PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Name, title and level of final qualification(s)	**MA AI, Ethics and Society** (Level 7)
Name and title of any exit qualification(s)	PG Cert, PG Dip
Awarding Body	University of London
Teaching Institution(s)	Birkbeck, University of London
Home Department/other teaching departments	School of Historical Studies (home) School of Law School of Creative Arts, Culture and Communication School of Computing and Mathematical Sciences Business School
Location of delivery	Central London
Language of delivery and assessment	English
Mode of study, length of study and normal start month	Full-time (1 year) Part-time (2 years) September, January
Professional, statutory or regulatory body	Not applicable
QAA subject benchmark group(s) Higher Education Credit Framework for England	N/A
Birkbeck Course Code	TMAAIETH_C TMAAIETJ_C (January start)
HECoS Code	(100337) philosophy (100793) ethics (100792) social philosophy
Start date of programme	Autumn 2024
Date of programme approval	Summer 2024
Date of last programme amendment approval	*N/A*
Valid for academic year and cohorts	**2024-25**
Programme Director	Alex Grzankowski
Date of last revision to document	18/06/2024

Admissions requirements

At least a second-class honours degree (2:2), or equivalent in any area of study

We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.

Course aims

Purpose and Intention: This Master's course in AI, Ethics, and Society is designed to equip students with a deep understanding of the intricate relationship between artificial intelligence technologies and societal values. Birkbeck offers this course to meet the growing demand for professionals who are capable of navigating the ethical landscapes that these advancing technologies create. Our aim is to provide a comprehensive educational experience that merges technical knowledge with philosophical and ethical insight, thereby preparing graduates to contribute positively to a world increasingly shaped by AI.

Target Audience: This course is intended for students from a variety of backgrounds who are interested in the implications of AI on society. It is particularly suitable for professionals in technology, law, policy making, and business sectors who seek to enhance their understanding of the ethical considerations in AI applications. This program is also ideal for those looking to influence future policy, develop ethical AI systems, or lead organizations in a responsible manner in the age of digital transformation.

Learning Outcomes and Course Structure: Students will gain a robust understanding of the core principles of AI and its social impacts, develop critical thinking skills related to ethics in technology, and learn to apply this knowledge in real-world scenarios. The curriculum is organized into core modules that cover essential theories and practices, supplemented by specialist options that allow students to focus on particular areas of interest such as business analytics, emerging technologies, data management, and visualization. This structure ensures that while all students receive a solid foundation in the ethical considerations surrounding AI, they also have the opportunity to tailor their education to specific career goals.

Course structure

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credit	Comp Core/ Option	Likely teaching term(s)
Full-time – 1 year, October start					
7	SC03017S7	The Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	30	Core	Term 1
7	SC03018S7	History and Foundations of AI	30	Core	Term 2
7	SC03019D7	Dissertation, MA AI, Ethics and Society	60	Core	Across year
60 credits of options taken from the following:					
7	SC03020S7	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: Minds, Machines and Meaning	30	Option	Term 3
7	ARMC247S7	Managing Digital Media	30	Option	Term 1 or 2
7	LALW059S7	Algorithms and the Law	30	Option	Term 1
7	BUCI081H7	Demystifying Computing with Python	15	Option	Term 1

7	BUCI080H7	Analytic Tools for Data Science	15	Option	Term 2
7	BUMN154H7	Managing Emerging Digital Technologies	15	option	Term 3
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	option	Term 1
7	BUMN178H7	Big Data Management	15	option	Term 1
7	BUMN179H7	Data Visualization and Communication	15	option	Term 3
7	SC04023S7	Critical and Creative AI	30	Option	Term 2
Part-time – 2 years, October start					
Year 1					
7	SC03017S7	The Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	30	Core	Term 1
7	SC03018S7	History and Foundations of AI	30	Core	Term 2
Choose options from the following not to exceed 45 credits					
7	SC03020S7	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: Minds, Machines and Meaning	30	Option	Term 3
7	ARMC247S7	Managing Digital Media	30	Option	Term 1 or Term 2
7	LALW059S7	Algorithms and the Law	30	Option	Term 1
7	BUCI081H7	Demystifying Computing with Python	15	Option	Term 1
7	BUCI080H7	Analytic Tools for Data Science	15	Option	Term 2
7	BUMN154H7	Management of Emerging tech	15	Option	Term 3
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	Option	Term 1
7	BUMN178H7	Big Data Management	15	Option	Term 1
7	BUMN179H7	Data Visualization and Communication	15	Option	Term 3
Year 2					
7	SC03019D7	Dissertation, MA AI, Ethics and Society	60	Core	N/A
Choose remaining options =180 total		Choose remaining credits from option lists above		options	

Full-time – 1 year, January start					
7	SC03018S7	History and Foundations of AI	30	Core	Spring Term
7	SC03019D7	Dissertation, MA AI, Ethics and Society	60	Core	Spring-Summer-Autumn *(Jan sub-mission date)*
7	SC03017S7	The Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	30	Core	Autumn term

60 credits of options taken from the following:					
7	SC03020S7	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: Minds, Machines and Meaning	30	Option	Term 3
7	ARMC247S7	Managing Digital Media	30	Option	Term 1 or 2
7	LALW059S7	Algorithms and the Law	30	Option	Term 1
7	BUCI081H7	Demystifying Computing with Python	15	Option	Term 1
7	BUCI080H7	Analytic Tools for data science	15	Option	Term 2
7	BUCI080H7	Analytic Tools for Data Science	15	Option	Term 2
7	BUMN154H7	Management of Emerging tech	15	option	Term 3
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	option	Term 1
7	BUMN178H7	Big Data Management	15	option	Term 1
7	BUMN179H7	Data Visualization and Communication	15	option	Term 3
7	SC04023S7	Critical and Creative AI	30	Option	Term 2
Part-time – 2 years, January start					
Year 1					
7	SC03018S7	History and Foundations of AI	30	Core	Spring Term
7	SC03017S7	The Ethics of Technology and Artificial Intelligence	30	Core	Autumn term
Choose options from the following not to exceed 45 credits					
7	SC03020S7	Philosophy of Artificial Intelligence: Minds, Machines and Meaning	30	Option	Summer term
7	ARMC247S7	Managing Digital Media	30	Option	Spring or Summer (TBC)
7	LALW059S7	Algorithms and the Law	30	Option	Aut term
7	BUCI081H7	Demystifying Computing with Python	15	Option	Aut term
7	BUCI080H7	Analytic Tools for Data Science	15	Option	Spring term
7	BUMN154H7	Management of Emerging tech	15	option	Summer term
7	BUMN176H7	Introduction to Analytics and Business	15	option	Aut term
7	BUMN178H7	Big Data Management	15	option	Aut term
7	BUMN179H7	Data Visualization and Communication	15	option	Summer term
Year 2					
7	SC03019D7	Dissertation, MA AI, Ethics and Society	60	Core	Spring-Summer-Autumn (Jan sub-mission date)
Choose remaining options =180 total		Choose remaining credits from above options lists		options	

Note: part-time students take 60 credits of options in total over the 2 years, with no more than 45 credits taken in total in any one term.

Please note that the option Analytic Tools for Data Science requires a strong background in Python.

Core:	*Module must be taken and passed by student*
Compulsory:	*Module must be taken but can be considered for compensated credit (see CAS regulations paragraph 24)*
Option:	*Student can choose to take this module*

How you will learn

Your learning and teaching is organised to help you meet the learning outcomes (below) of the course. As a student, we expect you to be an active learner and to take responsibility for your learning, engaging with all of the material and sessions arranged for you.

You will find information on the virtual learning site (Moodle, see Academic Support below) about each of your modules, what to expect, the work you need to prepare, links to reading lists, information about how and when you will be assessed.

Your learning for this course will be organised around the activities outlined below.

Modular Structure: The course is divided into distinct modules, each focusing on different aspects of AI, ethics, and their societal impacts.

Each module comprises several learning units, including:

- Lectures: To introduce and explain complex concepts and theories.
- Seminars: Where you can engage in discussions, group work, and practical exercises that foster a deeper understanding of the material.
- Digital Learning Environment: All course materials are accessible through Birkbeck's virtual learning environment, Moodle. Here, you will find:
    - Module Information: Detailed descriptions of what each module entails, learning objectives, and key concepts.
    - Preparatory Work: Assignments and readings that you are expected to complete before each session to maximize your understanding and participation.
    - Assessment Details: Clear guidelines on how and when assessments will take place, allowing you to prepare adequately and demonstrate your understanding effectively.
    - Additional Resources: Links to supplementary materials, including reading lists, external articles, and videos that can enhance your learning experience.
- Engagement and Support: To support your learning journey, we provide:
    - Academic Support: Access to academic advisors and tutors who can provide guidance on academic writing, research methods, and more.

How we will assess you

The course will use a variety of assessment methods. Assessment is used to enhance your learning rather than simply to test it. For most of the modules associated with this course, your assessment will be through the following types of assessment.

Short written exercises, essays which will develop in length and expected complexity as you progress through your studies, quizzes and multiple-choice questionnaires, case studies, problems to solve.

Learning outcomes (what you can expect to achieve)

'Learning outcomes' indicate what you should be able to know or do at the end of your course. Providing them helps you to understand what your teachers will expect and also the learning requirements upon which you will be assessed.

At the end of this course, you should be able to:

1. Identify and explain the core principles of artificial intelligence and its technological underpinnings, as well as its societal impacts.
2. Evaluate the ethical considerations and societal implications of AI applications in various domains, including technology, law, policy, philosophy, and business.
3. Analyze case studies of AI implementation to critically assess the ethical and societal challenges and propose viable solutions.
4. Apply ethical theories and frameworks to real-world AI scenarios to make informed decisions that balance technological advancement and societal values.
5. Develop and critique AI policies and regulations by integrating philosophical and ethical considerations with technical knowledge.
6. Demonstrate critical thinking skills by discussing and debating complex ethical issues related to AI with clarity and coherence.
7. Communicate effectively about the ethical and societal aspects of AI to diverse audiences, including policymakers, technologists, and the general public.
8. Conduct independent research on AI ethics and/or policy, culminating in a well-argued thesis that addresses contemporary issues and contributes to the academic field.
9. Collaborate with professionals/academics from various sectors to address the interdisciplinary challenges posed by AI and develop comprehensive strategies for ethical AI governance.

Careers and further study

You will find MA in AI graduates in the following kinds of roles:

- Management
- Academia
- Analytics
- Legal

Birkbeck offers a range of careers support to its students. You can find out more on the careers pages of our website.

Academic regulations and course management

Birkbeck's academic regulations are contained in its Common Award Scheme Regulations and Policies published by year of application on the Birkbeck website.

You will have access to a course handbook on Moodle and this will outline how your course is managed, including who to contact if you have any questions about your module or course.

Support for your study

Your learning at Birkbeck is supported by your teaching team and other resources and people in the College there to help you with your study. Birkbeck uses a virtual learning environment called Moodle and each course has a dedicated Moodle page and there are further Moodle sites for each of your modules. This will include your course handbook.

Birkbeck will introduce you to the Library and IT support, how to access materials online, including using Moodle, and provide you with an orientation which includes an online Moodle module to guide you through all of the support available. You will also be allocated a personal tutor and provided with information about learning support offered within your School and by the College.

Please check our website for more information about student support services. This covers the whole of your time as a student with us including learning support and support for your wellbeing.

Quality and standards at Birkbeck

Birkbeck's courses are subject to our quality assurance procedures. This means that new courses must follow our design principles and meet the requirements of our academic regulations. Each new course or module is subject to a course approval process where the proposal is scrutinised by subject specialists, quality professionals and external representatives to ensure that it will offer an excellent student experience and meet the expectation of regulatory and other professional bodies.

You will be invited to participate in an online survey for each module you take. We take these surveys seriously and they are considered by the course team to develop both modules and the overall courses. Please take the time to complete any surveys you are sent as a student.

We conduct an annual process of reviewing our portfolio of courses which analyses student achievement, equality data and includes an action plan for each department to identify ongoing enhancements to our education, including changes made as a result of student feedback.

Our periodic review process is a regular check (usually every four years) on the courses by department with a specialist team including students.

Each course will have an external examiner associated with it who produces an annual report and any recommendations. Students can read the most recent external examiner reports on the course Moodle pages. Our courses are all subject to Birkbeck Baseline Standards for our Moodle module information. This supports the accessibility of our education including expectations of what information is provided online for students.

The information in this programme specification has been approved by the College's Academic Board and every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information it contains.

Programme specifications are reviewed periodically. If any changes are made to courses, including core and/or compulsory modules, the relevant department is required to provide a revised programme specification. Students will be notified of any changes via Moodle.

Further information about specifications and an archive of programme specifications for the College's courses is available online.