

PROGRAMME PROPOSAL

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

Summer 2025



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 walls enjoying the spectacular views of York Minster and 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.

UK Top 20

in the Times Good
University Guide 2024,
and UK Guardian
University Guide, 2024

147th in the world

THE World University
Rankings 2024

10th in the UK

For research excellence
in the THE ranking of the
Research Excellence
Framework (REF) 2021

£500 million

Invested in new student
accommodation and
state-of-the-art facilities

Global Opportunities - Short Courses and Summer Schools

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 **short courses** and **summer schools** 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.

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 **online programmes** have also 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.

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 three-week programme to students of Beijing Normal University.

Objectives

The overall objectives of the proposed programme are:

- To develop students' ability to engage in nuanced philosophical debate in English, focusing on constructing arguments and critically evaluating viewpoints through interactive seminars and discussions;
- To broaden students' international outlook through shared exploration of British philosophy and culture, examining its global influences and encouraging diverse interpretations and critical engagement with the material; and
- To enhance students' academic communication skills in English with an emphasis on seminar participation and academic presentation skills.

Components

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

Introduction to British Philosophy

This core component provides an introduction to key figures and movements in British philosophy, and to the academic research of the University of York's Department of Philosophy faculty members. In this context, students will exercise philosophical inquiry, further developing their ability to construct arguments, analyse texts, and critically evaluate diverse viewpoints.

A preliminary overview of keynote lectures, delivered by the University of York's academic teaching staff includes:

- ❖ Mathematical Fictions - Professor Mary Leng
- ❖ Social Justice and Economic Systems - Professor Martin O'Neill
- ❖ The Coherence of Creation - Dr David Worsley
- ❖ Agent-Relativity and the Status of Deontological Restrictions - Dr Jamie Buckland
- ❖ Do colours exist? - Professor Keith Allen
- ❖ AI Ethics - Professor Tom Stoneham

Each keynote lecture will be complemented by a seminar led by the same faculty member and will provide a forum for in-depth discussion and critical analysis of the presented material.

Additionally, two excursions will enrich the learning experience, providing real-world connections to the philosophical figures and concepts explored in the lectures and seminars:

- ❖ Edinburgh
- ❖ Bolsover Castle

Culture

This component aims to enhance participants' awareness and understanding of British culture, broadening their cultural horizons. Through tailored sessions, students will explore compelling aspects of British culture, fostering engaging discussion and deep reflection. These sessions will also challenge students to compare and contrast British cultural elements with their own cultural backgrounds.

Proposed cultural topics include, but are not limited to:

- ❖ The History of York
- ❖ Social Issues in the UK
- ❖ Linguistic Class Codes
- ❖ Digital Rights and the Rise of AI

One full-day excursion, to our most popular and highly-rated destination: Whitby, and two half-day excursions in York, will allow students to explore and immerse themselves in local British culture.

Academic Communication Skills

This component focuses on developing essential academic skills and applying them in the context of learning at a British higher education context. Skills developed and practised include effective note-taking for seminars, confident participation in academic discussions (covering clear expression of ideas, respectful engagement with opposing viewpoints, and insightful questioning), reflective thought through Learning Logs using the DAE (Description, Analysis, Evaluation) model to enhance critical thinking and application of philosophical concepts in English, and academic poster design and presentation skills.

Project

The Academic Poster Presentations component provides a platform for students to showcase their learning and develop key academic skills. Students will create visually engaging posters summarising their research on a chosen topic within British philosophy, culminating in a dynamic presentation session. This project fosters critical thinking, research synthesis, and effective communication of complex ideas in English, while also providing valuable experience in presenting research to peers, academics, and Global Opportunities teaching staff and management.

Social Programme

In addition to the above, we provide a programme of social activities across the summer that students are encouraged to participate in while visiting York. These activities are led by our student 'Global Assistants', i.e., University of York students who are trained to provide a great experience for our visiting clients.

Examples of some of the many activities we arrange include:

- ❖ various tours in York, e.g., historical tours, ghost tours
- ❖ visits to traditional English pubs
- ❖ river walks and cruises
- ❖ movie nights

Teaching hours

Timings and duration of programme components are typically as follows (based on previous course iterations):

- Three sessions, totalling 4 hours, per day of learning (between 09:30-11:00, 11:30-13:00, and 15:00-16:00).
- The total number of study hours per week will be up to 20 hours.
- There will be two full-day excursions aligned to philosophy themes discussed in lectures.
- There will be one full-day and two half-day excursions aligned to the culture component.

Our approach to teaching

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

Student Assessment

Students will be provided formative feedback on their effort and contributions by teachers in the classroom. Additionally, two assessments will be implemented across the course: Learning Logs, where students will record the critical thoughts on philosophical topics introduced, and Academic Poster Presentations, where students will showcase their learning. Both assessments will be assessed through shared assessment criteria, and formative feedback will be provided by the course tutor.

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 satisfaction with programme delivery through regular contact and dialogue 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.

Accommodation and catering

Accommodation can be provided with carefully selected local host-families and/or in campus accommodation.

Homestay

We have many years' experience of running an extensive and high-quality homestay network. Homestay accommodation includes bed, breakfast and evening meal, with lunch at weekends. Participants will be allocated to families on the basis of their requirements/preferences as far as possible (i.e. pets, smoking, dietary requirements, etc).

Campus accommodation

Campus accommodation in student accommodation in Derwent College or similar can be provided in the summer months. Participants will have access to kitchens and kitchen equipment.

The university has a wide range of cafes and restaurants for lunch and dinner as well as being a 10-minute bus ride from the city centre.

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

Keynote 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:

Senior staff involved in developing this programme

Nick Milner

Nick is Deputy Head of Global Opportunities. He has over 30 years of professional experience 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 school. In addition, Nick has worked as a freelance writer and editor for Oxford University Press and Macmillan Heinemann. He holds a BA in English, a Postgraduate Certificate in Teaching, a CELTA, Trinity DELTA and a Diploma in ELT Management. He specialises in professional development, teacher training and Internationalism in HE.

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.

Jessica Mosley

Jessica Mosley is a Programme Manager. She has worked in ELT for over 20 years in both teaching and managerial roles. She spent 15 years in Italy teaching General English as well as exam preparation classes. She is also an accredited Cambridge examiner and a certified Cambridge CELTA teacher trainer. Jessica has taught in Taiwan and Hong Kong, and, most recently, at various universities in the UK before taking up a permanent position at the University of York. Jessica specialises in intercultural communication and Global Englishes and teacher training. She holds a Diploma in English Language Teaching from Cambridge (Delta), an MA in Applied Linguistics and an IH Certificate for the Teaching of Young Learners.

Gareth Williams

Gareth is a Programme Manager with extensive professional experience across various educational settings and international contexts, including the Republic of Korea, Spain, and the UAE. As a specialist in assessment and curriculum design, development, and implementation, he significantly contributed to the UAE Ministry of Education's expansive curriculum reform initiatives between 2016 and 2023. His fields of expertise include fostering learner agency, enhancing student well-being, developing literacy and language skills, and promoting sustainability education. Gareth holds a CELTA, a BA in Linguistics, and an MA in Education.

Aoife Burke

Aoife Burke (Programme Manager) has been teaching and developing curriculum in the field of ELT and methodology for over 14 years. As an educator, she has taught English language in a range of educational contexts. She spent time working in Spain and Japan before she took up her current post at the University of York. Aoife specialises in developing and delivering bespoke courses for international students and holds a Diploma in English Language Teaching as well as an MA in Education (Leadership and Management). She is also a Teaching Fellow of the Higher Education Academy.

Programme Charges

Guideline costs for the proposed programme in 2025.

Programme fee (per student)

Per Participant Fees	Amount in £	Notes
All inclusive programme fee*	£3181.50	Includes tuition, self-catering campus accommodation, and airport transfers from/to Manchester Airport**

The above charges are based on a group of at least 12 students participating in a three-week programme (with a maximum of 18 students).

* 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.

** The University of York will only be able to provide accompanying members of staff for arrivals and departures at airports during working hours, e.g., between 08:30 and 17:30. Otherwise, participants will be met at the airport by the coach driver. Please check with the Global Opportunities team before booking flights.

Additional Charges (per group)

Per-Group Charges		
Late Arrival at UoY (before 08:30 or after 17:30)	£75	To cover overtime staff cost
Weekend Arrival	£100	To cover overtime staff cost

Tuition fee includes:

- ✓ All teaching materials, including classroom materials
- ✓ Visiting speaker fees
- ✓ Homework, tutorials, marking and assessment
- ✓ Welcome and farewell receptions
- ✓ Welfare support
- ✓ Timetabled trips, including buses and entry fees
- ✓ End of course photo and certificates
- ✓ Access to pre-course website
- ✓ Access to Wi-Fi, email and library
- ✓ Access to university emergency and security services (emergency number, advice, SafeZone app)
- ✓ Access to social programme