamur. To do this the student must provide a certified copy of their academic grades in the BA to date and evidence of enrolment in their final term subjects. If the students will not receive their formal award testamur until their graduation, we may accept an official letter from the Academic Registrar of their University confirming their enrolment and that they have completed all the requirements for the award of the degree which will be conferred and issued on the date of graduation.

7) How much does the program cost for international students?

For 2017, the cost of the MA per annum is AU \$24,280 (= around US \$18,000). The MA is 1.5 years long. Please see the International Students admissions page for further information regarding fees: www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/course_fees

8) Are there fellowships or other monies available for international students through the Philosophy Research Initiative at Western Sydney University?

Yes. The Philosophy Research Initiative is able to offer two AU \$2,000 fellowships per annum on a competitive basis.

9) Are there any scholarships available for international students through the Western Sydney University?

Yes. There are a number of other fellowship opportunities worth exploring, go to the International Student Scholarship page for more information:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/scholarships

Particularly relevant are the following:

VC Academic Excellence Postgraduate Scholarships

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/scholarships/uws_students

Western Sydney International Postgraduate Scholarships:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/scholarships/uws_staff2

Western Sydney International Students Bursary

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/scholarships/western_sydney_international_student_bursary2

In addition to this 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 \$4,000 for the entirety of the MA. More information on this program can be found online at:

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

10) Are there scholarships for international students provided by the Australian Government?

Yes. The Australian Government supports **Endeavour Scholarships**. For more information, see:

<https://internationaleducation.gov.au/endeavour%20program/scholarships-and-fellowships/international-applicants/pages/international-applicants.aspx>

See also:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/globalmobility/goglobal/home/apply_to_go/programs/endeavourgrants

The Australian government also supports scholarships for students from specific regions. There is an **Australian Awards Scholarship** for students from developing countries, particularly those countries located in the Indo-Pacific region: <http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-scholarships.aspx>

There is also an **Australian Awards Pacific Scholarships (AAPS)** for students from developing Pacific countries:

<http://dfat.gov.au/people-to-people/australia-awards/Pages/australia-awards-pacific-scholarships-aaps.aspx>

11) Are there scholarships for US citizens wanting to study at Western Sydney University?

Yes. US students are eligible to apply for Fulbright scholarships:

<http://www.fulbright.com.au/us-applicants/>

12) Am I eligible for a student loan?

While the University does not offer loan services to international students, US students are able to take out Sallie Mae loans for foreign study. Please visit the university page for this information and links to the US loan servicing centers:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/course_fees/us_financial_aid_program

13) Will I need a Visa to study at Western Sydney?

Yes. The people at the International Office handle all requests for information regarding student visas. Please visit their webpage at:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/obtaining_a_visa

14) How much is the cost of health insurance?

An international student is required to have health insurance. There are providers and various levels of cover. The options tend to be much less expensive than countries such as the US. For instance, for a 12-month cover with the Western Sydney University preferred health cover provider, the cost is around AU\$550 for the entire year.

For detailed information, please see:

www.westernsydney.edu.au/international/home/admissions/overseas_students_health_cover

15) Am I required to live on campus?

No, there is no requirement to live on campus. In fact, most students choose to live off campus.

However, if you want to stay on campus, the University offers affordable and flexible accommodation options. For students arriving from overseas, it may be an attractive option to book a short-term 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/

16) Am I allowed to work while on a student Visa?

Student visas in Australia allow students to work up to 20 hours during semester time. Students are not limited to working at the university and can apply to work anywhere in Sydney. There is no limitation to the number of working hours outside semester time.

17) 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 for the MA, Jennifer Mensch at:

j.mensch@westernsydney.edu.au