

BRITISH PHILOSOPHICAL ASSOCIATION

England & Wales · Charity number 1208038

Details

Status Registered

Legal form CIO

Registered 2024-04-29

Register [View on the Charity Commission register](#)

Contact

Address Lancaster University
Philosophy School of Global Affairs
Bailrigg
Lancaster
LA1 4YL

Phone 0152465201

Email admin@bpa.ac.uk

Website <https://bpa.ac.uk/>

Activities

Objects: FOR THE PUBLIC BENEFIT THE ADVANCEMENT OF EDUCATION, SPECIFICALLY BY THE PROMOTION OF EXCELLENCE IN THE TEACHING OF, STUDY OF, AND RESEARCH IN THE ACADEMIC DISCIPLINE OF PHILOSOPHY IN THE UNITED KINGDOM WITHIN HIGHER EDUCATION AND ALSO WITHIN THE WIDER COMMUNITY.

Activities: The BPA seeks to: Promote the study of Philosophy particularly within higher and secondary education, but also within the wider community Assist professional philosophers in carrying out their teaching, scholarship and research in Philosophy Foster interest in, and appreciation of Philosophy in the wider community Express the views of the community of professional philosophers in Britain

Classification

- **How:** Provides Advocacy/advice/information, Sponsors Or Undertakes Research, Acts As An Umbrella Or Resource Body
- **What:** Education/training, Arts/culture/heritage/science
- **Who:** Other Defined Groups, The General Public/mankind

Geography

- Northern Ireland
- Scotland
- Throughout England And Wales

Finances

Period end	Income	Expenditure	Assets	Employees
2024-12-31	£5,814	£32,313	-	-

Trustees

Name	Role	Appointed
Fiona Elizabeth Macpherson	Chair	2019-02-22
Dr Anne-Marie Kathleen McCallion		2025-11-07
Dr Derek Henry Brown		2024-09-13
Dr Garrath Williams		2021-09-22
Dr Joshua Ian Forstenzer		2024-09-13
Dr Julian Baggini		2024-09-13
Jonathan Edmund Scott Thomson		2025-05-13
Professor Barry Crawford Smith		2025-09-16
Professor Christian Sophia Grace Chappell		2024-09-13
Professor Fiona Jane Woollard		2024-09-13
Professor Heather Gillian Widdows		2024-09-13
Professor Rosanna Jancis Keefe		2024-09-13
Professor Simon Kirchin		2014-05-27
Robert Christopher Penney		2024-09-13

Accounts

Trustees' Annual Report for the period							
		Period start date			Period end date		
From	1	1	2024	To	31	12	2024

Section A Reference and administration details

Charity name	British Philosophical Association		
Other names charity is known by			
Registered charity number (if any)	1208038		
Charity's principal address	c/o Philosophy, Lancaster University		
	Bailrigg		
	Lancaster		
Postcode	LA1 4YL		

Names of the charity trustees who manage the charity

	Trustee name	Office (if any)	Dates acted if not for whole year	Name of person (or body) entitled to appoint trustee (if any)
1	Fiona Macpherson	President		
2	Simon Kirchin	Director		
3	Garrath Williams	Treasurer		
4	Julian Baggini		From 13.9.2024	Co-opted by elected trustees
5	Derek Brown		From 13.9.2024	
6	Sophie-Grace Chappell		From 13.9.2024	
7	Jennifer Corns		From 13.9.2024	
8	Joshua Forstenzer		From 13.9.2024	
9	Ian Kidd		From 13.9.2024	
10	Rosanna Keefe		From 13.9.2024	
11	Martin O'Neill		From 13.9.2024	
12	Robert Penney		From 13.9.2024	Co-opted by elected trustees
13	Heather Widdows		From 13.9.2024	
14	Fiona Woollard		From 13.9.2024	
15				
16				
17				
18				
19				
20				

Names of the trustees for the charity, if any, (for example, any custodian trustees)

Name	Dates acted if not for whole year

Names and addresses of advisers (Optional information)

Type of adviser	Name	Address
Checking of accounts	David Crayston	Accounts Manager, Edge of the World Ltd, Merchant House, Market Square, Kirkby Lonsdale, LA6 2AN

Name of chief executive or names of senior staff members (Optional information)

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Section B Structure, governance and management

Description of the charity's trusts

Type of governing document
(eg. trust deed, constitution)

Constitution

How the charity is constituted
(eg. trust, association, company)

Charitable Incorporated Organisation

Trustee selection methods
(eg. appointed by, elected by)

12 trustees elected, 4 trustees nominated

Additional governance issues (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant, about:

- policies and procedures adopted for the induction and training of trustees;
- the charity's organisational structure and any wider network with which the charity works;
- relationship with any related parties;
- trustees' consideration of major risks and the system and procedures to manage them.

The BPA decided to apply for CIO status at its Annual General Meeting on 9 September 2022. It became a registered charity on 29 April 2024. The BPA then held its first Annual General Meeting as a registered charity on 13 September 2024.

The first three trustees of the BPA were named in the application for CIO status, as approved at the AGM held on 9 September 2022:

- Fiona Macpherson – President
- Simon Kirchin – Director
- Garrath Williams – Treasurer

The following trustees were elected officers of the BPA prior to its recognition as a CIO, and formally took up post as CIO trustees on 13 September 2024, with the approval of the Association's Annual General Meeting, in line with the resolution to apply for CIO status in September 2022:

- Jennifer Corns
- Martin O'Neill
- Heather Widdows

The following trustees were elected officers of the BPA prior to its approval as a CIO. Having come to the end of their first terms of office, they successfully stood for re-election in June 2024. Again, they took up their posts following the Association's Annual General Meeting on 13 September 2024, in line with §13.1.c of the constitution:

- Derek Brown
- Ian Kidd
- Fiona Woollard

The following trustees were elected by the membership in June 2024, and again took up their posts following the Association's Annual General Meeting on 13 September 2024, in line with §13.1.c of the constitution:

- Sophie-Grace Chappell
- Josh Forstenzer
- Rosanna Keefe

The following nominated trustees were appointed in 2024, in line with §13.2 of the constitution:

- Julian Baggini
- Robert Penney

Section C

Objectives and activities

Summary of the objects of the charity set out in its governing document

For the public benefit the advancement of education, specifically by the promotion of excellence in the teaching of, study of, and research in the academic discipline of Philosophy in the United Kingdom within higher education and also within the wider community.

Summary of the main activities undertaken for the public benefit in relation to these objects (include within this section the statutory declaration that trustees have had regard to the guidance issued by the Charity Commission on public benefit)

The British Philosophical Association is a learned society which was formally recognised as a Charitable Incorporated Organisation on 29 April 2024, having previously operated as an unincorporated association.

Our activities for 2024 reflected the pattern set out in our application for charitable status. Through these activities, the trustees aim at the public benefit by supporting and promoting the discipline of philosophy in the UK, taking regard of the Charity Commission's guidance on public benefit.

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion

One of the BPA's main aims is to make access to the formal study of philosophy at all levels from post-16 as inclusive as possible. To this end the BPA has collaborated with other societies and with representatives from university departments. With other philosophical societies and associations, we have raised substantial funds and commissioned research into EDI in philosophy, to:

- produce detailed demographic information on participation in philosophy in the UK;
- report on the experience of people from all backgrounds of their participation in philosophy in the UK;
- make recommendations to address any problems identified in the research.

The first part of this research was conducted by the Eleanor Glanville Institute, University of Lincoln, and concluded in August 2024. The findings have been shared with members (both departments and individuals) and other philosophical associations, in order to stimulate informed discussion of the measures our profession can take to address under-representation and exclusion. We are currently considering what follow-up research and activities are called for.

This work aims to ensure that philosophy education offers benefits to as wide an audience as possible, regardless of race, sex and other protected characteristics.

Philosophy Matters and British Philosophy Fortnight

A significant activity in 2024 was designing and preparing the launch of this campaign, to prepare for the first British Philosophy Fortnight. (This took place successfully in March 2025, including schools philosophy prizes sponsored by two exam boards, the AQA and OCR.)

This campaign aims to show the broad public relevance of philosophy as an academic discipline and to promote its study and teaching.

Departments Under Threat

The BPA has continued to assist colleagues and departments where there has been the threat of significant cuts in provision. Of necessity, most of this work goes on “behind the scenes,” e.g. to lobby managers who are considering cuts to philosophy provision or to support colleagues who may be facing threats of redundancy.

This work aims to support the continuing health of higher educational provision in philosophy.

Philosophy in Schools

Since the successful launch of the Association for Philosophy Teachers in 2023, the BPA has continued a close working relationship. The APT chair, Robert Penney, is a co-opted trustee of the BPA; the BPA Director, Simon Kirchin, liaises regularly with the APT.

Our trustees also contribute to the discussions relating to the AQA A-level in Philosophy, the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA)'s Subject Benchmark Statement for Philosophy, the Cambridge OCR exam board and its philosophy-related provisions.

The BPA and Association for Philosophy Teachers made an extensive joint submission to the DfE's call for evidence as the curriculum up to 18 takes shape under a new government. This builds on joint work regarding the AQA A-Level in Philosophy and the discussions around a potential GCSE in Philosophy.

We also contribute to broader discussions within the Arts and Humanities Alliance, to promote the profile and contributions of philosophy within the broader humanities.

Again, this work aims to support educational provision in philosophy.

Resources for Early Career Philosophers

Provision of philosophy education naturally depends on the continued entry of qualified philosophers into professional teaching and research. However, the situation for PhD philosophy students seeking careers in philosophy is especially difficult at the moment. The BPA has therefore created and published extensive resources and tip sheets for philosophers starting their careers:

<https://bpa.ac.uk/resources-for-early-career-philosophers/>

By supporting the entry of new members into the profession, this activity also supports the continuing health of educational provision in philosophy.

Additional Activities

BPA trustees liaise with other relevant bodies concerned with education and research – for example, with the British Academy concerning future plans for the Research Excellence Framework.

In 2024 we also commenced plans for prizes to recognise outstanding work and initiatives in philosophy, to support the public profile of philosophy. (The first round of prizes is anticipated for 2026.)

Additional details of objectives and activities (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include further statements, where relevant, about:

- policy on grantmaking;
- policy programme related investment;
- contribution made by volunteers.

The BPA has no grantmaking programme. It also has no investments.

The BPA does not have a volunteer scheme, although our members are involved in many activities, alongside the trustees – for example, in planning/organising events as part of British Philosophy Fortnight.

Summary of the main achievements of the charity during the year**Publication of Research on Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion**

The final reports and findings can be found on our website, at:

<https://bpa.ac.uk/2024/12/12/edi-in-philosophy-2024-report/>

Philosophy Matters and British Philosophy Fortnight

We laid the ground for our #PhilosophyMatters campaign and prepared for the first British Philosophy Fortnight (held in March 2025).

Resources for Early Career Philosophers

We created and published extensive resources and tip sheets for philosophers starting their careers:

<https://bpa.ac.uk/resources-for-early-career-philosophers/>

Philosophy in Schools

With the Association for Philosophy Teachers, we made a joint submission to the DfE's call for evidence on the curriculum up to 18.

Section E Financial review

Brief statement of the charity's policy on reserves

The BPA aims to hold approximately one to two year's income in reserve, to offset any fluctuations in income or expenditure.

Details of any funds materially in deficit

None

Further financial review details (Optional information)

You **may choose** to include additional information, where relevant about:

- the charity's principal sources of funds (including any fundraising);
- how expenditure has supported the key objectives of the charity;
- investment policy and objectives including any ethical investment policy adopted.

We do not engage in any fundraising – all income is derived from membership payments.

We do not hold any investments.

The accounts were prepared by Garrath Williams, as BPA Treasurer.

The accounts were then checked by David Crayston, Accounts Manager at Edge of the World Ltd, and also formerly Director of the Westmorland County Agricultural Society Ltd (2016-20, 2022-5).

Section F Other optional information

This report was approved by the trustees at their meeting of 14 October 2025.

Section G Declaration

The trustees declare that they have approved the trustees' report above.

Signed on behalf of the charity's trustees

Signature(s)		
Full name(s)	Simon Kirchin	Garrath Williams
Position (eg Secretary, Chair, etc)	Director	Treasurer
Date	26 October 2025	26 October 2025



CHARITY COMMISSION
FOR ENGLAND AND WALES

Charity Name
British Philosophical Association

No (if any)
1208038

Receipts and payments accounts

CC16a

For the period from	Period start date	To	Period end date
	01/01/2024		31/12/2024

Section A Receipts and payments

	Unrestricted funds to the nearest £	Restricted funds to the nearest £	Endowment funds to the nearest £	Total funds to the nearest £	Last year to the nearest £
A1 Receipts					
Individual memberships	2,654	-	-	2,654	2,325
Institutional memberships	3,160	-	-	3,160	4,720
Contributions to EDI research (restricted)	-	-	-	-	47,700
BPA contribution to EDI (unrestricted)	-	-	-	-	11,000
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total (Gross income for AR)	5,814	-	-	5,814	65,745
A2 Asset and investment sales, (see table).					
[None]	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total receipts	5,814	-	-	5,814	65,745
A3 Payments					
Administrator	1,636	-	-	1,636	1,076
Meeting expenses	92	-	-	92	1,125
Website and email account	862	-	-	862	1,068
Insurance	716	-	-	716	-
Banking, paypal, postal, misc charges	43	-	-	43	14
Election expenses	66	-	-	66	-
M/ship Foundation for Science & Tech'y	273	-	-	273	258
Philosophy Matters campaign	2,400	-	-	2,400	-
EDI research	3,817	22,408	-	26,225	370
Sub total	9,905	22,408	-	32,313	3,911
A4 Asset and investment purchases, (see table)					
[None]	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-
Sub total	-	-	-	-	-
Total payments	9,905	22,408	-	32,313	3,911
Net of receipts/(payments)	- 4,091	- 22,408	-	- 26,499	61,834
A5 Transfers between funds	-	-	-	-	-
A6 Cash funds last year end	22,376	47,700	-	70,076	8,242
Cash funds this year end	18,285	25,292	-	43,577	70,076

Section B Statement of assets and liabilities at the end of the period

Categories	Details	Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B1 Cash funds	Cash at bank, less EDI research commitment	10,633	-	-
	Paypal funds	839	-	-
	Funds reserved for EDI research	6,813	25,292	-
	Total cash funds	18,285	25,292	-

CCXX R1 accounts (SS)

(agree balances with receipts and payments¹ account(s))

OK

OK

OK

		Unrestricted funds to nearest £	Restricted funds to nearest £	Endowment funds to nearest £
B2 Other monetary assets	Details			
	Funds owed by BSPS toward EDI research	-	1,000	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-
		-	-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B3 Investment assets	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which asset belongs	Cost (optional)	Current value (optional)
B4 Assets retained for the charity's own use	Details			
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-
			-	-

		Fund to which liability relates	Amount due (optional)	When due (optional)
B5 Liabilities	Details			
			-	
			-	
			-	
			-	

Signed by one or two trustees on
behalf of all the trustees

Signature	Print Name	Date of approval
	Garrath Williams	14-Oct-25