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**UNIVERSITÄT  
BERN**

MA POLITICAL, LEGAL,  
AND ECONOMIC  
PHILOSOPHY (120 ECTS)

INSTITUTE OF PHILOSOPHY  
UNIVERSITY OF BERN

# Political, Legal, and Economic Philosophy



What is a just society?

Is there a right to immigration?

What justifies democracy?

What makes a government legitimate?

What are the criteria for fair trade?

What are the moral limits of markets?

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## Political, Legal, and Economic Philosophy

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Good supervision, interesting seminars, small classes, great atmosphere for discussions, wide range of options for study focuses, individual choice of courses.

Angela Müller

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The PLEP-program is optimal if you are looking for a program where it is possible to discuss, learn and reflect about different questions in political philosophy in a friendly atmosphere.

Clara Nelzén

Citizens of modern societies are faced with a vast variety of questions concerning the relationship between politics, economics, morality, and law. The Master's Program in Political, Legal, and Economic Philosophy (PLEP) at the Philosophical Department of the University of Bern provides a context in which students from different countries can address these questions systematically.

The interdisciplinary degree is designed to allow students to study the ethical dimensions of public policy, corporate and non-governmental action in fields as diverse as health policy, employment relations, the environment, and international relations. It provides a structured introduction to appropriate methods of the disciplines of philosophy, law, political science, and economics and, more particularly, to ethical reasoning, policy-making, and implementation.

# Structure of the Program

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Atmosphere is very friendly and agreeable. There were always people with a variety of different backgrounds and interests, which led to stimulating discussions.

Martin Hasler

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How best to engage is up to every student, but during the PLEP studies you can learn how others are engaging and you will be supported in getting your own point of view and your own tools of argumentation.

Sarah Heiligtag

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I enjoy the thought provoking debates between the PLEP-students in the seminars and colloquia.

Léonie Reichenecker

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On the one hand it's possible to choose interesting lectures and seminars in other faculties, on the other hand the selection of topics for one's papers (especially the master thesis) really allows one to focus on one's main interests.

Thomas Distel

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The PLEP-studies contain different types of mandatory courses.

Minimum 3 plus Seminars 8 ECTS  
Learn about different topics of political, legal, and economic philosophy; improve your understanding of philosophical texts; develop presentation skills; (learn how to) write term papers and deal with criticism.

1 Colloquium «Methods of Practical Philosophy» 4 ECTS  
Learn about different argumentation techniques and special considerations in practical philosophy, as opposed to theoretical philosophy and other sciences.

1 Colloquium 4 ECTS  
«Master's Thesis»  
Present central ideas of your master's thesis and discuss them critically.

Optional Colloquia 4 ECTS  
Learn how to «teamwork» on a philosophical topic; learn that philosophy needs dialogue.

1 Project (minimum) 6 ECTS  
Take a stand on a specific topic and defend it in writing.

1 Compact Course / Blockseminar (minimum) 4 ECTS  
Mostly taught by internationally known scholars in their fields: Deepen your knowledge of a philosophical topic and discuss it in a more concentrated and uninterrupted way.

Optional Tutorials 6 ECTS  
Tutor a course accompanying a seminar at bachelor level.

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Tristan Staack

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Further courses in Philosophy 18 ECTS

Free choice of courses which allows students to follow their own interests and to deepen their methodological skills.

Courses in Economics / Political Science / Law 30 ECTS

Offered by the corresponding departments:

Acquire further (empirical and methodological) knowledge in disciplines relevant to practical philosophy; learn to what extent practical philosophy may rely on other disciplines.

1 Master's Thesis 30 ECTS

During the last term students are required to write (and finish) their master's thesis (25 000 words; approx. 60–70 pages).

# PLEP in a Nutshell

The Master's in Political, Legal, and Economic Philosophy is of interest to students from a variety of backgrounds, including philosophy, the social sciences, law, and economics. Complementing the coursework, students will also pursue their own research projects and will be supervised individually during the whole time of their PLEP studies.

Duration of course:	2 years
Degree awarded:	MA
ECTS credit points:	120
Language:	English
Requirements:	BA-Major in Philosophy or BA-Major in Law or BA-Major in Economics or BA-Major in Political Science or BA in Philosophy, Political Science, and Economics (180 ECTS)  English language certificate TOEFL, IELTS, Cambridge
Application deadline:	30th April (autumn term) 15th December (spring term)
Fees:	805 CHF (per semester) 1005 CHF (per semester for foreign students)
Contact:	<a href="mailto:plep@philo.unibe.ch">plep@philo.unibe.ch</a> <a href="http://www.philosophie.unibe.ch/plep">www.philosophie.unibe.ch/plep</a>

# PLEP Team

Prof. Dr. Anna Goppel  
Director

Prof. Dr. Markus Stepanians  
Director

Marcel Twele  
Study Consultation

Sandra Ribeaud  
Administration

Ursula Müllener  
Administration

## Imprint

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Layout: Christa Heinzer

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