



# Program Handbook

MA in Philosophy

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## About This Handbook

The content in this program handbook is accurate at the date of posting and is applicable for the current academic year. Program handbooks are updated annually, and students should ensure they are referring to the current version. Occasionally, changes to policy and program requirements do occur so students should also check with their Supervisor, program chair or the Faculty of Graduate Studies on critical matters where they are unsure.

This program handbook should be read in conjunction with general policies and guidelines as outlined in the [Brock University Graduate Calendar](#) and the [Brock Faculty Handbook](#).

## WELCOME

Welcome to the Master of Arts in Philosophy graduate program at Brock University. To help you better understand the program, we have prepared this handbook for you to consult as you progress with your studies. The primary purpose of the handbook is to provide information concerning the steps current students must take for the successful completion of the MA program in Philosophy. It is expected students and faculty in the program will keep this handbook as their major source of reference regarding the program's design and procedures. This handbook is intended to be in conformity with current regulations governing Graduate Studies at Brock University. Additional information regarding graduate studies can be found in the current [Brock Graduate Calendar 2023-2024](#) and on the Graduate Studies web site: [Graduate Studies](#). Please note that all departmental guidelines reflect the policies and procedures outlined by Brock University's Faculty Handbook. In the event of any conflict between the two policies the Faculty Handbook takes precedence: [Faculty Handbook](#).

## PROGRAM DESCRIPTION

### *Program Overview*

The MA in Philosophy at Brock University is unique and distinctive in Canada. Established almost five decades ago, the MA in Philosophy is the oldest graduate program at Brock. It is the only Philosophy graduate program to offer specializations in **Contemporary Continental Philosophy (PHCC)**, **Eastern Philosophy (PHEP)**, and **Comparative Philosophy (PHCP)**. The program seeks to acquaint graduate students with a global philosophical heritage drawn from both the West and the East. The natural outgrowth of this approach has been a deepening appreciation for Comparative Philosophy. Over the years, our faculty of accomplished and recognized scholars has been happy to host, teach, and guide hundreds of graduate students through our program. The diversity of interests spawned by the interaction of philosophical traditions has produced a dynamic environment, which attracts students across Canada and internationally.

The MA program focuses heavily on recent and contemporary Continental Philosophy. We also offer courses and specializations in Asian Philosophy and Comparative Philosophy. Consequently, most of the courses provided in any one year will be selected from:

**Contemporary Continental Thought:** Nietzsche, Schopenhauer, Marx, Freud, Husserl, Heidegger, Sartre, Buber, Scheler, Merleau-Ponty, Gadamer, Levinas, Derrida, Foucault, Deleuze, Bataille, Kristeva, Irigaray, Butler, poststructuralism, or post-phenomenological thought.

**Eastern Philosophies:** Indian and Upanishadic Philosophy - texts from the six orthodox schools of Indian philosophy, especially Vedanta; Early Indian Buddhist traditions, especially Madhyamika schools, Bhakti traditions, Gandhi; Chinese Philosophy, especially Confucianism, neo-Confucianism, Taoism, and Chinese Buddhism.

**Comparative Studies:** Comparison of Eastern and Western traditions with respect to problems of being, knowledge, person, values, and philosophical method.



### *Philosophy Qualifying Program (PQP)*

Applicants who do not meet the MA program admission requirements may be considered for admission to the Philosophy Qualifying Program (PQP). Normally, such applicants will have at least a minor in philosophy. A PQP will typically consist of 8 courses taken over two consecutive terms - normally, over the Fall and Winter semesters. The specific courses the applicant will be required to complete - along with other expectations (e.g., course grades, GPA, etc.), will be determined on a case-by-case basis by the Graduate Program Committee. The program conditions will be noted at the time the committee recommends to the Faculty of Graduate Studies that the applicant is to be admitted to the PQP. Successful completion of the Philosophy Qualifying Program automatically entitles the student to enter the MA program in the Fall semester that follows the applicant's successful completion of the PQP.

## **PROGRAM GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION**

The Philosophy MA program has several governance and administrative bodies that support students and faculty.

### *Program Governance*

An overview of Brock University's governance structure can be found on the [University Secretariat](#) webpages. The following committees and units are responsible for varying aspects of the governance and administration of the Philosophy MA program.

### *Faculty of Graduate Studies*

The Faculty of Graduate Studies works closely with Brock's six academic Faculties — Applied Health Sciences, Education, Humanities, Mathematics and Science, Social Sciences, and the Goodman School of Business to:

- support the growth and development of the graduate studies sector;
- integrate graduate studies into the research, pedagogical, and outreach missions of the University;
- provide quality administrative service and support to current and future graduate students, Supervisors, and graduate programs; and
- offer competitive funding packages to financially support students through their studies.

Academic regulations and University policies are outlined in the [Graduate Calendar](#). All students are required to be aware of, and adhere to, these regulations and policies. Students who have maintained enrolment in each calendar year (May to April) may complete the degree program using the Academic Regulations section and program degree requirements operative in the year in which that program was entered, or any subsequent Calendar published while enrolled.

Students who interrupt their studies for more than one calendar year (by not enrolling in at least 1 credit) become subject to the Calendar regulations in effect at the time of their re-registration.

For more information, visit the [Faculty of Graduate Studies](#) website.

### *Faculty of Humanities*

Brock is one of the few universities in Canada (only three, in fact) to have a Faculty of Humanities, and we should take considerable pride in this. That means that many decades ago this university made a commitment to the study, consideration, and promotion of those disciplines that focus on the individual human and the human spirit: the stories of individual people, the relationships we have and have had, the triumphs and disasters as they effect one person at a time – rather than large groups or populations. Humanities are the disciplines where one person matters, and where we acknowledge a spirit that affects and is affected by the mechanisms and movements that other disciplines study. We search for both facts and truth, and struggle with the difference. This is what we research and teach, and this is also what is to be found in the creative work of the members of the Faculty. For more information, visit the Faculty of Humanities [Faculty of Humanities](#) website.

### *Department of Philosophy*

The Department of Philosophy was among the first departments at Brock University, which opened in 1964. Appointments to the department and its first undergraduate courses took place in 1965; students were admitted to the graduate program in Philosophy, the first Master's program in the Humanities at Brock University, as early as 1974. The Department of Philosophy is exceptionally distinct in Canada and the rest of North America. Its unique focus on Eastern, as well as Western philosophies, was part of its original mission, conceived by the founding members John R.A. Mayer and Mervyn Sprung. Dr. Mayer had a strong background in Continental philosophy as well as Eastern thought while Mervyn Sprung was a pioneer in Comparative Philosophy and an internationally known scholar of Buddhist thought. Most students will come to specialize in Contemporary Continental, Eastern philosophy or Comparative Philosophy given the research interests of faculty members and the structure of the graduate program. Visit our website: [Department of Philosophy](#)

### *Brock University Graduate Council*

Brock's Graduate Council normally meets monthly and is chaired by the Dean of the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The Council provides a forum to exchange and discuss ideas and information about graduate programs and to advise the Dean of Graduate Studies on all matters pertaining to graduate studies at Brock.

### *Senate Graduate Studies Committee (SGSC)*

This Senate standing committee oversees and makes recommendations on all matters directly related to graduate academic programs and related policies, considering, and pursuing policy initiatives to enhance the academic programs, well-being, and reputation of the University. Meeting schedules and minutes are available from the [University Secretariat's website](#).

### *Graduate Program Committee (GPC):*

The GPC has responsibility for recruitment and admissions, preparation of the Graduate Calendar submission, course offerings, teaching allocations, scholarship adjudication, student progress, approval of staffing for Supervisory and examination committees, community liaison, responding to student concerns, updating the Philosophy MA graduate handbook, changes to the structure of the program and the selection of the Graduate Program Director. The Graduate Program Committee is normally composed of the Graduate Program Director, the Philosophy Department Chair (or designate), and at least three other eligible faculty members.

### *Graduate Program Director (GPD):*

The Graduate Program Director is appointed by the Graduate Program Committee (GPC) to oversee the Philosophy graduate program. The Graduate Program Director carries out all duties in regular consultation with the GPC. The Director has the support of the Department of Philosophy Administrative Assistant and receives an administrative course release. The usual term is three years. Specific duties include:

1. To ensure the orderly and efficient operation of the Philosophy graduate program.
2. To designate a deputy and advise the Dean of Graduate Studies and Department Chair accordingly in the event of an absence for a period longer than ten (10) working days.
3. To oversee the administration of the Philosophy graduate program in consultation with the Graduate Program Committee (GPC).
4. To Chair the GPC, including initiating procedures for staffing the committee and any subcommittees.
5. To convene meetings of the GPC at least once per graduate term (fall, winter, spring) to manage the ongoing work of the GPC (listed above), and for the purpose of reviewing (and if necessary, revising) the program's policies and procedures.
6. To attend and represent the Philosophy graduate program at monthly meetings of Graduate Council (typically 8 meetings, September to May) to access important information, e.g., changes in policies, funding, administrative changes, etc., and to communicate relevant information back to the GPC and Philosophy graduate faculty. (The Graduate Program Director is obligated to find a designate to attend Graduate Council in the event of a required absence. Any faculty member teaching in the graduate program is eligible.)
7. To oversee the Philosophy graduate admissions process, including correspondence with prospective students at various stages of the process, consultations with colleagues to assess admissibility, and preparation of admissions recommendations for the GPC and the Faculty of Graduate Studies.
8. To complete the graduate calendar submission.
9. To oversee graduate scholarship adjudication.
10. To assist in the scheduling and the administration of any thesis defence.
11. To approve graduate student registration each semester and monitor the completion of program requirements.
12. To review the end of term progress for each philosophy graduate student.

13. To respond to graduate student concerns, apprising the Chair or Dean when appropriate.
14. To plan and host a welcome reception for graduate students each September.
15. To oversee the preparation, maintenance, and distribution of material to promote the Philosophy graduate program.
16. To provide the Graduate Program Director designate with information and documents necessary to prepare to assume the directorship.

## **Program Administration & Faculty**

All inquiries about the Master of Arts in Philosophy program at Brock University should be directed to **Rajiv Kaushik** ([rkaushik@brocku.ca](mailto:rkaushik@brocku.ca))

### *Administrative Contacts for the Master of Arts in Philosophy*

#### **Graduate Program Director, Philosophy**

Rajiv Kaushik

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+1 (905) 688-5550 x5311

#### **Administrative Assistant, Philosophy**

Michelle Benson

[philosophy@brocku.ca](mailto:philosophy@brocku.ca)

+1 (905) 688-5550 x4352

### *Philosophy Graduate Faculty*

Professor Michael Berman

Professor Athena V. Colman

Professor Rohit Dalvi

Professor Christine Daigle

Professor Rajiv Kaushik

Professor Brian Lightbody

Professor Raj Singh

<https://brocku.ca/humanities/philosophy/faculty-and-staff/>

## ADMISSIONS

### *General Admissions Policy*

Admission to the Master of Philosophy program in the Department of Philosophy under the Faculty of Humanities requires that students fulfill admission requirements of Brock University, the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and the Master of Philosophy program. Final recommendation for admission is by the Philosophy Graduate Program Committee.

The Brock University Faculty of Graduate Studies establishes regulations for admission, which specify the minimum entrance requirements. These requirements are designed to ensure that students entering a graduate program have both the capacity and preparation necessary to effectively undertake a program of study at the graduate level. However, possession of the minimum entrance requirements is not a guarantee of admission. Resource allocations plays a significant role in the number of students that any graduate program may adequately accommodate. The University reserves the right to limit enrollment and to refuse admission to any candidate.

Brock University has a non-discriminatory policy to ensure against discrimination of applicants based on race, color, national or ethnic origin, creed, sex, or sexuality.

### *Minimum Admission Requirements*

Successful completion of four-year bachelor's degree, or equivalent, in Philosophy with an average not less than 75%. The Graduate Admissions Committee will review all applications and recommend admission for a limited number of suitable candidates. All applications must be submitted online to the Brock University Faculty of Graduate Studies. Applicants will be required to submit their online application form, along with the following application materials:

1. A written statement of intent: The statement of intent should be between 250-500 words and offer a clear and concise rationale for the applicant's choice to pursue an MA in Philosophy at Brock. The statement should outline the applicant's philosophical interests in terms of thinkers, philosophical problems, etc., and speak to any history or reason they have for pursuing those interests.
2. The names of two academic references. Applicants are also required to have a current e-mail address for each of the two references named.
3. Transcripts. One official, original, sealed copy of the student's complete academic record from each university and institution attended. Faxed records are not considered official. Academic records become the property of the Brock University Faculty of Graduate Studies and are not returned to the applicant. Students who are applying from an undergraduate program at Brock are not required to send transcripts. Two academic references are required.
4. A writing sample (no more than 20 pages) is required and beneficial. It should be related to the study of philosophy.

Individuals interested in part-time study should consult with the Graduate Program Director. For information on the admissions process, including application dates and required supporting documents, please visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies [How to Apply](#) pages.

### *Offer Letters and Acceptance*

Assessment of academic background and eligibility for admission to the program is the responsibility of the Philosophy Graduate Program Committee. Recommendations for acceptance of applicants are made by the Graduate Program Committee to the Brock University Faculty of Graduate Studies. The official letter of acceptance and offer of admission will be issued by Brock University's Dean of Graduate Studies.

Applicants who are admitted, pending receipt of final transcripts, must submit an official copy of their final transcripts to Brock University's Faculty of Graduate Studies prior to registration.

Applicants receiving an offer of admission to the Philosophy program in the Faculty of Humanities must normally accept that offer within three weeks from the date of issue. Failure to do so may result in the offer being withdrawn.

Students accepted for admission to the Philosophy MA graduate program in the Department of Philosophy in the Faculty of Humanities must commence their program of study on the date specified in their letter of acceptance. If circumstances prevent a student from starting study on the specified date, the University can rescind the original offer, and the applicant may be required to submit a new application.

## **GRADUATE STUDENT EXPECTATIONS, RIGHTS & RESPONSIBILITIES**

### *The Policy on Graduate Student Rights and Responsibilities*

The Department of Philosophy is bound by all university-wide academic regulations adopted by the Brock University Senate. Graduate students are critical to Brock University's mission of teaching, service, and research. In addition to abiding by departmental and program-specific policies of the Philosophy Department and Philosophy MA program, Philosophy graduate students are also expected to understand themselves in the broader context of the Faculty of Graduate Studies and understand their "unique position within the University community as junior colleagues." All graduate students must familiarize themselves with: this Philosophy Graduate Program MA Handbook; the [Faculty Handbook FHB.111:B \(2-11\)](#); the [Faculty of Graduate Studies Calendar](#), especially, [Graduate Students Rights and Responsibilities](#), and [Graduate Academic Integrity](#).

### *Academic Integrity*

Academic Integrity is a core value in all university education and ensures the quality of your Brock MA degree. All students are expected to read, understand and adhere to Brock's Academic Integrity Policy: [Graduate Academic Integrity](#) and [The FHB on Academic Integrity](#). The excerpt below, from Brock's Academic Integrity Policy, outlines the key points. <https://brocku.ca/academic-integrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/Academic-IntegrityPolicy.pdf> "All students are required to act ethically and with integrity in academic matters and demonstrate behaviours that support the university's academic values. These

behaviours may include, but are not limited to: a. Completing one's own original work; b. Knowing and following the appropriate citation method in regard to the use of quotation marks and paraphrasing; c. Collaborating appropriately (unless teamwork is permitted, it is prohibited); d. Acknowledging the contribution of others (giving credit); e. Ensuring that a student's work is not used inappropriately by others; f. Acting ethically and with integrity while conducting research and in the reporting of research results; and g. Following published examination rules and protocols. All students are responsible for their behaviour and may face academic penalty under this policy should they engage in academically dishonest behaviours. Students in positions of responsibility, such as Teaching or Research Assistants, shall be expected to not only adhere to the academic principles and demonstrate behaviour that supports the University's mission, but also to encourage principles of academic integrity among the University community and report suspected cases to their relevant supervisor.

Brock University students and instructors are responsible for familiarizing themselves with this policy. Instructors are responsible for clearly defining the nature of academic misconduct including citation protocols and collaborative practices. It is the responsibility of every member of the University community (students, faculty, and staff) to act ethically and with integrity and to support an environment which values academic integrity in every aspect of life on campus. 2 Every member of the University community has the additional responsibility to: identify and report all incidents of academic misconduct, and ii. assist in the investigation of alleged incidents of academic misconduct." (<https://brocku.ca/academic-integrity/wp-content/uploads/sites/5/Academic-IntegrityPolicy.pdf>). "Plagiarism means presenting work done (in whole or in part) by someone else as if it were one's own and applies to all forms of Student work. The work of others can include, but is not limited to, written work, ideas, music, performance pieces, designs, artwork, computer codes and Internet resources. Associated dishonest practices include faking or falsification of data, cheating or the uttering of false statements by a student in order to obtain unjustified concessions."

(<http://researchguides.library.brocku.ca/LearningObjects/plagiarism>) Students should take particular care to understand fully the section on plagiarism. Students should familiarize themselves with the resources on the Academic Integrity website and are required to read through the information provided on academic integrity within the FIRST month of the program - <https://brocku.ca/academic-integrity>. Once they have read through the material provided, they are required to sign the Declaration of Familiarity with Brock University's Academic Integrity Policy and submit it to the Graduate Program Assistant. For additional help, the Student Development Centre offers a series of 'Learning Skills Workshops'. Details can be found at <https://brocku.ca/learningservices/services/#apf>. Students are urged to attend workshops on 'Academic Integrity.' Students are reminded that the penalties for academically dishonest behaviour can be severe. They should also note that instructors may wish to use phrase matching software for pedagogical purposes or to assist in the detection of plagiarism.

For details, please see [https://brocku.ca/university-secretariat/faculty-handbook/section3/#10.3\\_Phrase\\_Matching\\_Software](https://brocku.ca/university-secretariat/faculty-handbook/section3/#10.3_Phrase_Matching_Software), and Intellectual Property under section III, subsection C (#4) of the Faculty Handbook at [Page 15 of 49](https://brocku.ca/university-</a></p></div><div data-bbox=)

secretariat/facultyhandbook/section-3/#4. \_Ownership of Student- reated\_ Intellectual\_ Property and 2021-2022 Graduate Calendar at <https://brocku.ca/webcal/current/graduate/acad.html#sec53>.

### *Graduate Studentship*

While the Department Chair and Graduate Program Director are there to assist students and answer their questions, it is the responsibility of the students, not the department, to ensure that their courses of study meet all university requirements for the degree sought. The purpose of this handbook is to clarify departmental policy regarding certain matters that fall under departmental jurisdiction and are of concern to our graduate students.

Full-time study implies that a maximum total of ten hours per week be devoted to part-time employment; this limitation is a university rule enforced by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Occasionally, [Request for Approval of Extra On-Campus Employment Hours](#) are permitted for students in very good academic standing. However, those seeking approval for more than ten hours per week of on-campus work must submit the appropriate form to the Dean of Graduate Studies for approval. However, the Department strongly recommends that so far as possible students should not undertake any additional part-time work over and above their standard TA duties while attempting to complete their Major Research Paper or Thesis. Students should be aware that interference from part-time employment might cause deficiencies with respect to the timing, volume or quality of work. It is important to make every effort to avoid such conflicts. Success depends on giving top priority to completion of the MRP/Thesis.

To increase the likelihood that students remain on schedule, students are expected to reside in St. Catharines or the immediate area throughout the writing and research process during the period from April to August inclusive. **Note that permission is required for off-campus study for longer than four weeks in any given term.** Students must be geographically available and able to visit the campus regularly. Without forfeiting full-time status, a graduate student, while under supervision, may be absent from the university (e.g. visiting libraries, doing field work, attending a graduate course at another institution, etc.) provided that, if any such absence exceeds four weeks in any one term, written approval of the student's absence by the Graduate Program Director is forwarded to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies (or designate); [Application for Study Off-Campus](#)

## **GRADUATE STUDENT STATUS AT BROCK**

Graduate students must be identified as completing their graduate program on either a full-time or part-time basis and must be registered on a continuous basis from the point of admission to completion of the graduate program unless they have applied for and received approval for inactive status or a leave of absence. Each graduate program determines whether a



particular graduate program may be taken at Brock on a full-time or part-time basis.

Students are defined as having either full-time or part-time status at the time of admission and are expected to complete their degree under the admission status. Requests for changes to status will be reviewed by the graduate program and the Faculty of Graduate Studies, and only approved in extenuating circumstances.

### *Full-time Students*

Full-time graduate students are defined as students whose main purpose is graduate study for the purpose of obtaining a graduate degree. Graduate study differs from undergraduate study in that *it is for most students an activity that is highly concentrated, demanding, and all-consuming*. Full-time graduate students are defined according to regulations as follows:

1. they must be pursuing their studies as a full-time occupation and identify themselves as full-time graduate students in all documentation;
2. they must be considered by the University to be in full-time study;
3. they must maintain regular contact with their graduate program director and Supervisor;
4. They must be geographically available and visit the campus regularly. Without forfeiting full-time status, a graduate student, while under supervision, may be absent from the university (e.g., visiting libraries, doing field work, attending a graduate course at another institution, etc.) provided that, if any such absence exceeds four weeks in any one term, written approval of the student's absence by the Graduate Program Director is forwarded to the Faculty of Graduate Studies and approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies (or designate). See: [FGS - Student forms](#)

Full-time graduate students must limit University employment to no more than 520 hours of paid work per year, with a maximum of 240 hours per academic term. This applies to all paid employment on campus and includes Graduate Teaching Assistantships and Research Assistantships.

### *Part-time Students*

Students who are admitted to part-time studies are restricted to a less than full-time program of study. There is no restriction with respect to time spent on paid employment. Part-time students may register in a maximum of 1.0 credit per term, in addition to thesis and Major Research Paper registration. Part-time students should consult with their Graduate Program Director regarding course selection and course load per term.

### *Inactive Students*

If, for some acceptable reason, a student is unable to take courses in a specific term, inactive status must be approved by the Graduate Program Director and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Permission must be obtained before the start of the academic term for which the student is seeking inactive status (via the Request for Inactive Term Form found at: [FGS - Student forms](#)). During an inactive term, the student pays the inactive fee and retains library privileges. Inactive terms do not extend the final completion date by which degree requirements must be completed. Normally, inactive terms may not be consecutive and no more than two inactive terms may be taken during any graduate degree program. Students on inactive status will not be eligible to receive University fellowship support or other financial support from the University.

### *Leave of Absence Students*

A leave of absence from a graduate program will be granted only in exceptional circumstances which will include parental and maternity leave, medical leave, compassionate leave, or work leave which requires the student to leave the geographic area. Cases will be considered on an individual basis and must have the approval of the Supervisor (if applicable) and the Graduate Program Director before they are submitted to the Faculty of Graduate Studies for approval. A graduate student granted a leave of absence will not be registered and will not be required to pay fees for the duration of the leave. Students on leave will not be eligible to receive university fellowship support or other financial support from the University. In the case of funding by an external agency, the regulations of the granting agency will apply. The length of time for completion of the degree will be extended by the duration of the leave. While on leave students will not normally be entitled to use University facilities and resources or receive supervision. Leaves of absence are for a maximum of three consecutive terms. Normally, a student will not be granted more than one leave of absence during a graduate degree program. A leave of absence cannot be followed by an inactive term. Request for Leave of Absence Forms are available from the Faculty of Graduate Studies or the Graduate Studies website at: [FGS - Student forms](#)

### *Change of Student Status*

Students are admitted to the University either as full-time or part-time students and this status can only be changed for valid reasons with the permission of the Graduate Program Director and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. [FHB III: B:7.3]

### *Personal Time Off*

Students may take up to two weeks per year (14 Calendar days) in personal time off, plus statutory, and non-statutory holidays during which the University is closed. This personal time off must be negotiated between the student and Supervisor and/or Graduate Program Director. Time off should not compromise the progress of a student's studies, including the fulfillment of course requirements. Students must ensure that laboratory activities and experimentation are

either completed or arrangements made for others to continue ongoing work. Time sensitive deadlines must be taken into consideration. Time off cannot be carried forward from year to year. Time off should be requested as far in advance as possible. [FHBIII: B:7.10(v)]

## FEES & FUNDING

### *Fees*

The fee structure of degree programs offered through the Faculty of Humanities are as outlined by Brock University and the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Students should consult the [Graduate Calendar](#), the [Graduate Tuition and Fees](#) webpage, and the information provided in their offer letter for the most current fee scale.

### *Funding and Financial Assistance*

Many students require financial assistance to pursue their studies.

- Check your eligibility to apply for loans through the [Ontario Student Assistance Program \(OSAP\)](#). Additional information is also available on [Brock's OSAP webpages](#).
- Students in the Faculty of Humanities are eligible for a variety of scholarships, bursaries, and awards administered by Brock University.
- Brock internal funding support packages are available to eligible full-time, research-based Master's students. Personalized funding packages details are normally included as part of your offer of admission and can differ from student to student. Funding sources may include scholarships, Research Fellowships, Graduate Fellowships, and Graduate Assistantships (employment income earned through teaching assistant or research assistant positions).
- External funding is generally secured by students through an application for grants and fellowships offered by provincial or federal governments, foundations or other agencies. These applications may be accepted prior to a student beginning their studies, or during their graduate studies.
- A complete listing of available awards may be obtained by consulting the faculty of Graduate Studies' [Funding Information](#) and [Awards and Scholarships](#) webpages.

## SUPERVISION & COMMITTEES

### *Supervisor*

A core component of the MA in Philosophy is an independent research program in the form of either a Major Research Paper (MRP) or Thesis. All Major Research Paper/Thesis projects are supervised by a member of the Philosophy Department's graduate faculty. Offer letters of admission name a *provisional* Supervisor/academic advisor based on the most suitable match at the time of application. The Department recognizes the need for flexibility based on possible changes in the student's area of interest or the faculty workload. As such, the student should not assume the name listed is their official Supervisor. The onus is on the graduate student to identify and to initiate communication with potential Supervisors to secure an agreement with a

faculty member of the Philosophy graduate program to supervise their research. Typically, students should secure a Supervisor by the beginning of their third or fourth term of study. The decision by a faculty member to become a Supervisor is a voluntary one in keeping with the Normal Departmental Workload Standard.

### *Supervisory Committee Composition*

The Supervisor will propose the Supervisory Committee composition, which will differ depending on the student's MA path, e.g., Major Research Paper or Thesis. The committee composition must be approved by the Graduate Program Director. If no faculty member expresses an interest in a student, the Graduate Program Director will nominate a supervisor for that student. Any faculty member can refuse to supervise a student.

A Major Research Paper Supervisory committee must comprise a minimum of two members: the Supervisor (from the Philosophy Department) and a Second Reader (also typically a graduate program faculty member within the Philosophy Department). A Thesis Supervisory committee must comprise a minimum of three members: the graduate Supervisor (from the Philosophy Department) and two additional faculty members. At least one of the latter two must be a full-time Brock University faculty member of the Philosophy Department's Graduate Program.

If a student's graduate Supervisor leaves Brock University during the student's program, the Graduate Program Director has the responsibility to ensure the student can exercise one of the following options:

1. Remain at Brock and change Supervisors, which may entail a change in the Major Research Paper or Thesis topic.
2. Remain at Brock and complete the existing Major Research Paper or Thesis even though the appropriate expertise may not be available at Brock for supervision. In this case, the Supervisory committee may seek advice from experts off-campus or may arrange for the student to work off campus. It will be the responsibility of the Supervisory committee (augmented, if necessary, by outside expertise), to advise the student on all matters regarding the Major Research Paper or Thesis preparation. The student is not precluded from seeking advice from the former Brock faculty member, but the former Brock faculty member has no privileged position with respect to the Major Research Paper or Thesis. The Supervisory committee will take precedence in all cases.
3. Apply to transfer to the university to which the student's former Supervisor has moved.
4. Any special arrangements described in 2) or 3) above must be approved by the Faculty Dean and the Dean of Graduate Studies. Reasons for change must be so serious that a continuation of the relationship would be next to impossible. All requests for change must be in writing and forwarded to each party involved (Supervisor and student) and to the Graduate Program Director of the Philosophy MA program; a final decision will be rendered by the Graduate Program Director after consultation with the Supervisor, student and the Dean of Graduate Studies or designate. As such, both students and faculty should be reminded that such a change, if granted, could entail an addition of considerable time for completion of the Major Research Paper or Thesis (which may require payment of one or more re-registration fees).

### *Supervisory Committee Standards*

Supervisors will provide students with discussion and guidance on their evolving work, including advice on such matters as starting points for research, narrowing of the topic, refinement of the thesis, and steps to be taken in the writing process itself. Supervisors will provide feedback both on the quality of students' work and on their progress towards completion.

A Major Research Paper Supervisor will be reasonably accessible to their supervisee for consultation on their Major Research Paper progress and provide timely responses to written work. (A *timely response* is defined as a Supervisor's response - within two weeks and no later than four weeks - to a student's *written, agreed upon drafted material(s)* pertaining to their Major Research Paper in which the Supervisor provides constructive criticism, comment and/or direction.)

In general, the Supervisor's goal is to create a work environment in which students can function as mature, independent academic researchers and writers with access to guidance. Students can rely on their Supervisors for expert advice and encouragement; Supervisors, in turn, will expect their students to take responsibility for the day-to-day progress of their own work.

The Supervisor will choose an appropriate time to negotiate a Second Reader for the evaluation of the Major Research Paper; generally, after the completion of a polished Major Research Paper draft. The Supervisor shall inform the Graduate Program Director of the Second Reader as soon as the agreement has been struck, upon which the Second Reader will be considered the *designated* Second Reader.

At no point shall a Supervisor remove a *designated* Second Reader (or seek a different Second Reader) without the Second Reader's explicit approval and/or the approval of the Graduate Program Director. In the case of a conflict between a student's Supervisor and the existing *designated* Second Reader, the Graduate Program Director will hold the final determination as to the Second Reader for the student's supervisory needs.

When the Supervisor is satisfied that a draft Major Research Paper is ready for second reading, he or she will arrange for that step to take place within a reasonable time. However, Supervisors will quite possibly not be able to facilitate prompt second reading of a Major Research Paper if the final draft is submitted later than the scheduled timeline. Second readers are normally expected to provide their commentary within a maximum of two weeks. Note that students will not have any direct contact with the second reader but will simply receive a copy of the second reader's report through their Supervisor. The basic schedule for work on each Major Research Paper will be established by the individual student in consultation with his or her Supervisor. After that, Supervisors will rely on students to follow the established timeline (or to negotiate changes, if justified, within the limits of the Supervisor's ability to accommodate them), to prepare appropriately for scheduled meetings, and to request additional meetings as necessary on their own initiative. Because various commitments may take Supervisors away from Brock for

periods of time during the spring-summer period, they will arrange a timeline for meetings and for submission of work that takes account of such absences. Supervisors will arrange to meet their students on a regular basis for face-to-face consultations from the time that students are allocated to them. Supervisors will also allocate time to read and comment on work submitted by students. During the entire period of supervision students may expect to have up to 10 hours of direct (face-to-face or e-mail) contact with their Supervisor, who will also allocate a further 20 hours to the written work submitted by students. These are averages only and individual time allocations may vary according to the requirements of both students and Supervisors. Changes in Supervisor, once these have been allocated, are rare. The Faculty of Graduate Studies' policy regarding a change of Supervisor is as follows:

"If either the graduate student or Supervisor wishes to initiate a change in Supervisor and the change cannot be resolved at the graduate program level, a request must be presented in writing, with explanation, to the Graduate Program Director, and approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies in consultation with the Faculty Dean and the Graduate Program Director".

Senate 469, 470, 555, 578, 631

As such, both students and faculty should be reminded that a change, if granted, may entail a change in topic and an addition of considerable time for completion of the major research paper (which may then entail payment of additional fees to maintain a student's continuous registration). <https://brocku.ca/webcal/current/graduate/acad.html#sec22>

Students can expect to meet with their Supervisors "regularly," either in person or over email, and as necessary according to the progress of the research. Students can expect their Supervisors to be engaged with the research and to offer scholarly guidance.

### *Monitoring Student Progress*

One of the major responsibilities of a graduate student's Supervisor will be to complete the student's Progress Report (as outlined below in section 11.3).

In general, the supervisor's goal is to create a work environment in which students can function as mature, independent academic researchers and writers with access to guidance. Students can rely on their supervisors for expert advice and encouragement; supervisors, in turn, will expect their students to take responsibility for the day-to-day progress of their own work.

## **DEGREE REQUIREMENTS**

### *Overview*

Students will consult with the Graduate Program Director when planning their program of study. The Philosophy Graduate Program Director of the Department must approve all course enrolments each semester for individual graduate students. Note: students admitted to the

Philosophy MA program at Brock may not pursue two degrees concurrently (at Brock or at any other institution).

In order to complete the degree requirements for the Master of Arts in Philosophy, there are two paths from which to choose:

### *Major Research Paper (MRP)*

Requires the successful completion of PHIL 5F01 and an additional six (6) half-credits of course work as well as a Major Research Paper (including all components leading to the successful completion of the Major Research Paper). Major Research Paper candidates may take up to two one-half-credit tutorials toward the total six (6) half-credits of course work for their degree. (Tutorials are officially called *Directed Readings* in the course calendar). The MA Major Research Paper option is normally completed in five terms.

### *MA Thesis*

Requires the successful completion of PHIL 5F01 and an additional four (4) half-credits of course work, and a Thesis (including all components leading to the successful completion of the Thesis). Thesis candidates may take one-half-credit tutorial toward the four (4) half-credits of course work required for their degree. (Tutorials are officially called *Directed Readings* in the course calendar). The MA Thesis option is normally completed in six terms.

*The Major Research Paper option is the default route for each graduate student. To follow the Thesis route, graduate students are required to successfully defend their thesis proposal by the end of their second term of studies. Thesis candidates who do not pass their Thesis proposal defence are automatically converted to the Major Research Paper MA degree route.*

There are time limits for completing the Philosophy MA graduate degree:

### *Full-time students:*

Full-time MA candidates must complete all degree requirements within three years from the date of first registration.

### *Part-time students:*

Part-time MA students must complete all degree requirements within five years from the date of first registration.

## *Courses*

Graduate courses are one term in duration, and normally meet three hours per week. At times, a graduate faculty instructor may offer a tutorial (PHIL 5P91/92: Directed Readings). Faculty are under no obligation to provide tutorials and may determine the conditions for enrolment of their tutorial offerings (including prerequisites, number of students, etc.). Tutorials are as individual as the instructor providing them and range in style. In general, the student and the instructor agree upon a selected topic—one not listed among the formal offerings of that year—and the student completes the course components, i.e., assigned readings, appointments, tests, summaries, literature review, translations, examinations, essays, presentations, etc., as laid out in the syllabus. No student is allowed more than two tutorial courses (2 half-credits) for credit in a Major Research Paper option, and no more than one tutorial course (one-half-credit) in the Thesis option.

## *Required Courses*

### **PHIL 5F01**

#### ***Philosophical Skills and Development***

Topics such as the nature of graduate studies, pedagogy, publication practices, conferences, and current academic engagement in the field. This course will include an experiential learning component where students will participate in the departmental colloquium, presenting, defending and honing their philosophical research.

Restriction: Seminar, 2 hours per week Note:

Graded Pass/Fail

PHIL 5F01 is usually a D1 duration, taking place over two semesters (generally Fall and Winter, or September to April). Students need only to register for this course once over the entirety of their program.

### **PHIL 5F80\***

#### ***Major Research Paper***

A research project involving the preparation of a major research paper which shall demonstrate capacity for independent work and original research and thought.

### **PHIL 5F90†**

#### ***Thesis***

A research project involving the preparation and defence of a thesis which shall demonstrate capacity for independent work and original research and thought.

\*† Graduate students in the MA Philosophy program must be enrolled in either PHIL 5F80 or PHIL 5F90 *every term* until degree completion.



## Elective Courses

The list of elective courses below reflects the entirety of all *approved courses* from which graduate faculty may teach; *it is not the list of the courses which will be offered*. There are a limited number of Philosophy graduate courses offered each semester.

Graduate students in the Philosophy MA program should not expect their coursework to service their major research interests in a literal or direct manner. The unique nature of Philosophy at Brock means coursework will expose students to philosophical legacies, traditions, and methodologies, which are highly specialized and rare in most Philosophy departments. Philosophy graduate coursework at Brock is an opportunity for students to add breadth to their development as philosophical thinkers. For details on Philosophy graduate course offerings consult the Graduate Program Director and/or refer to the Registrar's Timetable, which contains complete scheduling information: [Registration Guides and Timetables](#)

### **PHIL 5P01**

#### **Advanced Studies in Political Philosophy**

A critical examination of either a particular thinker or problem in political philosophy. Political thinkers may include Plato, Aristotle, Hobbes, Locke, Rousseau, Kant, J. S. Mill, Rawls and Nozick. Problems may include liberty and political organization, justice and equality, human nature and order, civil disobedience, participation and consent, liberalism, anarchism, socialism and conservatism.

### **PHIL 5P02**

#### ***Sartre***

A study of the existentialism of Jean-Paul Sartre as discussed in his literary and philosophical works.

### **PHIL 5P03**

#### ***Merleau-Ponty***

Examination of perceptual and cognitive issues in the moral, aesthetic and phenomenological philosophy of this French thinker. Critical exploration of his reception in the post-structuralist and post-analytic traditions.

### **PHIL 5P04**

#### ***Foucault***

Study of the earlier and later works of Michel Foucault. Themes discussed may include archaeology, genealogy, discipline, power, knowledge, subjectivity and sexuality.

### **PHIL 5P05**

#### ***Nietzsche***

A study of the philosophical ideas of Friedrich Nietzsche.

**PHIL 5P06*****Critical Theory: Frankfurt School***

Consideration of Frankfurt School Critical Theory through an examination of its core thinkers, including, but not limited to: Benjamin, Horkheimer, Adorno, Marcuse, Fromm, Habermas, Honneth. Note: Completion of this course will replace previously assigned grade in PHIL 5V04.

**PHIL 5P07*****Husserl and Transcendental Phenomenology***

Basic issues and methods of phenomenological philosophy will be studied and explored with reference to some of the major works of Husserl.

**PHIL 5P08*****Simone de Beauvoir***

Study of the philosophical ideas of Simone de Beauvoir.

**PHIL 5P09*****Habermas***

An examination of the philosophical ideas of Jurgen Habermas as found in Philosophical Discourse of Modernity, Truth and Justification, and Post-Metaphysical Thinking.

**PHIL 5P15*****Heidegger***

Study of Martin Heidegger's Being and Time and selected later works on themes such as fundamental ontology, analytic of Dasein, truth, language and art.

**PHIL 5P16*****Merleau-Ponty and Nagarjuna***

Critical development of comparative philosophical analysis. Examination of issues in phenomenology, existentialism and soteriology.

**PHIL 5P20*****Kant and the 18th Century***

Historical study of the thought of Immanuel Kant in the context of the 18th-century enlightenment, normally focusing on Kant's critical philosophy.

**PHIL 5P21*****Modern Philosophical Studies: Hegel and the 19th Century***

Historical study of the thought of Georg W. F. Hegel in the context of the 19th century.

**#PHIL 5P71 (also offered as SCLA 5P71)**

***Merleau-Ponty: The Art of Perception***

Merleau-Ponty's treatments and analyses of the visual (painting and film) and literary arts, seen as products, explorations and distortions of human perception and embodied subjectivity, which shed light on our cultural and pre-cultural experiences of the world.

**PHIL 5P91**

***Directed Reading I***

Research course with directed study and regular meetings with a faculty member, covering topics not offered in a designated course.

**PHIL 5P92**

***Directed Reading II***

Research course with directed study and regular meetings with a faculty member, covering topics not offered in a designated course.

**PHIL 5V00-5V09**

***Studies in Contemporary Philosophy***

Topics may include a contemporary philosophical genre such as French Feminism or be focused more narrowly on a single contemporary philosopher, for example, Freud or Deleuze.

**PHIL 5V09**

***The Phenomenology of Justus Buchler***

Examination of key concepts in the works of Buchler, such as experience, nature, judgment, query, and natural complexes.

**PHIL 5V20-5V29**

***Advanced Studies in Comparative Philosophy***

Focuses primarily on the comparison of philosophical figures, concepts, and problems from both contemporary continental thought as well as eastern thought (e.g., Buddhism, Vedanta, Taoism).

**PHIL 5V30-5V45**

***Advanced Studies in Eastern Philosophy***

Concentrated critical and interpretive study of selected texts in the areas of: Advaita Vedanta, Yoga, Madhyamika and Yogacara schools of Buddhism, or Chinese

**Philosophy PHIL 5V34**

***Advanced Vedanta***

Advanced examination of the sources and prominent schools of this central Indian philosophy; readings may include selections from the Vedas, Upanishads, Bhagavad-Gita, Samkara, Ramanuja and Madhava.

**PHIL 5V50-5V59**

### ***Advanced Studies in Contemporary Philosophy***

Examination of current trends in philosophy and cultural issues. Topics may include 21st century aesthetics, artificial intelligence and phenomenology, or socio-environmental challenges.

### ***Course Evaluation***

Faculty must provide students with a course syllabus, including an evaluation scheme, in the first week of class. All course grades must be submitted on or before the deadline listed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies via BrockDB GradeBook; the Graduate Program Director will subsequently approve those grades. Only the Faculty of Graduate Studies may release final grades. Students in the Philosophy graduate program must meet the minimum academic performance criteria set out in the Brock University GraduateCalendar.

Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative average of at least a B- (70 per cent) during each term of study. If a graduate student falls below the minimum cumulative average the student will be automatically placed on academic probation for the subsequent term by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Additionally, a graduate program may recommend required program withdrawal. A probationary student must achieve the required minimum cumulative average, normally during the probationary term, to be eligible to continue as a graduate student.

In graduate programs with a research exit requirement (Major Research Paper/Thesis) satisfactory academic progress during the research phase will be determined through academic progress reviews by the graduate program committee (normally once per term) as outlined in the program's Graduate Handbook. An unsatisfactory academic progress decision, as determined by the graduate program committee, may result in a program's decision to place the student on academic pro Faculty must provide students with a course syllabus, including an evaluation scheme, in the first week of class. All course grades must be submitted on or before the deadline listed by the Faculty of Graduate Studies via BrockDB GradeBook; the Graduate Program Director will subsequently approve those grades. Only the Faculty of Graduate Studies may release final grades.

Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative average of at least a B- (70 per cent) during *each term of study*. If a graduate student falls below the minimum cumulative average the student will be automatically placed on academic probation for the subsequent term by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. Additionally, a graduate program may recommend required program withdrawal. A probationary student must achieve the required minimum cumulative average, normally during the probationary term, to be eligible to continue as a graduate student.

According to the [Faculty Handbook section 3, subsection B, #10 \(10.1\)](#):

For graduate courses, the grades A+, A, B, C, F, IN (incomplete), IP (In Progress), Pass/Fail, CR/NC

(Credit/No-Credit), SA/UN (Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory), NW (Not Withdrawn), or AG (Aegrotat standing) will be recorded on the transcript. Grades A+, A, B, and C are passing grades, but graduate credit will only be given for grades A+, A and B (in all graduate programs except the MBA). [Senate 523, 578, 595, 651, 669]

**IN (Incomplete)** - Is a temporary grade granted to a student, in exceptional circumstances, who has been unable to complete some part of the term work in a course. In the case of the thesis, major essay, or project, this should be granted only when the thesis, major essay or project is essentially complete (only minor revisions or thesis defence scheduling needed). This grade must be accompanied by a numerical grade. The grade of IN will lapse 56 days from the last day of classes in each term and the numerical grade will stand, unless both are replaced earlier by the instructor. In cases in which the IN is not appropriate, an IP grade should be assigned (student re registers and pays for the course the following term). [Senate 377, 385]

**IP (In Progress)** - With the exception of the thesis, major essay, apprenticeship or project courses, no half credit graduate course shall be denoted IP for more than one term. Senate 410, 523 A student who receives an IP grade must re-register for a course in the term following that for which he/she receives an IP grade. [Senate 362]

**Credit/No-Credit** - Graduate programs may offer, for graduate credit, courses that carry no grades, and satisfactory work in such courses will be indicated on the transcript by CR and unsatisfactory work by NCR. No graduate degree candidate can fulfil more than 25% of the minimum program degree requirements by courses of this type. CR/NCR courses by program 7 are designated in the Graduate Calendar. [Senate 578]

**NW (Not Withdrawn)** - When appropriate, the grade NW (Not Withdrawn) may be assigned by the Graduate Senate Committee on Appeals or the Dean of the student's faculty within the specified appeal period and when supporting documentation is supplied by the student. Senate 523 Pass/Fail - Is applicable to theses and courses completed on Letter of Permission. [Senate 523, 571]

**SA (Satisfactory), UN (Unsatisfactory)** - Is applicable for co-op work terms, internship options and non-credit courses. [Senate 523]

**AG (Aegrotat standing)** - The granting of credit for a course(s), based on the course work already completed, when no further assessment is considered feasible because of illness or other extenuating circumstances beyond the student's control. Students may be granted Aegrotat Standing with the approval of the Dean of the faculty offering the course. [Senate 523] bation for the subsequent term or a request for required program withdrawal.

### *Academic Accommodations for Religious Obligations*

Brock University acknowledges the pluralistic nature of the student community such that accommodations will be made for students who, by reason of religious obligation, must miss an examination, test, assignment deadline, laboratory or other compulsory academic event. Students requesting academic accommodation on the basis of religious obligation should make a formal, written request to their instructor(s) for alternative dates and/or means of satisfying requirements. Such requests should be made during the first two weeks of any given academic term, or as soon as possible after a need for accommodation is known to exist (i.e., posting of the examination schedule), but in no case later than the second-last week of classes in that term.

When a student's presence is required prior to the date on which classes begin, any student who cannot meet this expectation of attendance for reasons of religious obligation should notify the Faculty of Graduate Studies, in advance.

Accommodation is to be worked out directly and on an individual basis between the student and the instructor(s) involved. Instructors will make accommodation in a way that avoids academic disadvantage to the student. The type of accommodation granted will vary depending on the nature, weight and timing of the work for which accommodation is sought. In cases regarding academic accommodation of students on the basis of religious obligation, any dispute unresolved by discussion between the student and instructor may be appealed, first to the Graduate Program Director and thereafter to the Dean of the Faculty in which the student is registered. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Faculty Dean, the student may then appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies. If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean of Graduate Studies, the student may then appeal to the Student Appeals Board.

### *Extra Courses*

As outlined in the Brock University Graduate Calendar (Section VII): A full-time graduate student, with the permission of the Philosophy Graduate Program Director, may take up to one extra graduate credit (or two half credits) or one extra undergraduate credit course (or two half credits) including audit status courses, that are not directly related to their graduate degree program. Students must declare a course to be Extra at the time of registration. No additional fee above that charged for the graduate program degree requirements will be levied for these courses. Extra courses are subject to the same regulations as courses required for the degree but cannot be used for credit toward the degree. Extra courses are not included in the calculation of the student's average. Extra courses must be taken concurrently with degree required courses and cannot be taken after completion of degree requirements.

### *Audit Courses*

As outlined in the Brock University Graduate Calendar (Section VII): Graduate students wishing to attend courses without completing assignments and writing examinations must register as auditing the course. Students must have approval from the instructor of the course and their Graduate Program Director. No credit or assessment of performance will be awarded. Changes from audit to degree status or vice versa, are accepted by the Faculty of Graduate Studies no later than the last day to add a course (of that term). All audit courses are coded as extra courses.

Committee members should use the proposal defense to suggest improvements and to record their ideas about the work before it is undertaken. The formal research is not to proceed until the Proposal Approval Form is signed.

## **Thesis Proposal & Proposal Defence**

### *Procedures*

The process of writing a Thesis Proposal involves the undertaking of the following steps:

First, students, with the advice and direction of their supervisor and Thesis committee, will need to write a Thesis proposal that meets academic standards within the discipline of Philosophy. Second, a Thesis proposal must be approved by the end of the first term (D2) of course work (December) after a proposal defense.

### *Format*

The Thesis proposal must include the following:

- A. rationale for the proposed research;
- B. initial research questions and/or hypothesis;
- C. a preliminary review of related research;
- D. a description of the research methodology
- E. a bibliography of research consulted to this point;
- F. a timeline indicating steps toward completion of the project

### *Evaluation*

The Thesis supervisor and the student will establish a Supervisory Committee: this committee is composed of the supervisor (a faculty member from within the Philosophy Department) and two other faculty members who shall serve as readers for the thesis. The second reader must be from the Philosophy department. The Thesis supervisor will provide the student with discussion and guidance throughout the Thesis process and will have the same responsibilities as outlined for the Major Research Paper (see above). The Supervisory Committee will meet with the

student and discuss the Thesis proposal, and if all agree, sign the Proposal Approval Form that will be forwarded to the Graduate Program Director. In the event that the majority of the committee is not in agreement that the Thesis proposal is adequate, the supervisor may request additional meetings until the proposal has been approved or may request to have the student re-assigned to the Major Research Paper route.

## **MAJOR RESEARCH PAPER GUIDELINES**

The Major Research Paper is a substantial scholarly project with a clear thesis that demonstrates the extent of the student's research, understanding, and thinking about a topic of interest within the discipline of Philosophy, and which requires a significant investment of time and effort for the process of reading, thinking, note-taking, drafting, source-seeking, supervisory activities, editing, discussion, reflection, and revision (at the very least), which are necessary for a good-quality essay. The Major Research Paper is to be written by the students themselves and supported by critical exegetical work and critical commentary that addresses primary source materials and, if relevant, engages with major themes in secondary literature.

In a full-time regime of normal participation in the Philosophy graduate program, students are advised that the timely completion of the Major Research Paper will only be possible on the basis of a very serious commitment to this task.

### ***Content***

The essay should convince the philosophical reader the student has read adequately on the topic in the student's chosen area, has understood and deliberated on the relevant theories and the major concepts and issues, and has developed a sense of the history of present issues or debates in the chosen area. Oftentimes, a Major Research Paper will begin with a graduate seminar essay, which the student has taken interest in and which the instructor has indicated shows promise. Such a kernel is only the beginning of the work expected to turn a seminar paper into a Major Research Paper.

In a Major Research Paper, the student is *expected to do more than give an accurate recount of everything that has been read*. The student's selection of source material, emphasis, and comments should show an in-depth development of an idea/argument. The essay should have a focus - tying together the student's rendering of the philosophical tradition and/or secondary literature of the central text/problem/thinker/argument, etc., in ways appropriate to the central material of the essay. The student should be attentive to their Supervisor's advice on what is appropriate given their choice of material.



### *Length and formatting*

The Major Research Paper should be approximately 40-50 pages (10,000-12,500 words + bibliography) and must conform to the [FGS E-Major Research Paper Format Specifications](#).

As per the Graduate Calendar, if a thesis or major research paper or project is to be edited by a professional editor, the student must obtain written permission from their Supervisor and Graduate Program Director. The extent of editing provided must not exceed the guidelines set out by the Editors' Association of Canada in its Guidelines for Ethical Editing of Theses/Dissertations found at [editors.ca/hire/guidelines-editing-theses](http://editors.ca/hire/guidelines-editing-theses). If an editor is used, specific acknowledgement must be included in the major research paper, project, or thesis.

A title page is required for the Major Research Paper. (See the Appendix for a sample of what must be included).

As per the format specifications, all sources must be cited, and a list of references should conform to one standard set of conventions as recommended by your Supervisor, e.g., the *Chicago Manual of Style*.

### *Supervision expectations for a Major Research Paper*

During the entire period of supervision throughout the MA, Major Research Paper students may expect to have up to **10 hours of direct contact** with their Supervisor, this is inclusive of both face-to-face time *and* e-mail. The Supervisor will also allocate a further 20 hours to examining the written work submitted by the student. A Major Research Paper Supervisor will be reasonably accessible to their supervisee for consultation on their Major Research Paper progress and provide timely responses to written work. (*A timely response* is defined as a Supervisor's response - within two weeks and no later than four weeks - to a student's *written, agreed upon drafted material(s)* pertaining to their Major Research Paper in which the Supervisor provides constructive criticism, comment and/or direction.)

The Supervisor will choose an appropriate time to negotiate a Second Reader for the evaluation of the Major Research Paper; generally, after the completion of a polished Major Research Paper draft. The Supervisor shall inform the Graduate Program Director of the Second Reader as soon as the agreement has been struck; upon which the Second Reader will be considered the *designated* Second Reader.

At no point shall a Supervisor remove a *designated* Second Reader (or seek a different Second Reader) without the Second Reader's explicit approval and/or the approval of the Graduate Program Director. In the case of a conflict between a student's Supervisor and the existing *designated* Second Reader, the Graduate Program Director will hold the final determination as to the Second Reader for the student's supervisory needs.

## Evaluation Procedures for Major Research Papers

### *Overall Assessment Procedure*

The Major Research Paper will be read by the student's Supervisor and the second reader. Each will assess the Major Research Paper independently. The second reader's responsibility is to read the penultimate draft and to provide a brief (250-500 word) evaluation of the MPR. Copies of this report on the Major Research Paper will be forwarded to the Supervisor, student, and Graduate Program Director. The Supervisor will provide formative feedback throughout the Supervisory process and will make an assessment after the student has taken action on any advice from the second reader, indicating any additional minor amendments that are required. The student will consult with his or her Supervisor as to how to incorporate any advice from the second reader on how to improve the Major Essay.

Following the assessments by both the second reader and the Supervisor, and once the Supervisor is satisfied that the student has executed all necessary revisions; the Supervisor and second reader will assign a passing or failing grade. All such changes must be carried out before the final copies of the Major Research Paper are submitted to the department. By this point the graduate student must ensure the Major Research Paper is formatted to [FGS E-Major Research Paper Format Specifications](#). The Supervisor will forward a final copy of the formatted Major Research Paper to the administrative assistant of Philosophy and the Graduate Program Director for record-keeping as well as inform the Graduate Program Director of the final grade.

### *Grading Foci*

The following three areas will be considered in assessing the Major Essay; all three foci below are important and a Major Research Paper seriously deficient in any one of them will *not receive a passing grade*:

#### **1. Global organization and originality of the Major Essay**

Strength and clarity of the thesis of the Major Research Paper as a whole; effectiveness in demonstrating the relevance of all sections of the Major Research Paper to the guiding thesis, including precision in formulating critical questions to drive the thesis forward; evidence of relevant reading; creativity in terms of the treatment of the topic and/or of the argumentative point of view.

#### **2. Effectiveness of step-by-step argumentation**

Logic and explicitness in linking scholarly evidence (quotations or paraphrases) to the details of the ongoing argument; richness of paragraph development; logic and explicitness in developing conclusions from evidence; care in anticipating objections and in considering alternative evidence and/or conclusions.

#### **3. Mechanics of academic style**

Observation of the usual linguistic norms of academic style (appropriate vocabulary choice; effective use of complex grammatical structures; maintenance of a consistent style and tone); linguistic correctness; readability; proper adherence to referencing conventions.

#### 4. Holistic Grading Criteria

All three foci above are important and a Major Research Paper seriously deficient in any one of them will *not receive a passing grade*. Nevertheless, in assessing the mark for a Major Essay, foci 1 and 2 will carry more weight than focus 3.

- **Essays assigned A-level marks (80% or above):** will (1) demonstrate a clearly defined and thoroughly argued overall thesis, discussed in a way that reflects not only a precise synthesis of ambitious scholarly reading but also a creatively critical viewpoint that clearly goes beyond well-organized summary towards innovative new insights or problem-solving. More locally, they will (2) present scholarly information with excellent attention to the need for detailed explanation, sensitivity to the subtleties of the subject matter, and explicit expression of logical connections. And in terms of mechanics (3) they will be written in linguistically accurate and stylistically appropriate prose that elegantly promotes the concerns addressed by foci 1 and 2, with very precise conformity to citation conventions.

- **Essays assigned B-level marks (70-79%):** will fall short of the above in one or both of the following ways: (1) although well-organized around a clear and reasonably effective thesis, they may offer a valid and well-supported synthesis that nonetheless falls short in terms of innovativeness; (2) although argued in a basically logical and explanatory manner, they may demonstrate limited awareness of potential counterarguments, alternate perspectives, or other nuances of the subject matter. On the level of academic style (3), however, although not necessarily as elegant as the above, their language will definitely remain accurate and on the whole stylistically appropriate, and their references consistent with the chosen reference methodology.

### Thesis / Research Defence

#### *Procedures*

The recommended format and procedures for a Thesis defense are outlined in the Faculty Handbook: <https://brocku.ca/university-secretariat/facultyhandbook>. The Philosophy graduate program's Thesis defense procedures have been approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies. The Faculty Dean or designate will chair Theses defenses.

Approvals for extraordinary exceptions to these Thesis defense procedures must be approved by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

All members of the examining committee should be given copies of the thesis prior to the oral examination so that they have sufficient time (three weeks prior) to be able to review the work. The approval of the external examiner is the responsibility of the Dean of Humanities. The External Examiner will be appointed by the Dean of Humanities, or his/her designate, from

the list forwarded by the Graduate Program Director.

The External Examiner will write a report (typically 2 pages), in which he/she makes clear whether or not the thesis can go to oral defense. A decision by the External Examiner that the Thesis is not ready for defense is binding. There are formal means to redress this judgment if the student believes that he or she has been unfairly assessed by the External Examiner. A change of External Examiner for a Thesis, in exceptional circumstances, must be justified in writing to the Faculty Dean or designate. If the External Examiner indicates that the thesis is not ready for defense, the student must revise the thesis in response to the External Examiner's comments. The thesis will then be resubmitted to the External Examiner.

The External Examiner's report will be shared with the Examining Committee *and* the graduate student *at least a week* prior to the defense. The External Examiner's report should also indicate the examiner's option as to whether the thesis should be submitted for internal or external thesis competitions. *External Examiners must be informed of this policy with receipt of the thesis document.*

Typically, a Thesis defense will occur four to six weeks after the External Examiner's receipt of the Thesis document. External Examiners shall submit their written report no later than one week prior to the defense.

Graduate thesis defenses will normally be open defenses. A request for a closed defense must be approved by the Faculty Dean and Dean of Graduate Studies and will be based on certified medical or compassionate grounds. The arrangements for a thesis defense will commence once all members of the Supervisory Committee have indicated in writing their approval that the Thesis is ready for defense.

Typically, a Thesis defense will occur four to six weeks after the External Examiner's receipt of the Thesis document. External Examiners shall submit their written report no later than one week prior to the defense.

### ***Committee Composition***

The Examining Committee will consist of at least the Graduate Program Director or his/her designate, the Dean of Humanities or his/her designate (who will also chair the committee), the External Examiner, and the members of the Supervisory Committee, including the Thesis Supervisor. The External Examiner should be in most instances someone who is sufficiently knowledgeable of the field and the methodology to be able to adequately assess the work. However, with the special approval of the Dean of Graduate Studies and the academic Dean of Humanities, an external examiner may be external to the candidate's graduate program but internal to Brock University.

### *Format*

The Chair of the Examining Committee directs the proceedings of the Thesis defense. Normally the Chair is the Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies, Faculty of Humanities.

1. The Chair of the Examining Committee confirms there is a quorum. The quorum for an Examination consists of a minimum of two Supervisory Committee Members plus the External Examiner and the Chair of the Examining Committee. The oral defense will remain open until the point of deliberation by the Examining Committee.
2. The Chair introduces himself/herself, the Candidate, the External Examiner, the Supervisory Committee and the Supervisor.
3. The Candidate will present an outline of his/her thesis (preferably limited to 20 minutes, but not to exceed 30 minutes).
4. The Examining Committee's examination will follow a standard sequence of questioning: External Examiner, Supervisory Committee Members, and then Thesis Supervisor. (The Thesis Supervisor can waive the right to ask questions.) This sequence may involve two or three rounds of questions.
5. The Chair of the Examining Committee will then open the oral examination for questions from the audience (time permitting).
6. The Candidate and attendees of the open exam will then be asked to leave the room and the Examining Committee will discuss and decide on the acceptability of the Thesis and the defense. In addition to voting on the outcome, the committee must discuss any required revisions to the thesis itself.
7. The candidate will be recalled and informed of the result.

### *Evaluation and Possible Outcomes*

Neither the defense nor the Thesis receives a numerical grade. The Thesis defense is either satisfactory or unsatisfactory. The options open to the Committee for grading the Thesis are Pass or Fail. The criteria for these grades are also specified in the *Faculty Handbook*:

1. Pass grades will be awarded in all circumstances, except those described below in ii).
2. Fail grade will be awarded if more than one-third of the Committee finds the Thesis unacceptable or if the External Examiner does not approve the Thesis. If the re-examination of the Thesis ends with the same evaluation, the graduate student will be withdrawn from the program. Appeals relating to the procedures followed in a Thesis Examination, or to the grade assigned, shall be considered by the Senate Committee on Graduate Studies. All aspects of the written work as well as the student's performance during the defense must be taken into consideration when determining the grade. Normally, if all but one member of the committee agrees on a decision, the decision shall be that of the majority, except when the single dissenting vote is that of the External Examiner. If this happens, it must be reported to the Dean of Graduate Studies, who, in consultation with the Faculty Dean, will determine an appropriate course of action.

The Examining Committee will have the following options open to them:

1. Accepted: Thesis and Defense Satisfactory.
2. Accepted with Modifications: Defense Satisfactory. Thesis Requires Minor Modifications (in which case the Thesis Supervisor single-handedly usually approves these minor revisions).
3. Accepted Conditionally: Defense Satisfactory, but Thesis Requires Major Modifications.
4. Decision Deferred: Defense Not Acceptable. Thesis Requires Major Changes.
5. Failed: Defense and Thesis Unacceptable

If major revisions are necessary (option 3), the Examining Committee will specify the areas for revision and the date by which the revised, typed Thesis is to be completed. This date will normally be within three months of the examination or within six months if additional research is required. The Examining Committee may also determine whether the revisions require acceptance by the supervisor or by both the supervisor and the External Examiner. Students should typically be given two to four weeks to complete minor revisions which are to be approved by the student's supervisor, and four to twelve weeks to complete major revisions which are to be approved by the supervisor (and any of the other members of the Examining Committee as is deemed necessary).

In the instance of a failed defense, the student may, at the discretion of the Examining Committee, be permitted a second and final Thesis submission and defense. This will be scheduled for no later than one calendar year after the original presentation and defense. In the preparation of the Thesis for re-submission, the student will be guided by the written criticisms of members of the Examining Committee. Under normal circumstances the composition of the Examining Committee of the second thesis defense will be identical to that of the original Examining Committee. A fee may be charged for re-examination. If a failing grade is again awarded for a Thesis after re-examination, the student will be withdrawn from the program.

### *Post-Defence Requirements*

A candidate submitting a thesis in partial fulfillment of the requirements governing the award of advanced degrees must deposit the required number of copies of the approved thesis with the University Library before the degree will be conferred. In depositing the thesis, the following regulations apply:

1. Submission of Thesis: When the thesis is in its final form after the oral examination, the graduate program will submit, in unbound form, four copies of the thesis to the Faculty of Graduate Studies. The thesis must be free from typographical and other errors: all copies must be identical in content, each containing all illustrations, charts, maps, figures, tables, and appendices as approved by the Examining Committee. Each copy of the thesis must contain a copy of the Certificate of Approval signed by each member of the Examining Committee. The thesis must be accompanied by the candidate's Graduate Record Form and a copy of the National Library of Canada (NLC) Non-Exclusive License to Reproduce Theses.

2. Submission and Binding: The University Library will arrange for the submission of the thesis to the Theses Canada Program and for the binding of the thesis. A fee is levied at registration to cover the cost of the submission to the Theses Canada Program and binding. The Library can arrange binding of additional copies of a thesis at the candidate's expense.
  - a. Disposition of Copies: After binding, the copies will be dispersed as follows:
  - b. Original Copy: will be catalogued and placed in the University Library for consultation;
  - c. Copy 2: will be bound and returned to the graduate program for its files;
  - d. Copy 3: will be bound and returned to the candidate; and
  - e. Copy 4: will be forwarded to ProQuest/UMI to be reproduced on microfiche and digitized in PDF format on behalf of the Theses Canada Program.
3. Circulation and Copying: In normal circumstances, as a condition of engaging in graduate study in the University, the author of a thesis grants certain licenses and waivers in respect of the circulation and copying of the thesis;
4. to the University Library - permitting the consultation of the thesis as part of the library collection and the making of single copies for another library or similar institution or for an individual for private study and research;
5. to the Theses Canada Program - permitting the reproduction, loan and distribution and sale of the thesis. To this end, National Library of Canada (NLC) Non-Exclusive License to Reproduce Theses must be completed and submitted with the thesis. Theses are reproduced on microfiche and digitized in PDF format by ProQuest/UMI on behalf of Theses Canada. An ISBN is assigned to each thesis using the NLC's prefix. Two copies of the theses on microfiche are sent to the NLC and one copy to the submitting university. Under certain circumstances, (e.g., to protect confidential commercial information, patentable material, pending application, or where immediate commercial publication is anticipated), the Dean of Graduate Studies may delay the circulation and copying of a thesis for a period of up to twelve months from the date of successful defense.
6. Copyright: In order to claim copyright, the author of the thesis must ensure that all copies of
7. the thesis bear the International Copyright Notice at the bottom of the thesis title page. The Notice consists of three elements printed on one line:
8. the letter "C" enclosed in a circle, thus ©;
9. the name of the copyright owner, the author; and c) the year of completion.

### *Required Forms*

Thus, in accord with the above, the submitted Thesis must be accompanied by a "Thesis Approval Form" (obtained from the Administrative Assistant) and signed by the thesis supervisor and each member of the Supervisory Committee. Please see the Graduate Studies web page for further details regarding the submission documents.

### *Submission to Brock Digital Repository*

Upon completion of thesis revisions, students must upload their final dissertation document to the [Brock University Digital Repository](#). Further information on processes can be found on the Faculty of Graduate Studies' [Master's Thesis](#) webpage.

Important: Students will not be approved to graduate by the Faculty of Graduate Studies until

their dissertation is finalized in the digital repository.

The document should be in PDF format and be saved using the following file naming convention: Brock\_LastName\_FirstName\_Year.pdf.

## **ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE & PROGRESS**

### *Academic Performance and Continuation*

Graduate students must achieve and maintain minimum satisfactory academic performance to be eligible to continue in a graduate program. Graduate students must maintain a minimum cumulative average of at least a B-(70%) during each term of study. If a graduate student falls below the minimum cumulative average the student will be automatically placed on academic probation for the subsequent term by the Faculty of Graduate Studies. A probationary student must achieve the minimum cumulative average, normally during the probationary term, to be eligible to continue as a graduate student.

### *Progress Reports*

Graduate Program Committees will review the performance of their enrolled graduate students on a regular basis, preferably each term. Following the establishment of a Supervisory committee, a student's performance must be reviewed and documented once per term. Students will work with their Supervisor to complete an annual Progress Report Form.

One of the major responsibilities of a graduate student's Supervisor will be to complete the student's Progress Report. The Progress Report for a full-time student is submitted to the MA Program Committee in mid-December, mid-April, and mid-August. The Progress Report is then reviewed. The progress of part-time students is reviewed annually in mid-August. Each student and Supervisor is given feedback in the form of a de-briefing by the Graduate Program Director (or the Department Chair in the case of the Graduate Director serving as a student's supervisor). *Progress deemed to be unsatisfactory may result in a recommendation to the Dean of Graduate Studies that the student be withdrawn from the program.* If the Dean concurs, the Dean will send a notice of termination to the student.

### *Final Stage Status*

The Supervisor should be aware that full-time students *receive a significant reduction in fees* if both the Supervisory Committee and Graduate Program Director agree that the write-up of a major research paper or thesis is at a stage that could be considered a "first draft" or Final Stage Status

Students approved for Final Stage Status by their graduate program must have completed all course work and have a complete draft of their Major Research Paper or Thesis, which their supervisory committee agrees requires no further research or additional chapters/sections. Students approved for Final Stage Status must be able to complete their exit requirement within



the subsequent term. Final Stage Status may be awarded only once and for only one term.

### *Application to Graduate*

Graduate students may apply to graduate at any time prior to the Convocation date for Spring or Fall ceremonies by going into the Brock portal under the Applicant & Student Self-Serve tab and selecting the menu option Application to Graduate. Payment is made online on or before February 1 (Spring Convocation) and July 1 (Fall Convocation). A late fee is assessed after the deadline dates.

In order to graduate at the requested ceremony, all degree requirements must be completed, and the necessary documentation must be submitted by the Graduate Program to the Faculty of Graduate Studies office six weeks prior to the ceremony. If you have paid the fee and cannot graduate at the requested ceremony, your application will be forwarded to the next ceremony date with no additional fee.

## **ACADEMIC INTEGRITY, ACADEMIC MISCONDUCT, APPEALS**

### *Academic Integrity*

In accordance with the Brock University [Academic Integrity Policy](#), all students are expected to display the highest standards of academic integrity. Academic integrity means upholding a strong personal and professional ethic within your own work, and that of your colleagues. In upholding the principles of academic integrity, graduate students are expected to demonstrate respect and acknowledgement of others' words and ideas when conducting research, writing, publishing, and teaching.

For more information, visit Brock's [Academic Integrity](#) webpages.

### *Academic Misconduct*

Integrity is fundamental to the process of research and scholarship, and misconduct damages the entire academic enterprise. Academic dishonesty, while traditionally defined as plagiarism, also includes inappropriate collaboration with other students, data falsification, fabrication of results, and the unauthorized resubmission of previous work.

In the event a student is suspected of engaging in academic dishonesty, professors will contact the Graduate Program Director and there will be an interview between Graduate Program Director and the student. During this interview students have the right to have an advisor present such as their academic advisor or Brock's Ombudsperson. Students have the right to decline to attend this interview but should note that the investigation of academic dishonesty will continue, and they will forfeit their right to defend against the claims. If the Graduate Program Director and the professor find the claims valid, they will be forwarded to the Dean's Office for

adjudication. In comprehensive exams and the production of a thesis or dissertation, the department may recommend the student be removed from the program of study with a notation from the Dean appended to the student's record. Please note that an act of academic misconduct constitutes sufficient grounds for dismissal from the program.

University procedures covering academic misconduct can be found on the [Graduate Students - Academic Integrity](#) webpage and in the [Graduate Calendar](#).

### *Graduate Student Appeals*

Appeal types and procedures at the Graduate level are outlined in the [Faculty Handbook](#) as well as the [Graduate Calendar](#).

Students who have concerns about a grade in a particular course should first discuss the issue with the instructor of the course in question.

If the issue cannot be resolved, the student should refer the matter to the Graduate Program Committee through your Faculty / School's Associate Dean, Research and Graduate Studies.

If the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Graduate Program Committee, the student may appeal to the Faculty / School Dean.

If the student is not satisfied with the Faculty / School's Dean's decision, the student may appeal to the Dean of Graduate Studies.

Lastly, if the student is not satisfied with the decision of the Dean of Graduate Studies, the Student may appeal to the University's Student Appeals Board. Dissatisfaction with a penalty will not be considered sufficient grounds for an appeal.

The procedure of appeal varies according to the nature of the appeal. For more detailed information regarding appeals students should refer to [Section XVIII of Academic Regulations in the Graduate Calendar](#).

For more information on appeals process and timing, see the Brock University Graduate Calendar and visit the [Brock Ombudsperson](#) website.

## **HEALTH, SAFETY & WELLNESS**

The health and safety of individuals is to be a primary objective in every area of University operation. Every person utilizing University premises must comply with this policy and all related regulations, standards, programs, and procedures. [Health, Safety and Wellness](#) provides information, resources, tools, and support to assist each Brock community member in creating and fostering a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable place to visit, study, live, and especially, work. Students should also be aware of Brock's [Occupational Health & Safety Policy](#).

Students employed by the University are required under the Ontario Occupational Health and Safety Act to take the mandatory [Health and Safety Awareness Training](#) available via Brock's

Health Safety and Wellness Toolbox on SharePoint (requires a Brock employee login).

Under the Accessibility for Ontarians with Disabilities Act (AODA) and Human Rights, students employed at Brock University are legally obliged to undertake [mandatory online training](#). It can also be found on Isaak, Brock University's Sakai-based learning management system. Isaak/Sakai uses the same account and password as the my.Brocku.ca portal. Employees are required to print the page after selecting the "Submit for Grading" button following completion of the quizzes and provide it to their Supervisor. Information about Student Accessibility Services (SAS) can also be found [online](#).

Please review Brock's [information](#) on health, safety and wellness during the pandemic. At this time, students, staff, faculty and others visiting campus must complete a [self- screen survey](#) for COVID-19 risk. Information on access to campus (and answers to other FAQs) can be found [here](#).

## **STUDENT RESOURCES**

There are many services and resources available to students across campus. Some of these are noted below. For a full list of services and supports available at Brock, please visit the University's A-Z listing at: <https://brocku.ca/directory/a-z/>.

### **Academic Policies**

Academic policies for undergraduate and graduate students are outlined in the respective Brock University Calendars (visit <https://brocku.ca/webcal/>) and the Faculty Handbook (visit: <https://brocku.ca/university-secretariat/faculty-handbook/>).

### **Graduate Students Association**

The Graduate Students' Association (GSA) is a student organization that represents the interests of all graduate students at Brock University: MBA, MEd, MAcc, MA, MS, MSc, MTL & all PhD students (approximately 1700 in total). For more information on the services they provide, visit: <http://www.brocku.ca/gsa>.

### **Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre**

Staff at the Student Wellness & Accessibility Centre have extensive experience and a wealth of knowledge to help students develop the skills and strategies they need to reach their full potential at Brock, including support in crisis management, personal counselling, student health, and student accessibility. If support is needed, students are encouraged to contact student counselling services at 1-833-BROCK-33 or visit them in Schmon Tower ST 400. For more information, visit: <https://brocku.ca/health-wellness-accessibility/>.

### **Health, Safety & Wellness**

Health, Safety and Wellness provides information, resources, tools, and support to assist each Brock community member in creating and fostering a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable place to visit, study, live, and especially, work. For more information, please visit:

<https://brocku.ca/human-resources/health-safety-and-wellness/>.

### **James A. Gibson Library**

The Library at Brock offers a variety of resources to students, including a study space and lockers for graduate students on the 6th floor. To see all the services provided by the library, visit: <https://brocku.ca/library/>.

### **Faculty of Graduate Studies**

The Faculty of Graduate Studies (FGS) aims to help Brock graduate students to become well-rounded, ethical, and creative thinkers and researchers who will contribute to the betterment of society.

The FGS recognizes that alongside coursework and research, graduate school is an opportunity for personal and professional growth and development. Visit the Faculty of Graduate Studies website to learn more about the Professional Development opportunities available to Brock graduate students: <https://brocku.ca/graduate-studies/student-development/>.

The FGS also has oversight of graduate student admissions, funding, scholarships, student records, and orientation activities. For details, visit: <https://brocku.ca/graduate-studies/>.

### **Career Services**

Graduate students have unique needs when it comes to planning their careers and finding work. Students may be headed towards a career in research or teaching or preparing for a specific job in the private or not-for-profit sector. Whatever it may be, Career Services has a variety of resources and programming designed to help students figure out where they're going and how to get there. For information on the services and resources Career Services provides for students, visit: <https://brocku.ca/ccee/career-education/campus/>.

### **Brock International**

Brock International offers in-person and virtual support services tailored specifically to international students, including immigration consulting, academic coaching, language support, transitioning to life in Canada and living in the Niagara region, and working as an international student. For more information on these services as well as a listing of events and workshops for international students, visit <https://brocku.ca/international/>.

### **Financial and Administrative Services**

Financial and Administrative Services is the place to visit for questions regarding tuition, fees, accessing financial accounts, due dates, how to make payments, how to get refunds from withdrawn courses, and anything else related to student finances. For more information, visit: <https://brocku.ca/safa/tuition-and-fees/overview/graduate/>.

Title Page Format

Title

Name Philosophy

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

Master of Arts in Philosophy  
Faculty of Humanities, Brock University,  
St. Catharines, Ontario

Supervisor: Second Reader:

© 2023

## Progress Report Form

In accordance with the Faculty Handbook III.B (7.13), graduate students must achieve and maintain minimum satisfactory academic performance (including an average of 70%+) to be eligible to continue in the program. The completion of a formal annual report once per year is considered to be best practice.

Students should complete this upon the request of the GPD and have their completed form signed by their Supervisor. If students are in the early stages of their program, they can have the Graduate Program Director sign in lieu of a supervisor. Following the establishment of a supervisory committee, a student's performance must be reviewed and documented once per term.

### PART I: General Information & Course Requirements

<b>Student Name:</b>		<b>MA Start Date: (mm/yy)</b>
<b>Student Number:</b>		<b>Expected Completion: (mm/yy)</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Full-time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Thesis</b>	<b>Supervisor:</b>  <b>2<sup>nd</sup> Reader (if known):</b>  <b>3<sup>rd</sup> Reader (if known/relevant):</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Part-time</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>MRP</b>	

Include all courses you have 1) completed, 2) are currently completing, or 3) are registered to take.

	Term/Year	Course Code	Course Name & Instructor	Grade
1				

### PART II: Additional Course Information

If you were granted conditional entry to the MA program based on the completion of additional degree requirements (e.g., completing PHIL 2P25: Logic), have you fulfilled your conditional requirement(s)? Please circle one:

YES,    NO    NA

If **NO**, what is your plan to ensure you fulfill these requirements?

### PART III: Thesis / Major Research Paper Progress

**Degree Specialization:**  PHCC (Contemporary Continental Philosophy)

PHEP (Eastern Philosophy)

PHCP (Comparative Philosophy)

Is your current degree specialization *accurately* listed on your student portal? **YES / NO**

Provide a brief account of the area/topic/question of interest you are currently working on or would like to work on (depending upon where you are in the program) in your major research paper/thesis.

Describe progress on major research paper/thesis by indicating actual or projected dates for various components.

Component	Date
Supervisor Selected	
Supervisory Committee Established	
Proposal Approved	
First Draft of MRP/Thesis Completed	
MRP/Thesis officially sent to Reader(s)	
Final MRP/Thesis Submitted, including final approval of requested changes from Supervisor and Reader(s), a 300-750 word abstract, edited and formatted in alignment with <a href="#">Brock's Standards</a> , uploaded to the LMS (e.g., Sakai) with a copy sent to <a href="mailto:philosophy@brocku.ca">philosophy@brocku.ca</a> for record keeping.	

**PART IV: Related Activities: Scholarly and/or Community**

While we only assess academic progress, we are interested in learning about any related activities you may be involved in. Therefore, we encourage you to share this information if you wish. Activities could include (but are not limited to) attendance at sponsored or co-sponsored events and colloquia, awards and/or scholarships (applied for and/or received), conference presentations/attendance, publications, teaching assistantships and/or research assistantships, and any other activities advocacy/activist/service activities) since your last progress report. Students in their final term should feel free to attach a C.V. for review.



Other Relevant Information (e. g. future goals for education and/or career)

**PART V: Supervisory Review Process & Oversight**

The supervision of graduate student progress depends on student needs and where they are in the program. In these reports, the oversight of progress is generally limited to the Graduate Program Director or the Supervisor. Note: especially in the early semesters of a student’s program, the supervisory review may be conducted by the Graduate Program Director in lieu of a Supervisor and/or simply by the Supervisor without additional review by other committee members.

**Graduate Student:** “I submit the information provided at the time of this report is as accurate and complete as possible. I commit to abide by all of Brock’s academic policies and procedures.”

Graduate Students Signature and Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

**Supervisor:** “I have discussed the contents of this progress report and clearly articulated any concerns to the student.”

Supervisor’s Signature and Date:

\_\_\_\_\_

(If applicable) **GPD/Supervisory Committee Member:** “I have reviewed this progress report and communicated any concerns to the student.”

(If applicable) **GPD’s/Supervisory Committee Member’s Signature and Date:**

\_\_\_\_\_

When the Supervisor, Supervisory Committee Members, and Student have reviewed and signed this progress report, the Supervisor and student should retain a copy, and one copy should be forwarded to the Graduate Program Director, who will forward the copy to the Graduate Program Committee.