

BSc in Medical Sciences with Humanities, Philosophy and Law

‘The practice of medicine is an art based on science.’

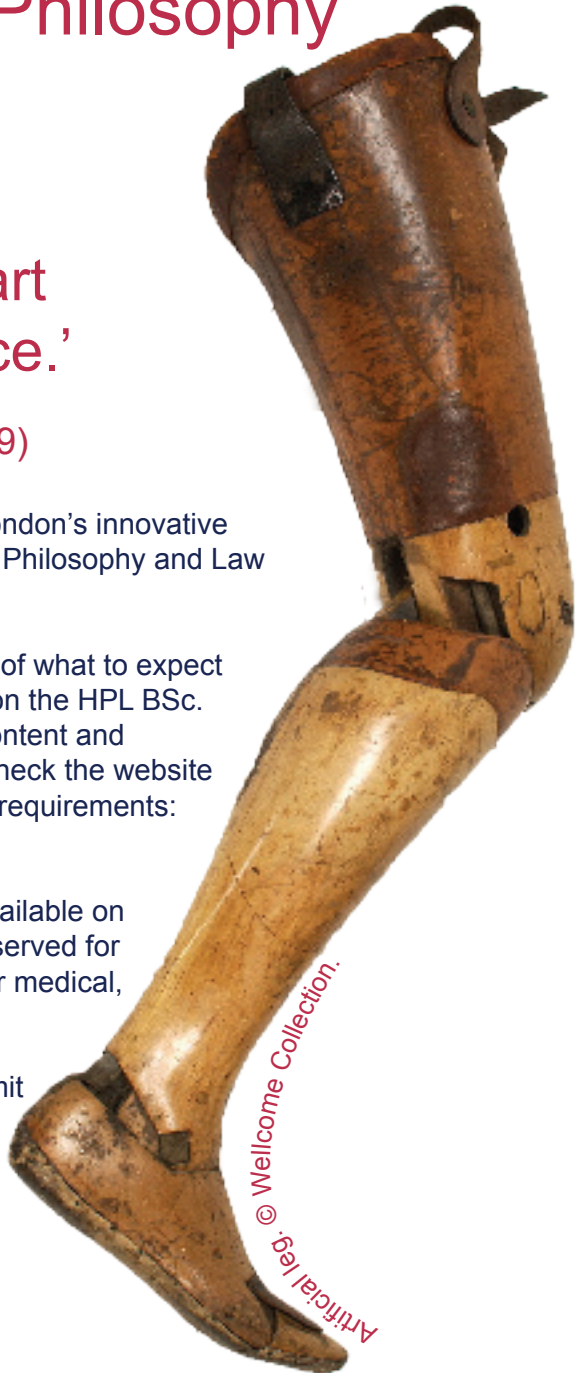
William Osler (1849–1919)

Welcome to Imperial College London’s innovative intercalated BSc in Humanities, Philosophy and Law (HPL).

This guide will give you an idea of what to expect if you are accepted for a place on the HPL BSc. Please note, this is indicative content and potentially subject to change. Check the website for updates and details of entry requirements: <http://tinyurl.com/yrk2vbbv>

Twenty-five places are made available on this BSc, of which seven are reserved for students intercalating from other medical, veterinary or dental schools.

Prospective students who commit to undertaking ethics-related research for the project component of the course can apply for a scholarship from the Institute of Medical Ethics: <http://tinyurl.com/534e5z4z>



What can you expect to learn?

The Humanities, Philosophy and Law (HPL) BSc ranges widely across disciplines and time periods. It offers you a critical framework in which to appraise medical knowledge and practice through the lens of the humanities paradigm. The course will develop and hone modes of analytical thinking and bodies of knowledge that complement your studies in medical, veterinary or dental sciences. All students will have the opportunity to experience diverse approaches to scholarship in the medical and health humanities, drawn from history, law, ethics, philosophy, literature, and a wide variety of the creative arts.

Content is focused on three main areas of knowledge: **the body, the mind, and death and dying**. Within each area, topics are explored from interdisciplinary points of view. Topic areas include anatomy and the science of medicine, the medical gaze, mental health, pain, medicine and war, and end-of-life issues. We emphasise creativity and you will have the opportunity to engage in a practical way with the arts through the guidance of expert practitioners. We take full advantage of our enviable location by including field trips to museums, galleries, and law courts across London.

The modes of teaching and learning are designed to suit the content with an appreciation of how context also affects learning. Therefore, there is an emphasis on active and experiential learning in settings in which you can make best use of face-to-face activities with teachers and your fellow students. Role modelling is an important aspect here: guest lectures and workshops facilitated by experts will inspire you and provide memorable learning experiences that facilitate reflective learning, and personal and professional development.

How is the course structured?

The taught component of the course (4 months) consists of sessions in which you will be taught by a variety of experts across a range of disciplines working at the intersections of medicine and the humanities. After every three-week block of teaching, there is a week devoted to self-directed learning during which you will work on individual



Meet the team

Mr Greg Artus teaches philosophy at Imperial College, covering areas such as epistemology, philosophy of mind, research ethics, and philosophy of medicine. His research interests also include machine ethics, and the works of both Wittgenstein and Heidegger.



Dr Giskin Day is a Principal Teaching Fellow at Imperial. She is a National Teaching Fellow and a recipient of the Imperial President's Medal for Outstanding Contribution to Teaching Excellence. Her specialism is creativity in medical education, and her research is on the role of gratitude in healthcare.



Dr Wing May Kong is a Consultant Endocrinologist and Honorary Senior Lecturer in Endocrinology and Ethics at Imperial College. She is also a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians. Her areas of expertise include medical ethics and law, diabetes, and the diabetic foot.



Prof. Mike Osborn is a consultant Histopathologist based at Charing Cross Hospital in London. He is the former President of the Royal College of Pathologists and a professor of practice at Imperial College London. His specialist areas are gastrointestinal pathology and non-forensic autopsies.



Dr Jennifer Wallis is a Lecturer in the History of Science and Medicine, and Medical Humanities Teaching Fellow, at Imperial College. She specialises in the history of psychiatry and the body, and is an active researcher and author in the history of science, technology, and medicine.



Questions?

To be put in touch with former students or if you have any queries about applying, please contact the course lead, Dr Giskin Day (giskin.day@imperial.ac.uk).