

# PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

**Provision of a British Philosophy and Culture Summer School for students of Beijing Normal University**

**Summer 2024**



## About Us

### The city of York

Halfway between London and Edinburgh, in the North of England, York is a contemporary city of contrast. Renowned for its rich history and heritage, York is full of culture. You can still walk around the city on the city walls, and enjoy the spectacular views of York Minster, the majestic cathedral which dominates the city.

York is regularly named one of the best places to live and visit in the UK, and with a population of 200,000, it's big enough to feel lively but small enough to feel like home. Join us to experience it in person.

### The University of York

The University of York is a leading, research-led university, one of the success stories in UK higher education.

Since our foundation in 1963, we have powered our way to a consistently high ranking in the UK and are one of just six post-war universities to have appeared in the world top 100.

We are a proud member of the Russell Group.

#### 10th in the UK

for our research,  
the Times Higher  
Education's REF ranking,  
2021

#### 17th in the UK

in the Times Good  
University Guide 2023,  
with 13 subjects ranked  
in the top 10

#### 19th overall

Complete University  
Guide 2023, with nine  
subjects ranked  
in the top 10

#### 21st in the UK

Guardian Good  
University Guide 2023,  
with 6 subjects ranked  
in the top 10

## Global Opportunities - Short Courses

Part of the International Recruitment, Partnerships and Mobility team, **Global Opportunities** manages the University's portfolio of international student mobility partners and programmes. The team has been running **summer schools** and **short courses** for international students and university staff for over 20 years. We have a long track record of delivering high quality bespoke and open-access academic programmes, ensuring we deliver learning outcomes that meet the needs of our students and partners.

Our **online programmes** have proven that they can widen the reach of our courses and allow access to education for those who are not able to travel to York.

Working closely with local people opening up their homes to our students, we have been running our own high quality **homestay programme** for over 20 years.

Our programmes aim to build new international relationships and enhance existing relationships with key University partners across the globe and support University strategy.

**We are a friendly, supportive and inclusive centre.**

We get to know our participants, accommodate their needs, and help them develop.

## Programme Overview

We are pleased to offer the following bespoke programme to students of Beijing Normal University.

## Objectives

The overall objectives of the proposed programme are:

- To provide an opportunity to experience philosophical debate in English
- To enhance students' international outlook
- To enhance students' academic communication skills in English with an emphasis on seminar participation

## Components

To meet the above objectives, we can offer the following components:

### Introduction to British Philosophy

- Key note lectures
- Post-lecture discussions
- Trips

### Culture

- Discussion and exploration of current affairs and global issues

### Project

- Reflections on ideas and outcomes of discussions
- Poster presentation

### Academic communication skills

- Seminar skills
- Critical thinking

## Programme Details

The following outline syllabi can be considered a basis for discussion. Upon receipt of your expression of further interest we will develop this descriptive account into detailed aims, syllabi and assessment plans in consultation with you.

### Introduction to British Philosophy

Forming the backbone of the programme, keynote lectures will be given by established and leading academics from the philosophy department at York. The general theme of these lectures will be 'British Philosophy', with weekly sub-themes devoted to Empiricism, Political Philosophy and Freedom of Belief. The following constitutes a summary of the each week's focus:

#### Week 1: The Social Contract

- The State of Nature
  - Human nature and the need for a social order
- Problems with natural law theory
  - Cultural relativity
  - Epistemological issues
- Contractarianism
  - What would we all agree to?
  - The problem of free-riders

#### Week 2: The Problem of Perception

- Arguments from illusion
  - Their logical structure and presuppositions
- The primary-secondary quality distinction
  - Perceptual relativity
  - Physicalism
- Naïve Realism
  - Rejecting the argument from illusion
  - The inseparability of primary and secondary qualities
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#### Week 3: State, Faith and Toleration

- Locke on toleration
  - The political value of toleration
  - The limits of toleration
- Passive obedience
  - The source of sovereignty
  - Obedience to the powers that be
- Mill's Harm Principle
  - The limits of state power
  - Freedom of thought and freedom of speech

Lectures will be followed by Q and As with the speaker. Follow up discussion sessions with Global Opportunities tutors will allow the participants to explore the topics in further depth.

## **Culture**

This component provides students with the opportunity to broaden their cultural horizons and raise their international awareness and sensitivity to UK culture. The students will learn about various aspects of British culture and will be asked to reflect and discuss the potential reasons behind cultural similarities and differences. Concurrently, sessions would also focus on language skills including vocabulary learning and pronunciation skills. Student will also take part in field trips to locations related to the Philosophy themes including Edinburgh, Bolsover Castle, York and the Castle Museum and the Abbeys of the North of England.

## **Project**

In this component, the students will reflect upon, synthesise and apply new learning gained. Given that the programme would be only three weeks in length, and not formally assessed, we would recommend that the final week culminates in a brief student presentation. One possible means of organising this would be to ask the students to submit a series of reflections throughout the programme, describing how their thoughts are evolving. Following feedback from tutors, each student could then select the most significant aspects of their intellectual journey, and present these in the form of a poster. The subsequent poster presentation could then be attended by members of the teaching staff, who could circulate, ask questions, and gain a sense of how the programme has been influencing the intellectual life of the students.

## **Academic communication skills**

The aim of these sessions is to help students fully participate in post-lecture small group discussions. Students will be able to produce the appropriate functional language items to give and politely challenge opinions, interrupt, build on previous speakers ideas, summarise, etc.

In order to achieve these aims, there will be an emphasis early on in the programme on functional language for seminars, as well as tools for critically evaluating arguments.

## **Teaching hours**

Timings and duration of programme components are typically as follows:

- three sessions, totalling 4 hours, per day of learning (between 9am - 11:00am, 11:30-12:30am - 2.30pm - 4pm)
- There will be three full-day excursions each week and two half-day excursions in the first two weeks.

We are happy to discuss precise timing with you to ensure we meet any requirements you may have.

## **Our approach to teaching**

We aim to provide active and experiential learning with participants involved and engaged intellectually and effectively. Teachers will be responsive to participant needs and be flexible in adapting them if required.

## **Student evaluation**

As well as giving the students formative feedback during the sessions, a summative end-of-course interview will conclude the programme. Feedback will be given both one-to-one and in writing.

## **Programme evaluation**

The programme will be evaluated both formatively and summatively.

### **Formative evaluation**

Typically we use an end-of-week-one feedback questionnaire as a vehicle for mid-course formative evaluation. Tutors, our admin team and the Programme Manager will continually monitor issues that arise in the delivery of the programme through regular contact with participants.

### **Summative evaluation**

An on-line end-of-course written evaluation will inform us of revisions and adjustments to be made for future groups. A post-programme tutors' meeting will assess the effectiveness of the course structure, materials and activities, and generate action points to guide programme development. These will be followed up in a pre-course planning meeting for any further cohort. A programme report and evaluation will be sent after the programme along with participant grades and reports, as appropriate.

## **Certificate**

On successful completion of the programme, participants will receive a University of York certificate of attendance.

## Global Opportunities Staffing

### Programme Management and Administration

A Programme Manager will be appointed to oversee all aspects of programme design, delivery and evaluation, and will be the main point of contact.

### Teaching

Key note lectures will be provided by the University of York Philosophy Department. Teaching will be carried out by qualified and experienced staff who will be confirmed nearer the time. We have our own team of teachers and a pool of regular part-time teachers who all have specialist teaching qualifications. Senior staff involved in developing this programme may include:

#### **Nick Milner**

Nick is Deputy Head of Global Opportunities. He has over 25 years of experience working in ELT as a teacher, teacher trainer and manager. He worked in Spain for 10 years teaching both General and Business English, including work as a Cambridge Examiner. He then worked in Cambridge and York as a Director of Studies before spending 6 years working as Head of the International Department at a private secondary school. As well as a BA in English, a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching and a Diploma in TESOL, Nick also studied a Diploma in ELT Management and he specialises in professional development, teacher training and Internationalisation of HE.

#### **Suzanne Khouja**

Suzanne Khouja is a Programme Manager. She has worked in ELT for over 25 years in both teaching and managerial roles. She spent 20 years in Spain teaching General and Business English as well as exam preparation classes. She was also an accredited Cambridge examiner. Suzanne taught in France and Japan before taking up a permanent position at the University of York after many years teaching on summer courses here. Suzanne specialises in intercultural communication, EMI, teacher training and the development of external exam preparation, especially IELTS. She holds an MA in Applied Linguistics and an IH Certificate for the Teaching of Young Learners.

#### **Joe Gallagher**

Joe is a Programme Manager. He has been working in ELT for 15 years, and has worked in various roles within higher education in the UK, and private language schools in Vietnam and Portugal, respectively. Joe currently specialises in English for Academic Purposes, having spent years teaching courses to help international post-graduate students transition to the UK education system. He holds a Diploma in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages from Trinity College, as well as certificates in teacher training, and teaching young learners. He is also a Teaching Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

## Programme Charges

Guideline costs for the proposed programme in 2024.

Per-student costs

Item	Cost (£)
All-inclusive fee per student including campus accommodation *	£3030

The above charges are based on a group of at least 12 students participating in the three-week programme. Please note that most of our programmes now run from Wednesday to Tuesday. \*Students will be responsible for purchasing their own meals in any of the subsidised University café/snack bars, whilst in campus accommodation. Students will also have access to shared kitchen facilities during this time.

## Additional costs

Item	Cost
Weekend arrival charge	£100
Out of hours arrival at UoY (between 17:00 and 09:00)	£75

### Tuition fee includes:

- ✓ All teaching materials (including classroom materials)
- ✓ Access to online teaching platform
- ✓ Tutorials
- ✓ Homework and marking
- ✓ Welcome and farewell events
- ✓ Assessment
- ✓ Welfare support
- ✓ End of course certificate
- ✓ Access to pre-course website
- ✓ Access to email and library
- ✓ Access to student social coordinators or mentors
- ✓ Access to social programme
- ✓ Campus accommodation