



Australasian Association of Philosophy

aap.org.au

20 August 2026

Professor Nigel Seaton
Principal and Vice-Chancellor
University of Dundee
Nethergate, Dundee, DD1 4HN, Scotland

cc: Prof Jeff Blackford, Dean; Dr Murray Frame, Humanities Lead; Members of Senate; Ms Màiri McAllan MSP, Cabinet Secretary for Education, Culture and Gaelic; Dr Dominic Smith

Dear Principal Seaton,

Re: Support for the Philosophy Programme at the University of Dundee

We write on behalf of the Australasian Association of Philosophy (AAP), the peak body for philosophical research, education and scholarship in Australia, New Zealand and Singapore, to express our strong support for the Philosophy Programme and our concern at the prospect of its suspension.

Philosophy at Dundee holds a distinctive place in the discipline. It is Scotland's only specialist programme in continental philosophy, its Art and Philosophy degree is one of only two such joint programmes in the UK, and it sustains a research community of 27 PhD students. Its loss would be felt well beyond Dundee.

In our own region, we have seen what is lost when universities withdraw support from small, high-performing philosophy programmes: the disproportionate impact on students from under-represented backgrounds, and the erosion of the interdisciplinary and international collaborations such programmes sustain. Dundee's programme exemplifies both, and its closure would weaken the discipline internationally, not only at your institution.

We urge the University to reconsider this decision and to preserve Philosophy's place at Dundee.

Yours sincerely,

Professor Jeanette Kennett
Chair, AAP Board

Associate Professor Tracy Bowell
Chief Executive Officer, AAP

Professor Karen Jones
President, AAP

Professor John Sutton
Immediate Past President, AAP