



Bachelor of Social Science in Philosophy, Politics and Economics (PPE, HB027) - 2025

Orientation & info session

PPE Contacts...

PPE Humanities Committee (Academic)

- A/Prof Vinothan Naidoo (Convenor & Politics rep)
- Mr Olerato Mogomotsi (Philosophy rep)
- A/Prof Cecil Mlatsheni (Economics rep)

Faculty of Humanities (Administrative)

- Ms Lisa Little (registration and enrolment, records)

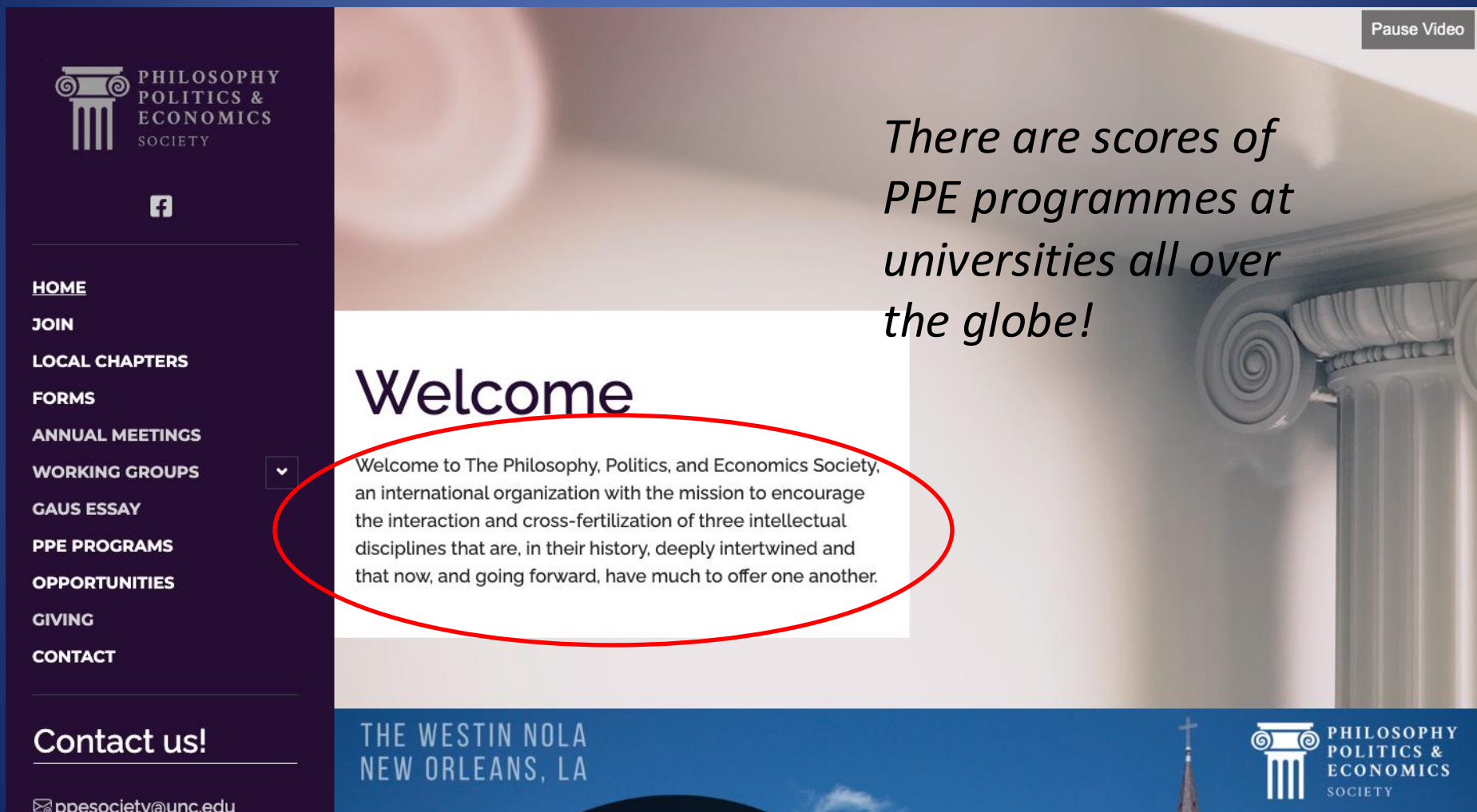
Further info:

- [https://humanities.uct.ac.za/departments-philosophy/undergraduate/ppe-humanities-philosophy-politics-and-economics](https://humanities.uct.ac.za/departments/philosophy/undergraduate/ppe-humanities-philosophy-politics-and-economics)

What is the PPE?

- The 'PPE' is a structured BSocSc degree which is distinct from the 3 - year 'general' degree
- You do not select 'majors', as with the general degree, although you can achieve distinctions in any of the individual disciplines which make up the PPE
- You complete a set menu of compulsory courses in POL, PHI and ECO, and can select a mix of optional courses in these disciplines

Why PPE?



**PHILOSOPHY
POLITICS &
ECONOMICS
SOCIETY**

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WORKING GROUPS
GAUS ESSAY
PPE PROGRAMS
OPPORTUNITIES
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Welcome

Welcome to The Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Society, an international organization with the mission to encourage the interaction and cross-fertilization of three intellectual disciplines that are, in their history, deeply intertwined and that now, and going forward, have much to offer one another.

There are scores of PPE programmes at universities all over the globe!

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Contact us!

ppesociety@unc.edu

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Why PPE?



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PPE SOCIETY: LONDON
2025



ANNUAL MEETINGS

WORKING GROUPS



GAUS MEMORIAL ESSAY PRIZE

PPE PROGRAMS

OPPORTUNITIES

GIVING

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International PPE Programs

Listed below is a compilation of university PPE programs around the world, with links to their program websites.

We hope this can be useful when thinking about the exponential growth of PPE internationally in recent years.

If you know of an institution not listed below, or if you would like to request an update, please email us at ppesociety@unc.edu.

If you have not filled out the [PPE Program survey](#), please do so.

To see a cross sample of PPE Programs and information about them, generated from the survey above, [visit our spreadsheet](#).



Jump to: [Africa](#) | [Asia](#) | [Australia and New Zealand](#) | [Europe](#) | [North America](#) | [South America](#)

Africa

Nigeria

- [Afe Babalola University](#).
- [Obafemi Awolowo University](#).

South Africa

- [Stellenbosch University](#).
- [University of Cape Town](#)
- [University of KwaZulu-Natal](#)

Contact us!

<mailto:ppesociety@unc.edu>

Why the PPE?

PPE maximises the synergy between three disciplines (PHI, POL, ECO) which have a natural chemistry to help us solve the most pressing problems facing society...

- ***Philosophy** trains us to critically question how we as humans acquire knowledge, the values which underpin this knowledge, and how that knowledge informs and justifies the actions that we take*
- ***Politics** equips us with the tools to decide how best to use our collective knowledge to solve shared problems and improve public welfare (through government institutions & policy)*
- ***Economics** reminds us that solving collective problems and improving our individual and collective welfare always entails weighing up costs and benefits*

Example: Energy security & climate change:

- **PHI:** *What kind of relationship should humans have with the earth; do we have a set of moral obligations towards the earth; how do we as humans impact the earth – how do we know? How do we reconcile our obligations towards the earth with our obligations towards ourselves?*
- **POL:** *How do we engage in collective action (government, civil society) to reduce our impact on the earth and mitigate volatile and disruptive changes in weather? How best do we negotiate and create policies to achieve this? What obligations, if any, do nations have towards each other when managing the effects of climate change?*
- **ECO:** *What are the material costs and benefits to individuals and society of climate change, and in how we choose to react to it? How do we incentivize nations, individuals and businesses to reduce their impact on the earth, i.e. adapt our economic behaviour (e.g. what we consume, how we consume, where we consume, how we produce...)*

Curriculum structure of the PPE

First year (8)

ECO1010F Microeconomics
ECO1011S Macroeconomics
STA1000S Statistics 1000
MAM1010F Mathematics 1010

PHI1010S Ethics
PHI1024F Introduction to Philosophy

POL1004F Introduction to Politics
POL1005S Introduction to Politics B



Second year (8)

ECO2003F Microeconomics II
ECO2004S Macroeconomics II
ECO2007S Cooperation and Competition
PHI2041S Great Philosophers
PHI2042F Political Philosophy
POL2038F Comparative Politics

Plus two additional courses from a selection of 2000 level POL, PHI and ECO courses, at least one of which must be POL

Curriculum structure of the PPE

Third year (6)

ECO3025S Applied International Trade Bargaining

At least one of the following:

At least one of the following:

PHI3023F Logic and Language

PHI3024S Metaphysics and Epistemology

At least one of the following:

POL3029F Politics of Africa and the Global South

POL3030F Conflict in World Politics

POL3037F South African Public Policy Analysis

POL3038S Urban Politics and Administration

POL3045S Global Governance

POL3046S South African Political Thought

ECO3009F Natural Resource Economics

ECO3016F History of Economic Thought

ECO3020F Advanced Macro and
Microeconomics

ECO3021S Quantitative Methods in
Economics

ECO3022S Advanced Labour Economics

ECO3023S Public Sector Economics

ECO3024F International Trade and Finance

Subject-specific options in the PPE

- Philosophy: 2nd and 3rd year courses include applied ethics, business ethics, political philosophy, philosophy of race, philosophy of psychology, philosophy of science and a course on the nature of reality and knowledge.
- Politics: offers various courses in 2nd & 3rd year covering political theory, public policy & administration, political economy, local government, global political institutions & the politics of Africa
- Economics: offers topical courses like development economics, and at third year a range of offerings like public sector economics, natural resource economics, history of economic thought, labour economics and international trade and finance

FAQs for the PPE

- What happens if I fail a course?
- Can I take extra courses?
- Can I take courses outside of the PPE curriculum?
- Can I apply for a semester abroad and credit my courses towards the PPE?
- As a PPE student, do I also end up with a major in all three subjects?
- Can I transfer in & out of PPE to the general degree?
- How does the PPE degree benefit me in the job market?