

# MA Philosophy of Nature, Information and Technology

## Is this course for you?

This course is for anyone with an interest in the connections between the natural world, technology, and human life. At its heart is a conception of matter and information that challenges traditional approaches to knowledge, ethics, and politics. The course will enable you to take up a critical relation to questions that face us today, such as those of our response to the climate crisis, and the uses made of personal data. Our research-driven course will help you to develop advanced skills in analysis, enquiry, research and communication that are highly valued by employers in many fields, and you will be supported in pursuing your own research project. The course is delivered through Online Learning, meaning you can connect to new skill and information wherever you are located, and the option to study full-time or part-time allows you the flexibility to study alongside your existing responsibilities.

## About this course

The MA approaches the material world as a complex network in which information is exchanged – a world of communication. It draws on philosophy (Michel Serres, Donna Haraway, Katherine N Hayles, Karen Barad), information theory, cybernetics, and science, but also on historical figures that enrich our understanding today (Lucretius, Leibniz). If human life, biological and social, is embedded in the communication of the material world, new perspectives open onto problems that demand our attention today, such as the climate crisis and what it means to be human in and with nature. The programme includes work on new materialisms and posthumanism, but also on the scientific and philosophical ideas that underpin, and perhaps extend, these ways of thinking.

You'll have an opportunity to develop your own perspectives on the problems that interest you most.

The course is delivered entirely through online learning with the full involvement of your tutors at all times. Wherever you are in the world and whatever your working, social or domestic commitments, you have a chance to study and to make a difference to your life and career opportunities.

## Key features

- A unique programme available nowhere else.
- Flexible study – an opportunity to study this MA via online learning, either part-time or full-time. Learn around your existing commitments at a time that suits you, from the comfort of your own home or anywhere in the world.
- Philosophy at Staffordshire has 100% record for student satisfaction (Postgraduate Taught Experience Survey 2022)
- International reputation – our staff are highly respected in the field of philosophy

## Entry requirements

You will need an undergraduate degree in Philosophy, 2:1 or higher (or equivalent), or an appropriate level of interest and relevant experience.

## Key Facts

Mode of study	Duration	Course begins
Online Learning (Full-time)	13 months	September
Online Learning (Part-time)	22 months	September
		January

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## Modules

### Information and Communication

We live in an age of information, but what is information? Is information a part of the physical universe? Is memory encoded in matter? The module will draw on information theory and its significance for philosophy, cybernetic and contemporary science.

### Posthumanism and Technology

The module introduces a selection of 'new materialisms' and their significance for posthumanist philosophy. You will reflect critically on the way humans are enmeshed with technology as hybrid beings and what this means for society and processes of regulation and control.

### Research Skills

You will gain the skills you need to carry out research on your MA and will be supported in preparing a proposal for your own research.

### The Mirror Universe and Relational Ontology

The module will draw on a variety of sources in the history of philosophy and contemporary science to develop an ontological perspective on relations and networks as dynamic, complex, and nonlinear. It will link this to the material world, and in particular to cosmology.

### Contracts with Nature

This module will examine the relation between the human and the non-human through the work of Michel Serres, with a focus on the climate crisis. It will begin with his idea of a 'natural contract' and will also introduce econarratives and ecocriticism.

### Research Project

You will undertake an independent piece of research on a topic of your choice, connected to the work you've done on the MA. A member of staff will support you. Interdisciplinary research is welcome.

Find out more and apply now:

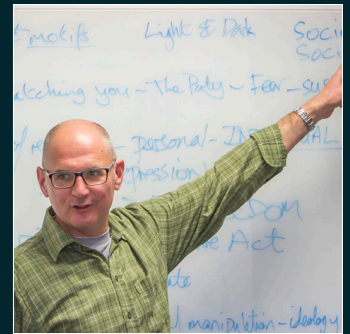


## Prof David Webb

Course Leader  
MA Philosophy of Nature,  
Information and Technology



*The MA is designed to encourage thinking about how we understand the connections between the material world, life, and technology. It's very much about where we are now and where we're going, and welcomes interdisciplinary approaches.*



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