

February 20, 2020

Dear Nathaniel,

I am writing with good news and bad news. First, the good news. I am delighted to offer you admission for Fall 2020 to the Master's programs in the Department of Philosophy at Carnegie Mellon University. However, I regret to inform you that we are not able to admit you to our Ph.D. program. We received a large number of very qualified applicants to our PhD program this year, and unfortunately we are not financially able to admit all of them.

In addition to admission to the Master's program, we are happy to offer you a partial fellowship. This fellowship includes 50% tuition support (tuition was approximately \$45,000 for the 2019-2020 academic year), basic health insurance, and a modest allowance for office expenses and travel to academic conferences. This offer is conditional on you remaining a student in good standing and is subject to the conditions outlined in the Philosophy Department's [graduate student handbook](#).

We have, in the past, typically been able to provide teaching assistant or grader positions, which provide \$6,000 or \$5,000 per semester (respectively), for graduate students with suitable backgrounds. But we cannot guarantee these. If you have questions about being a TA or grader, please do not hesitate to contact me. In addition, some of our graduate students are able to earn additional amounts during the summer, either by teaching a six-week summer course or by conducting research under a faculty grant.

Carnegie Mellon offers a unique opportunity for interdisciplinary research in philosophy. Our curriculum is flexible, and accommodates a diverse mixture of interests. We have two different Master's programs—an M.S. in Logic, Computation, & Methodology; and an M.A. in Philosophy—and you may choose the program that would be more suitable for your interests. More details about the curriculum and both degree programs can be found at [our web page](#) by contacting me directly. Our students may also take courses and seminars at the University of Pittsburgh, including in the Departments of Philosophy and History & Philosophy of Science.

Pittsburgh is a most congenial place to live: it combines the attractions of a relatively small university town (Carnegie Mellon and the University of Pittsburgh are located next to each other) and the cultural diversity of a larger metropolitan area. The cost of living is quite manageable; see for example <http://www.bestplaces.net/> for cost-of-living comparisons.

Finally, let me note that we have a strong placement record: graduates of our program now occupy prominent research positions in both academia and industry. [A complete list of our alumni](#) is available.

We invite you to visit us on March 27th so that you can learn more about the department and our graduate program. We will be happy to provide up to \$250 to help cover your expenses for your visit, as well as housing with one of our current graduate students. Please let us know as soon as possible whether or not you intend to visit. Our Academic Coordinator, Ms. Jan Puhl (jp10@andrew.cmu.edu) can assist you with your planning and local arrangements. Please feel free to call or email me at any time to ask any questions, or to discuss details of

your visit.

Please let us know as soon as possible, but no later than April 15th, whether you will be joining our graduate program next fall. We hope that you will do so!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K. Zollman', with a stylized, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Kevin J.S. Zollman
Director of Graduate Studies and
Associate Professor