



# Employability

**Where next? Unlocking the potential of your philosophy degree**

This guide has been compiled from the 2004 Subject Centre publication, 'A Brief Guide to Employability in Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies', written by Julie Gallimore, and research written by Peter Forbes and Bianca Kubler for the Enhancing Student Employability Coordination Team of the Higher Education Academy (ESECT) and the Council for Industry and Higher Education (CIHE), together with new material developed, researched, compiled and edited by Danielle Lamb and Julie Closs, for the Subject Centre for Philosophical and Religious Studies, part of the Higher Education Academy.

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# Aim of this guide

Using this employability guide is a way to help you, as a philosophy student, reflect on the skills you are gaining as you study, and gather evidence of these skills being put into practice. Sometimes with a non-vocational course, it can be hard to see how what you learn in the course of your studies will prepare you for your post-university career. Being comfortable with this yourself, and getting it across to future employers, is vital, particularly in a subject such as philosophy where there are plenty of popular misconceptions about what the subject actually entails.

Evidence of the skills you possess can also come from work experience and extra-curricular activities. Reflecting on these skills can help with writing up progress files or personal development planning, CV writing and job applications. There are lots of general resources available about how to write a good CV or job application, and how to do well in interviews, and you will find information about some of these in the 'Resources' section at the end. This guide doesn't attempt to replace those resources, but rather to get you thinking about the specific skills that doing philosophy develops in you, and how you can use examples to demonstrate your skills when you apply for a job or go for an interview. The most important thing that we hope this guide will do is help you to articulate why you will be a good employee (because of all the skills you've developed by doing philosophy!) so that you can get the job you want.

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# I. What makes philosophy graduates employable?

## Introduction to employability

The term 'employability', as we are using it here, basically refers to how the degree you are working towards prepares you for success in working life. Philosophy graduates are highly employable because philosophy teaches you how to think for yourself, analyse and communicate ideas in a clear, rational and well thought out way. Being a philosophy student is less about building a body of knowledge, than about learning how to learn. This is one of the distinctive strengths, and key benefits, of studying philosophy. Whereas the knowledge learnt in other disciplines may be superseded by future discoveries or made obsolete by changes of circumstance, the ability to think critically does not become devalued over time. On the contrary, it is invaluable when new situations occur.

There are plenty of career opportunities for philosophy graduates, but often in roles that bear no obvious relation to the study of philosophy, so you need to be able to demonstrate sound personal transferable skills, which employers value. This guide will help you to think about the general skills you are developing, like the ability to think logically, analyse critically, and communicate articulately and accurately, both orally and in writing. You're also learning communication skills, reasoning skills and the ability to formulate and address problems creatively.

These are the skills that employers say are desired for middle management and leadership roles. In an increasingly global economy, the skills of vision, creativity and analytical power being developed through the study of philosophy will be at a premium.

## Employability skills

We've already touched on some skills that you will be building up. But what can be expected of you, as a philosophy graduate? What kind of skills can you expect your degree to develop in you? The QAA is an independent body that safeguards and helps to improve the academic standards and quality of higher education in the UK. One of its tasks has been to develop a 'Benchmark Statement' for each subject, outlining specific skills that students can expect to gain from studying for their degree, to help measure and maintain the standards of the university education you are being provided with. This can be helpful for you to look at as it breaks down what you are actually doing as you read, write or talk about philosophy, in much more detail than you will probably be used to. Hopefully this will help get you into the frame of mind where you can see how what you do in university classes can be transferred for use elsewhere. So, taken from the Philosophy Benchmark Statement, here is a list of the employability skills you are developing as a philosophy student. It is a long list, but it is aiming to be a definitive guide to the skills you are gaining as you study.

(The full benchmark statement can be found on the QAA website at:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/academicinfrastructure/benchmark/honours/philosophy.asp>)

## **General philosophical skills**

1. Articulacy in accurately identifying underlying issues in all kinds of debate.
2. Logical thinking and presentation in the analysis and formulation of complex and controversial problems.
3. Sensitivity in interpretation of thoughts and ideas drawn from both history and current trends.
4. Clarity and rigour in the critical assessment of arguments presented in such thoughts and ideas.
5. Ability to use and criticise specialised philosophical terminology.
6. Ability to abstract, analyse and construct sound arguments and to identify logical inconsistency.
7. Ability to recognise methodological errors, rhetorical devices, unexamined conventional wisdom, unnoticed assumptions, vagueness and superficiality.
8. Ability to move between general and appropriately detailed discussion, providing examples to support or challenge a position, and distinguishing relevant and irrelevant considerations.
9. Ability to consider unfamiliar ideas and ways of thinking, and to examine pre-suppositions and methods critically within the discipline itself.

## **Engaging in philosophical debate**

10. Ability to conduct arguments about matters of the highest moment without recourse to insult or susceptibility to take offence.
11. Willingness to evaluate opposing arguments, to formulate and consider the best arguments for different views and to identify the weakest elements of the most persuasive view.
12. Honesty in recognising the force of the conclusions warranted by a careful assessment of pertinent arguments.
13. The ability to work with and in relation to others through the presentation of ideas and information and the collective negotiation of solutions.
14. Ability to cross traditional subject boundaries, examining the limitations and virtues of other disciplines and

practices, and recognising philosophical doctrines in unfamiliar places.

### **Breadth of view**

15. Ability to apply philosophical skills and techniques to issues arising outside the academy.
16. Ability to adapt and transfer the critical methods of the discipline to a variety of working environments.
17. To listen attentively to complex presentations.
18. To read carefully a variety of technical and non-technical material.

### **Generic skills**

19. Develop the ability to reflect clearly and critically on oral and written sources, employing powers of imagination as well as analysis.
20. To remember relevant material and bring it to mind when relevant.
21. To construct convincing arguments in the evaluation of information.
22. To present, in both oral and written forms, a clear and well-structured assessment of relevant considerations.
23. Develop skills in Information Technology – word-processing, email and Internet, information search and retrieval, using online computer resources to identify and access relevant information / material.
24. Ability to comprehend and develop intricate concepts in an open ended way which involves an understanding of purpose and consequences.
25. The ability to understand, interrogate and apply a variety of theoretical positions and weigh the importance of alternative perspectives.
26. The ability to handle information and argument in a critical and self reflective manner.
27. Self motivation.
28. Ability to work autonomously.
29. Time and priority management skills.

## **Personal attributes**

The study of philosophy fosters the development of a range of personal attributes that are important in the world of work and that will strengthen the graduate's ability to engage in lifelong learning, and contribute to the wider community. These include:

30. Developing a flexible and adaptable mind to face new situations and manage change.
31. Ability to think creatively, self-critically and independently.

## 2. What do employers want from you?

### Desired employee attributes and skills

To help you see things from the perspective of an employer, here is a list of the qualities typically sought by employers, with their definitions. These were identified by employer members of the Policy Forum of the Council for Industry and Higher Education (the CIHE is a council of leading people from a wide range of businesses, universities and colleges). The employers on the CIHE believe that these skills are the key components observed in individuals who can transform organisations and add value early in their careers. While the skills listed below are ones that employers say they want from all employees, we have added more detail to help you think about how to demonstrate that your philosophy degree has developed these skills in you.

### Cognitive skills/brainpower

*The ability to identify and solve problems, work with information and handle a mass of diverse data, assess risk and draw conclusions.*

Although this could fall under the heading of 'generic skills' (those that may be covered during the course of study of any degree) note that the 'General philosophical skills' in Section I tie in with this particularly well, especially ones such as analysis and judgment, meaning that you, as a philosophy student, have a particular advantage here.

#### **Analysis**

Relates and compares data from different sources, identifying issues, securing relevant information and identifying relationships.

#### **Judgement**

Determines the most appropriate course of action and draws conclusions that are based on logical assumptions that reflect factual information.

#### **Attention to detail**

Accomplishes tasks through a concern for all areas involved, no matter how small.

#### **Planning and organising**

Establishes a course of action for self and/or others to accomplish a specific goal. Plans proper assignments of personnel and appropriate allocation of resources.

### Generic competencies

*High-level and transferable key skills such as the ability to work with others in a team, communicate, persuade and have interpersonal sensitivity.*

Looking at the Benchmark Skills, as well as the general philosophical and generic ones, the skills to do with 'engaging in philosophical debate' and 'breadth of view' are particularly pertinent here. Sometimes in philosophy it might seem hard to see where skills such as teamwork or interpersonal sensitivity can be demonstrated, but looking again, perhaps skill 10, 'the ability to conduct arguments about matters of the highest moment without recourse to insult or susceptibility to take offence', or 13, 'the ability to work with and in relation to others through the presentation of ideas



and information and the collective negotiation of solutions' could be used here. In studying for your philosophy degree you will be familiar with discussing difficult topics with others and developing your ideas through this discussion. Also, remember that there are ways that your course can demonstrate these skills apart from purely what goes on when you study. If you set up a study group to discuss your work, or attend or help run a philosophical society, these are things you could use to demonstrate such competencies.

<b>Influencing</b>	Influences others by expressing self effectively in a group and in one to one situations.
<b>Interpersonal sensitivity</b>	Recognises and respects different perspectives and appreciates the benefits of being open to the ideas and views of others.
<b>Listening</b>	Shows by a range of verbal and non-verbal signals that the information being received is understood.
<b>Questioning</b>	Uses an appropriate approach to questioning in order to gain information from which to draw conclusions and / or assist in the making of decisions.
<b>Written communication</b>	Expresses ideas effectively and conveys information appropriately and accurately.

## Personal capabilities

*The ability and desire to learn for oneself and improve one's self awareness and performance. To be a self starter (creativity, decisiveness, initiative) and to finish the job (flexibility, adaptability, tolerance to stress).*

One of philosophy's particular strengths, as a subject, is that rather than just imparting a body of knowledge, it teaches you how to learn. To succeed in philosophy, you need to be able to think for yourself and have the intellectual courage and creativity to develop your own viewpoints. You are also developing skills such as being able to see the wider framework that particular arguments work within, and using opposition to your arguments as a tool to refine them and take them further.

<b>Achievement orientation</b>	Maintains and inspires a results-driven approach, focuses on results and critical performance indicators.
<b>Adaptability / flexibility</b>	Maintains effectiveness in a changing environment.
<b>Creativity</b>	Generates and / or recognises how best practice and imaginative ideas can be applied to different situations.
<b>Decisiveness</b>	Makes decisions and takes action.
<b>Initiative</b>	Identifies opportunities and is pro-active in putting forward ideas and potential solutions.
<b>Leadership</b>	Takes responsibility for the directions and actions of a team.

<b>Life long learning and development</b>	Develops the skills and competencies of self, peers and colleagues through learning and development activities related to current and future roles.
<b>Organisational sensitivity</b>	Is sensitive to the effect of his or her actions on other parts of the organisation and adopts a mature, direct and up front style in dealing with conflict.
<b>Personal development</b>	Maintains an up to date personal development plan and takes action to ensure personal development takes place.
<b>Teamwork / working with others</b>	Builds and develops appropriate relationships with academic staff, peers, colleagues, customers and suppliers at all levels within an organisation.
<b>Tolerance for stress</b>	Maintains performance under pressure and / or opposition.

## Technical ability

*For example, having the knowledge and experience of working with relevant modern laboratory equipment.*

While you may not think that philosophy imparts any particular technical knowledge, your use of IT to research and write, and the other skills you may learn such as using email to network, or project management software to help you plan larger projects, are invaluable here. Don't underestimate the value of such technical knowledge – use your time at university to develop these skills and always make them explicit when applying for jobs.

<b>Technical application</b>	Has experience of using modern technology.
<b>Technical knowledge</b>	Develops and maintains a body of knowledge of key trends in technology.

## Business and / or organisation awareness

*An appreciation of how businesses operate through having had (preferably relevant) work experience.*

Although this set of skills seems to be purely related to work experience, as a philosophy student you are very well equipped to build up this type of knowledge. When you apply for a job, spend time using your research skills to build up an understanding of the organisation you want to work within, and how your role will interact with the business processes. And of course, if you know what particular line of work you want to go into after your degree, setting up some work experience or summer or part time work in the relevant area will be invaluable.

<b>Commercial awareness</b>	Understands the economics of the business. Understands the business benefits and commercial realities from both the organisation's and the customer's perspectives.
<b>Financial awareness</b>	Understands basic financial terminology used in organisations and is able to construct and maintain simple financial records.

**Organisation understanding** Understands the organisation's work environment, internal politics, business objectives and strategy.

**Process operation** Begins, controls and concludes a complete process or procedure.

## Practical elements – vocational courses

*Critical evaluation of the outcomes of professional practice; reflect and review own practice; participate in and review quality control processes and risk management.*

Again, while it might be difficult to see how you can demonstrate this within the context of your philosophy studies, the robust nature of philosophical debate should give you the confidence to interact at all levels. Go to conferences or philosophy society meetings and gain experience of talking to people at a higher level in the same business (learning about and contributing to philosophy) as you. And if you decide that you want to do a particular vocational course, your ability to assimilate knowledge and understand processes will stand you in good stead.

**Image** Presents a strong, professional, positive image to others at all times. This image is consistent with all people (colleagues, management and peers, customers etc.).

**Professional expertise** Keeps up to date with developments in own areas of professional specialisation. Applies a breadth and / or depth of professional knowledge.

### 3. Applying your employability knowledge

Now, let's have a look at some real job adverts and selection criteria used by employers. We have looked at the extent to which they match up with the skills highlighted in Section 1, and this should help you to get a better idea of how to link up what you can do with what employers are asking for.

The specified criteria taken from the job specification or description are shown in the box in the centre. In the boxes round the outside, we have annotated the criteria with examples of the way in which a philosophy student might demonstrate how their skills satisfy the criteria, and which skills from section 1 are relevant for each point (shown in numbers in brackets after the text). Try doing this yourself with job adverts and selection criteria you're interested in; pick out the key words to do with the skills employers require, and look at which of the skills from the Benchmark Statement in Section 1 could be used to demonstrate how you satisfy those criteria.

#### Example 1: the law firm

These criteria are given by a leading law firm as the qualities and skills they want in a graduate trainee. As you can see, this employer is looking for very similar skills to those listed in section 2. For example, cognitive skills such as analysis and judgement, personal capabilities such as creativity and teamwork, and technical abilities in the use of IT.

**Tackling complex issues** is one of the things you do every time you read or write or discuss philosophy, and this **sharpens your mind**. (2, 24)

An **inquiring mind** is one of the core requirements of any philosophy student, and a quality that is developed throughout a philosophy degree by reading philosophical texts, writing essays and discussing issues in class. (9)

**Bright** – Generally we look for a 2:1 at degree level. You need a **sharp mind**, the **ability to tackle complex legal and business issues** and take a commercial view.

**Articulate** – Building relationships with clients is a vital part of the modern lawyer's daily workload. We look for **confident, outgoing team players** who can get on well with clients, win their trust and keep their business.

**Inquisitive and adaptable** – The legal field is always changing – with new statutes to apply, new issues to address and new ways of doing business – so a **naturally inquiring mind** is a great asset. You'll need to relish the fact that you'll **never stop training, learning or adapting**.

Regularly putting forward opinions to back up your arguments in tutorials develops **confidence** and the **ability to work with others** in coming to a mutually acceptable conclusion. (13)

A key feature of philosophy is that it teaches you how to **think** and how to **learn**, and that you constantly **adapt** your opinions to take account of new arguments and evidence. (15, 16)

**Interpretation** of primary source philosophical texts and arguments is something the philosophy student does on a regular basis. (3)

As a philosopher, you are used to looking at problems from a variety of angles, and coming up with ideas which take account of as many eventualities and practicalities as possible, making it likely that you will be very good at delivering workable and beneficial solutions.

**Writing essays** using Microsoft Word or other word processing packages, and **using the Internet** to research different ideas or contribute to chat rooms etc. develops your IT skills. Always make sure you make these skills explicit when applying for jobs. (23)

**Creative and practical – Interpreting complex law** and developing solutions to demanding commercial briefs takes a great deal of processing power, coupled with a **creative, analytical and pragmatic approach**.

**Common sense** – Invaluable when it comes to **developing workable legal solutions** which deliver practical business benefit for clients.

**Sense of humour** – The law is a demanding occupation, so the ability to take a **philosophical stance** is a valuable quality.

**IT literate** – Computers form the backbone of our organisation in managing casework, research and communicating with clients, so you should be **comfortable using office packages and the Internet**.

**Previous work experience** – We don't just take on new graduates in their early twenties. People from many professions convert to the law with us and find their previous experience a real asset.

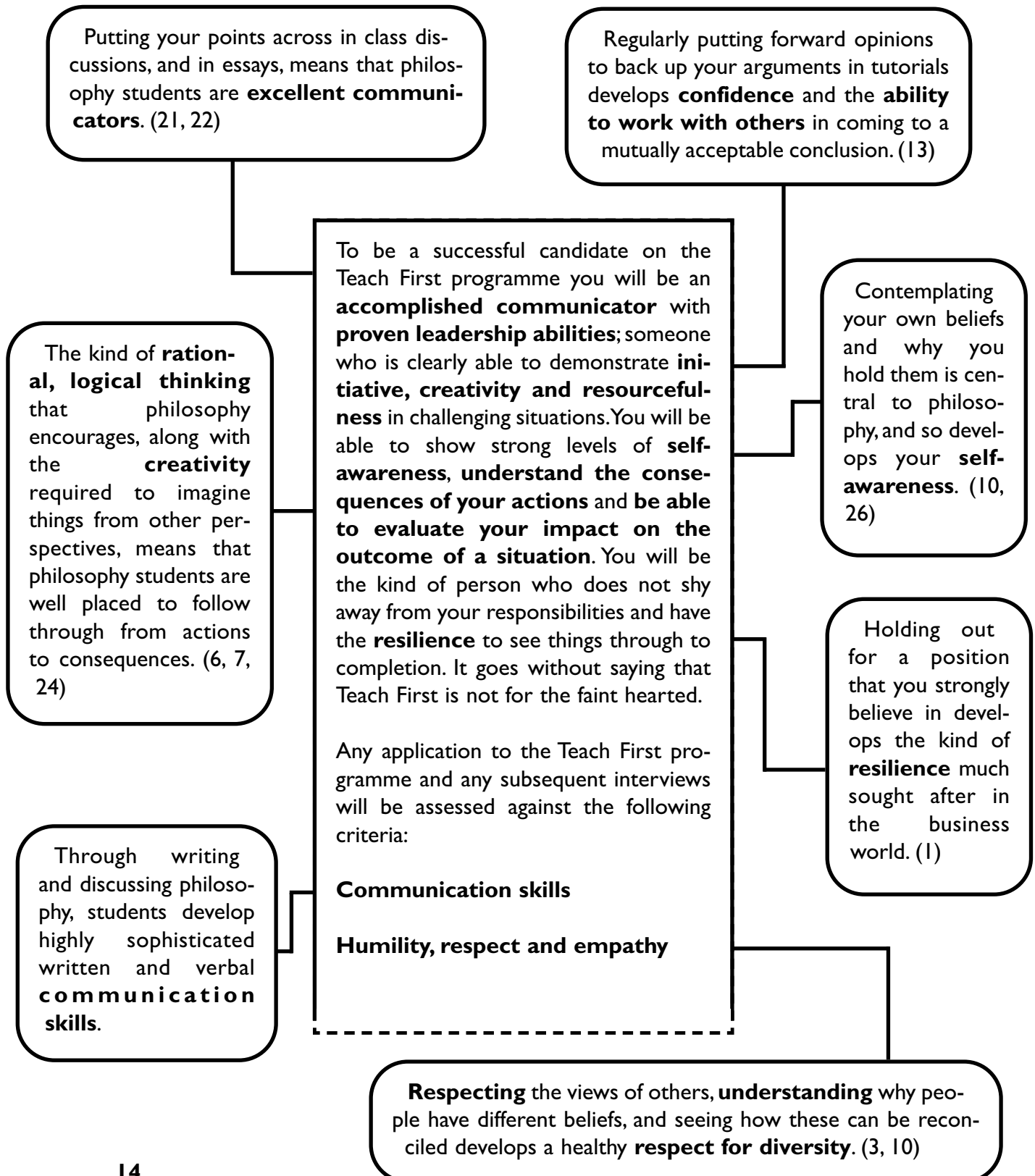
**Critical analysis** is another key aspect of doing philosophy, particularly when writing essays. Similarly, **creativity** in coming up with new arguments is very important. (2, 4, 6, 9, 16, 19)

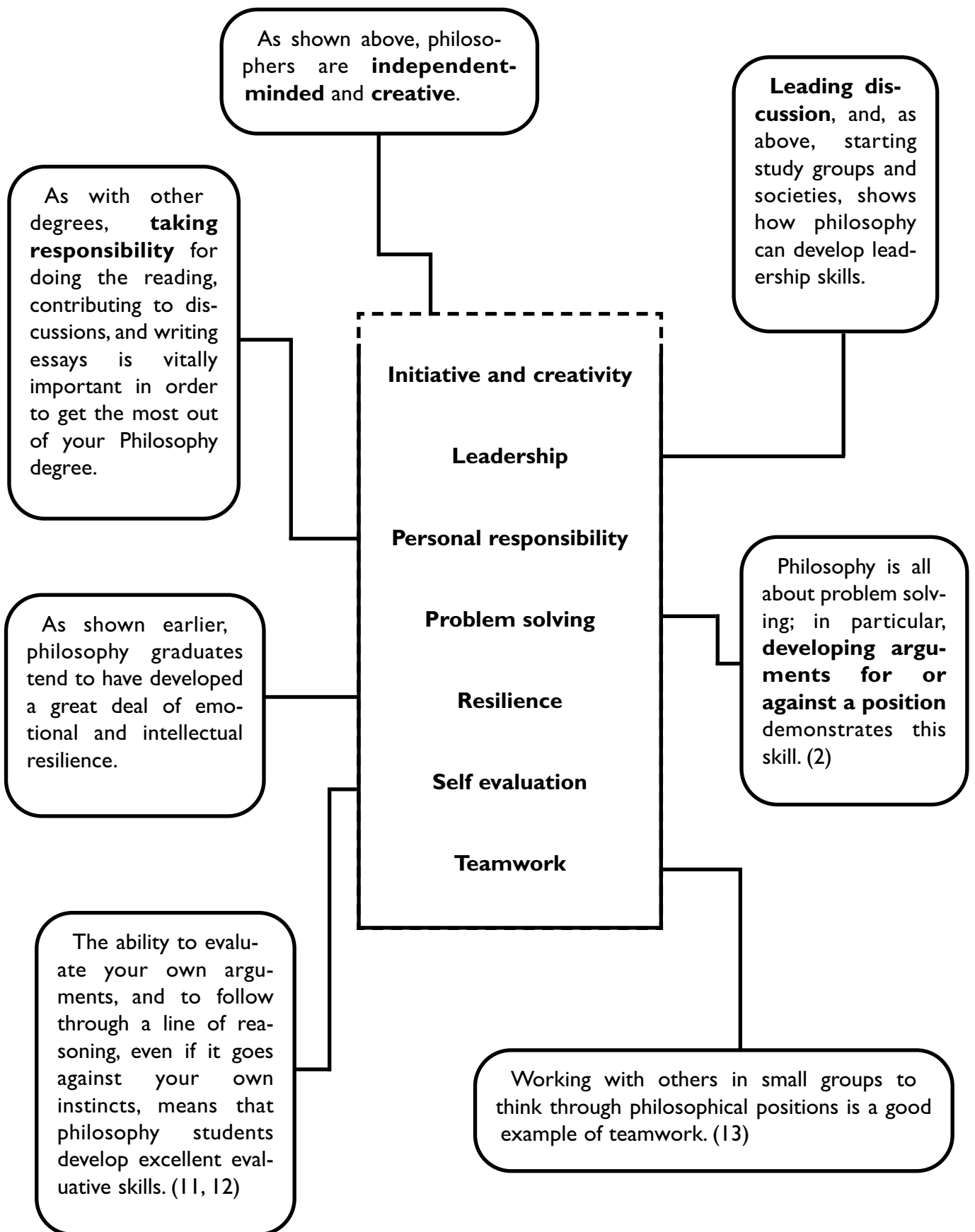
Taking a philosophical stance shouldn't be a problem for you! In discussing philosophy, you learn to be robust and not take criticism personally. (10)

Always remember that skills you have picked up outside the classroom, from for example work experience, social activities, volunteering and part-time jobs, are often equally valued by employers.

## Example 2: the Teach First programme

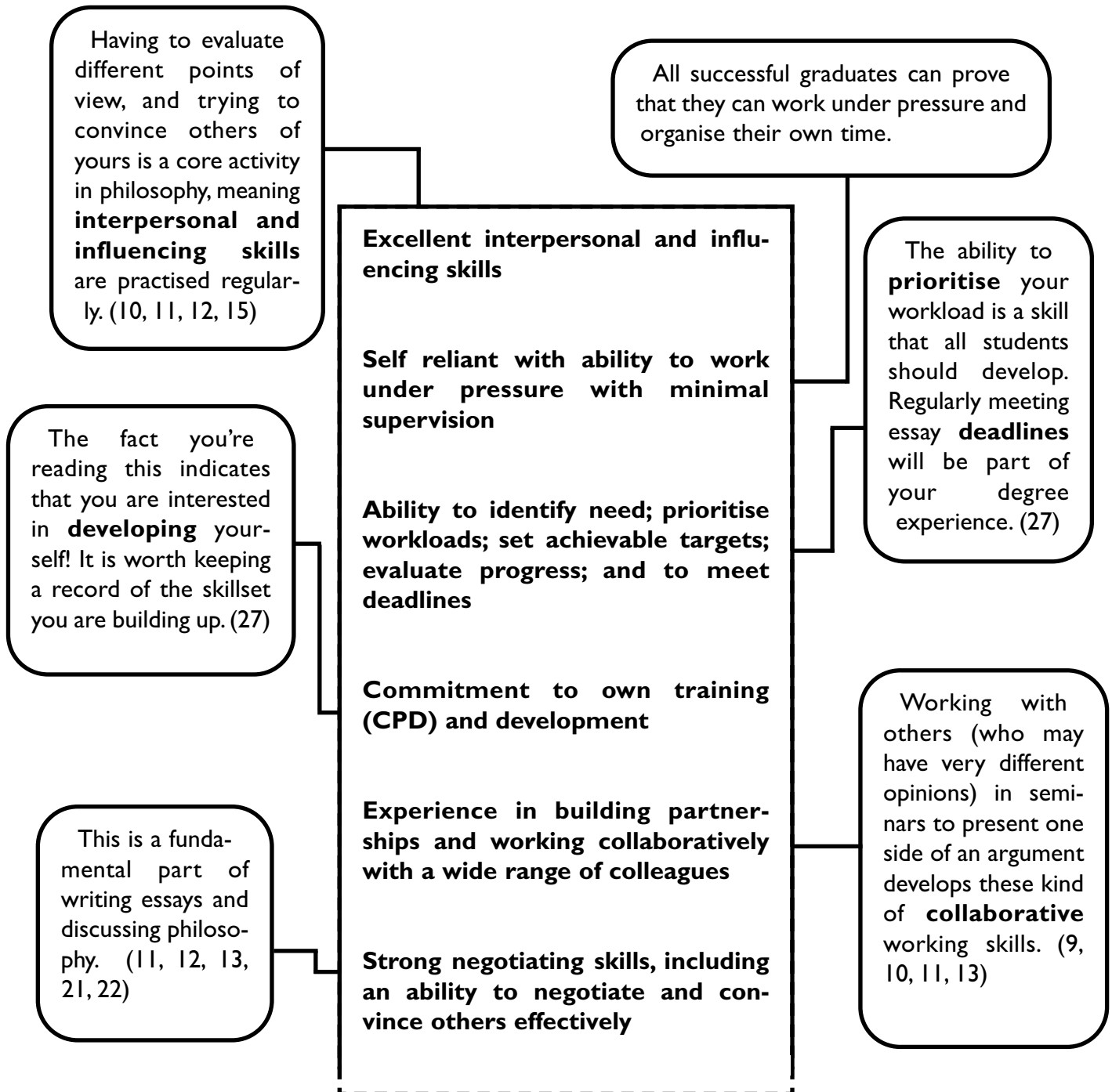
These criteria are given on the Teach First website as skills they are particularly interested in. Again, you can see that this programme requires very similar skills to the ones given in section 2; generic competencies such as communication and interpersonal sensitivity (in the form of humility, respect and empathy), and personal capabilities such as creativity, initiative, leadership and teamwork.





## Example 3: best of the rest

In addition to the full sets of criteria above, we have compiled a collection of frequently used criteria that appear in a lot of job adverts and graduate training schemes. Each individual point is one that appears in an actual person specification, although we have drawn them from several different sources.





Setting up study groups, or participating in a philosophy or debating society can be used to show these skills. (15, 16)

Planning the content of essays, organising your thoughts into a coherent structure, and planning your workload are just a few of the things that will develop these skills. (6, 7)

**Analytic and strategic thinker and problem solver**  
**Pro-active and self-motivated**  
**High level of accuracy and attention to detail**  
**Good planning and organisational skills**

These skills form the basis of philosophy!

Being able to **accurately articulate** arguments and viewpoints is essential in writing and discussing philosophy, and **attention to detail** is needed when reading a complex text. (1, 2)

## 4. Case Studies

### Real life examples of philosophy graduates' experience

These case studies are designed to get you thinking about where your degree might take you, not just for your first job but on into your future career.

They give you a snapshot of two philosophy graduates' experiences during and after university, and show how careers can develop after leaving university, and how the skills and attitudes you develop whilst studying can continue to stand you in good stead long after graduation.

#### Elisabeth – BA (Hons) Philosophy, Hull University, 1985-1988

“Studying philosophy has allowed me to consider the bigger picture on all issues and to understand there are always opposite opinions and there are no absolute truths in life. The notion that there is always a deeper level to issues that may seem simple has given me strong investigative and problem solving skills in the workplace.

To me as a person the subject has been really useful as it's helped me understand myself and others. I would describe myself as 'philosophical' and am constantly using my ability to constructively challenge others' thinking and beliefs. As a philosopher I am aware that people have their own belief systems and I am happy to debate others' belief systems in the workplace to challenge processes and develop new ways of doing things.”

#### **Graduate programme at Commercial Union**

“This allowed me to develop my employability and recognise my strengths, particularly in regard to managing others and planning.

#### **Regional Office Manager for the Criminal Intelligence Service**

In this job I managed a team of over thirty staff. Here the problem solving skills I developed studying philosophy helped me support my team through times of change and in stressful situations.

Delivering training in stress management skills opened the door for me to think about training for a career in alternative therapies. For two years I combined studying with work and qualified as an alternative therapist.

#### **Founder and Director of a Complementary Health Centre**

I then set up my own business and managed it very profitably for four years. Studying philosophy gave me a great deal of self belief, which drove me during this time. I prepared financial plans, marketed my business and recruited staff.

#### **Research Associate for the University of Birmingham**

From my previous work, I was recruited to be a research associate. Whilst researching the benefits of hypnotherapy on patients with particular health issues I gained an M.Phil.

#### **Current job roles**

For the past four years I have combined two roles that utilise different sets of skills. This gives me more variety, as I am easily bored, and more flexibility to use a broader range of my abilities.

**• Project Development  
Officer for Walsall  
Hospice Appeal**

I work for Walsall Primary Care Trust fundraising for a hospice development.

**• Private Practice  
Hypnotherapist**

This involves seeing clients one to one and supporting them as they make changes in their lives related for example to health or personal relationships.

**Reflections on my career  
path**

I have enjoyed the flexibility that my career path has offered. I left my philosophy course with a strong sense of the need to be flexible and take risks. All my work experience has been useful and helped me develop a good understanding of people in different working environments and organisational cultures. I plan to continue progressing and changing within my career. I see the career choices I have made as part of a continual process of learning and growing in self awareness, and my own personal development is firmly at the top of my agenda.”

**James – BA (Hons) Philosophy, University of Wales, Lampeter,  
1990-1994**

“The ability to reason, question and learn is probably the most important skill required in a job market that is always growing and changing. For every career that can be defined and a vocational course built around it there are many that simply rely on individual aptitude and the ability to create. It is here that I think philosophy though maligned in the past really shines.”

**Diagnostics Technician in  
NTL Telecommunications**

“I suppose the old chestnut ‘Learning how to think not what to think’ really sums it up. The ability to think laterally and find alternative solutions to problems, the ability to empathise with the positions of others and find the best overall course of action, and the ability to plan in a structured way and separate the relevant from the irrelevant, have all come in useful in my career.

**Capacity Planner and  
Controller in NTL  
Telecommunications**

When I graduated I was looking for a job that would use my creative ideas and logic skills. The ability to logically evaluate a problem helped me diagnose the cause of new problems. I was also able to build structured and intuitive resources for others to learn from.

In demand planning I had to identify processes and then model their behaviour to perform forecasts. This meant being able to interview people and get all aspects of their part of the puzzle, understand the system processes and ultimately model the entire thing to generate plans of action. I can only attribute my ability to do this to the skills of structured thought, logic and discussion I gained from my degree. There were several instances where

simply by challenging existing working practices, huge improvements were made.

**Senior Analyst in NTL  
Telecommunications**

In my work as a Senior Analyst the real benefit of having studied philosophy was that I had the skills to evaluate business practices, identify the moments of truth within those practices and then define and implement the measurements that reflected true evaluation of performance whilst giving a sense of ownership to individual areas of that business practice. Central to this is the understanding and application of positive and normative analysis, phrases stolen by economics but with a good healthy philosophical ancestry.

**Current role: Strategic  
Implementation Manager  
in NTL  
Telecommunications**

This role covers the scoping, design, implementation and review of business analysis strategy. A large part of my current job is to provide IT solutions for large complex businesses. This is a problem solving role on a big scale and often involves helping businesses to make huge cost savings.

I don't see my role now as particularly technical – more a case of understanding models, structures and concepts and coming up with creative solutions. Combining business thinking with technical sense involves interviewing clients to understand both their business needs and technical problems. Then it's up to me to put my creative thinking to the test and come up with solutions that aim to improve business performance and profitability.

**Reflecting on my career  
path**

I have spent the last eight years in Telecoms, and I still enjoy applying my ability to think laterally and find alternative solutions to both business and technical problems.

I really believe that philosophy graduates have something distinct and valuable to bring to the workplace. I think they represent the ideal candidates for new developments and markets where there is little precedence, let alone vocational training.”

## 5. Resources

### Extra resources on the PRS website

We hope that you have found the information in this guide a helpful way to start thinking about employability. However, there are additional resources available on our website that expand on some of the areas covered.

In section 2 you will have read about the qualities employers look for in the graduates they recruit. On this page of our website, <http://prs.heacademy.ac.uk/employability> you can find a large selection of reflective questions that should help you to think more deeply about ways to demonstrate that your skills match the qualities employers are looking for.

You can also find a table demonstrating how the skills in section 2 that employers want match up with the Benchmark skills in section 1, on this page: <http://prs.heacademy.ac.uk/employability>

### Other resources

In addition to the extra resources we provide on our website, here are some other sources of careers information that will be relevant as you make the transition from university to work, further study or other developmental opportunities. This information represents a starting point and we would strongly advise you to visit your own university Careers Service, which will have many additional sources of information and advice.

#### **Prospects**

This is described as the official graduate website and has a lot of useful information linked to job vacancies, postgraduate study and information on what graduates go on to do. There are also lots of useful resources on how to write your CV, tips for filling in job applications, and advice about interview techniques in the 'Jobs and Work' section of the site.

<http://www.prospects.ac.uk>

#### **Milkround**

This is a graduate careers portal for students and graduates, listing jobs on the site, and sending relevant opportunities directly to those who sign up. It also has a useful 'Advice' section, containing profiles of different types of jobs, advice about job applications, covering letters, CV writing, psychometric testing, interviews etc., and interesting profiles of recent graduates now working for different companies.

<http://www.milkround.com/s4/jobseekers/>

#### **Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services (AGCAS)**

The professional association of careers staff working in the sector. The site gives an insight into the work of AGCAS and its careers information products including books, videos and useful web links. There are several useful resources in the 'Products and Publications' section of the site

<http://www.agcas.org.uk>

**Association of Graduate Recruiters (AGR)**

The AGR is an independent, not-for-profit organisation dedicated to supporting employers in all aspects of graduate recruitment. They produce research surveys on graduate salaries, skills and other labour market information.

**<http://www.agr.org.uk>**

**National Union of Students (NUS)**

In the 'Info' and 'Careers' sections of the NUS site there are lots of useful articles, including employer advice and lists of skills that employers look for in graduates.

**<http://www.nusonline.co.uk>**

**National Council for Work Experience**

This site offers excellent links to schemes offering work experience, placement and year out opportunities. In the 'Students and Graduates' section there are a number of useful resources, including information about what employers have to say about work experience.

**<http://www.work-experience.org>**

**ESECT**

The Enhancing Student Employability Skills Co-ordination Team (ESECT) was funded from 2002 to 2005 by HEFCE to help the HE sector engage with the employability policy priority. There are lots of useful resources on skills development and evaluation in the 'Tools' section of the site.

**<http://www.esect.co.uk/index.php>**



