BA(Hons) International Politics and Modern Languages (Spanish) with study or work abroad (UHPL-AKB69)

Course and Award Details

Course title	BA(Hons) International Politics and Modern Languages (Spanish) with study or work abroad
Route(s)	BA(Hons) International Politics and Modern Languages (ab initio Spanish) with year abroad
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Undergraduate Degree with Honours
Award name	Bachelor with Honours
Course mode of delivery	Thick sandwich (Full-time on campus)
Course length	4 years
Entry point	September 2024
Main location of study	University of Bath, Main Campus, Claverton Down
Course-owning school/department	Politics, Languages and International Studies

Course Description

Course Summary

Explore global social, political and cultural challenges, whilst achieving fluency in another language.

Course Description

This degree enables you to combine the study of a language at either beginner (_ab initio_) or advanced level with the study of international politics. This combination will give you strong skills in both areas and prepare you for an international career.

In Year 1, you will develop your written and spoken language skills, as well as your understanding of key political concepts and theoretical tools for the study of international politics. You'll explore the history and culture of your chosen language.

In Year 2, you'll continue with the advanced study of your chosen language, and the history, politics, culture and society of its primary countries as well as the international context. You'll gain skills in research and design methods. You will also choose from optional units, enabling you to focus on areas of interest to you.

You'll spend Year 3 either studying or working abroad.

In your final year, alongside your language study, you will do a politics dissertation. You'll also choose from a wide range of optional units that will allow you to focus on areas you are most interested in.

The ab initio language stream will fast-track your first two years to help you prepare to study or work abroad in the third year.

If you study an advanced language, you will learn about political and cultural issues in the target language.

Informed teaching to advance your learning

You'll learn from teaching staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise in contemporary political studies and modern languages. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching, aiming to enhance your learning experience.

Develop your professional skills

Throughout the course, you will develop skills to prepare you for employment and further study. These include:

- experience of working and living in a different cultural environment
- processing complex and specialist information
- critical thinking
- research skills
- adaptability and communication skills

You will also develop advanced language skills.

Contact hours

Contact hours

Timetabled contact hours, which may be made up of lectures, practical sessions, seminars and tutorials, vary throughout your course and between courses but are typically between 10 and 14 hours a week in your first year.

Our teaching for this course is delivered through in-person learning on campus, supported by high quality online provision. A small proportion of these contact hours may be delivered online, with the significant majority taught on campus. This may be supplemented by additional activities such as a small number of online learning sessions (not live), skills development sessions, and personal tutorials.

The amount of timetabled sessions on campus in later years may vary based on the options you choose, with a greater emphasis on independent learning. Project and dissertation units will generally have fewer scheduled sessions to allow you time for your independent work - this may also mean the number of hours of timetabled sessions each week will vary within a year.

Independent learning

In addition to timetabled contact hours, you are expected to undertake independent learning and assessment activities. Typically, this might be around 21 to 30 hours per week in your first year, and include individual research, reading journal articles and books, working on individual and group projects, preparing coursework assignments, presentations or revising for exams. After your first year, the emphasis on independent learning becomes greater, for example, you may do a final year project in the final year.

Delivery methods

Lectures
Practical sessions
Seminars
Tutorials

Assessment summary

You will be assessed by a range of methods designed to develop and test your skills and knowledge.

As a guide, 60-80% of assessment is by coursework or essays. The remaining will be through examination. There will also be an element of assessment through practical work.

The balance of examinations and coursework may depend on the optional units you choose.

The final degree classification is determined by your second, third and final year marks. Each contributes 24%, 8% and 68% respectively

You will primarily be assessed as an individual but may also be assessed as part of a group. The balance of assessment methods will vary throughout your degree.

	We can make reasonable adjustments to assessment procedures for students with disabilities, take a look at our Disability Service's pages(/professional-services/disability-service/) for information.
Assessment methods	Practical work Examinations Coursework Essay
Placement/Study Year Abroad details	In Year 3, you'll study or work abroad. During this, you'll be in a country that primarily uses your chosen language. You could spend this time: - studying at one of our partner universities(/campaigns/studying-abroad-as-part-of-your-undergraduate-degree/) - as a language assistant in a school - doing a professional placement You can combine two options or countries, spending half of Year 3 on each. This will improve your language skills. Many students gain confidence, life experience and independence. It can also increase your professional network. Your Year Abroad Officers and Tutor will support you during this time. If you choose to do a placement, our placements team will help you to find your role and support you during your time abroad. Previous students have completed placements with: - British Council (multiple locations) - Encarna Márquez School (Spain) Placements can’t be guaranteed but you will receive support from our dedicated placements team to help you. Study abroad opportunities are limited and are subject to availability at our partner institutions. Some placement and study abroad opportunities (including some within EU countries) might not be available to UK students because of visa restrictions.
Careers and professional development	Prepare for your future Many of our politics graduates have gone on to careers in both the private and public sectors, working in the banking and finance industries, media, public administration, and European and international political institutions. They have worked for organisations such as: - Amazon - American Chamber of Commerce to the EU - Civil Service - Interel - KPMG - Virgin Media

Course Assessment Regulations

Applicable Assessment Regulations	Undergraduate assessment regulations - https://www.bath.ac.uk/publications/undergraduate-assessment-regulations/
Exemptions from Regulations	N
Weighting of each Study Year	Stage 1: 0% Stage 2: 24% Stage 3: 8% Final Stage: 68%
Is this Course Standalone or Co-Existent?	SA

Course Structure

Year 1

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL00000	Academic integrity training & test	Extra	Foundation (FHEQ level 3)	0	
AY	PL12002	Politics: key concepts and analysis	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	15	
AY	PL12003	Introduction to international relations	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	15	
AY	PL12019	Spanish 1: language and society	Part 1 Stage 1 Designated Essential Unit	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	25	
S1	PL12004	Essential study skills in politics	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	5	

Year 2

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL22025	Thinking the world politically	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	
AY	PL22026	Qualitative and quantitative research methods	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	
AY	PL22041	Spanish 2: Language in context	Part 2 Stage 2 Designated Essential Unit	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	25	
S2	PL22028	Peace, conflict and international security	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	

Title	Year 2 options
Total credits in this study yr	5
Overview of options in this study yr	In Year 2, you'll choose one 5-credit optional unit. Optional units will cover general issues from across politics and international areas, such as parliamentary democracy to the politics of technology.

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL22069	Study or work abroad	Part 2 Stage 3 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	60	

Placements and Years Abroad - Title
Study or work abroad

Placements and Years Abroad - Total credits
60

Placements and Years Abroad - Overview
You will study or work abroad. You can choose to spend this time doing a professional placement, studying at one of our overseas partner institutions, working as an English language assistant, or a combination of two of these options. This is an opportunity to enhance your CV, gain valuable new skills, try out a career option, or experience life in a different cultural environment.

Year 4

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL32057	Dissertation	Part 3 Stage 4 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	20	
AY	PL32050	Advanced Spanish 3	Part 3 Stage 4 Designated Essential Unit	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	15	

Title
Final year options

Total credits in this study yr
25

Overview of options in this study yr
In your final year, you will study a total of 25 credits of optional units. 15 credits will be taken from politics topics and 10 credits will be in your target language. These will consist of either all-year 10 credit units or single semester 5 credit units, or single semester 10 or 5 credit options.

Topics may include:

- national options in your chosen language
- politics of culture and identity
- emerging political powers
- contemporary security challenges

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the course, you will be able to

	Knowledge	Professional and	Study

	and Understanding	Intellectual Skills	Transferable Skills	Placement	Year Abroad
Identify, evaluate, and make use of the structures and registers of one foreign language	✔	✔			
Examine and critique different political systems; the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical, environmental and cultural contexts within which they operate; and the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system within which they exist	✔	✔			
Translate between the language you study and English, appraising and selecting the appropriate balance between precision and flow	✔	✔	✔		
Recognise, reflect upon, and respect the complex cultures of the societies in which your chosen language is spoken	✔	✔	✔		
Recognise, synthesise, and utilise the language as a gateway to understanding cultures and appreciating diversity	✔		✔		
Identify and use basic techniques of cultural and political analysis to critically engage with the changing debates, ideologies, and ideas from the cultures of your chosen language		✔			
Articulate abstract cultural, political, and linguistic concepts, and be able to synthesize and apply them to the discussion of a range of contemporary problems in a variety of cultures	✔	✔			
Recognise, review, and evaluate both your own and the positions of others	✔	✔	✔		

and the positions of others in relation to different cultural, ideological, and political perspectives in the UK and target language					
Construct reasoned responses and arguments to divergent cultural and political perspectives at home and abroad, articulating them clearly and supporting them with evidence	✔	✔	✔		
Locate and evaluate information in a variety of media and use it to identify and solve problems	✔	✔	✔		
Plan, undertake and report in-depth research based on sound methodological knowledge in English as well as in the target language		✔	✔		
Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of policies, institutions and ideologies that inform national and international politics, while recognising their complexity and contestability	✔	✔			
Recognise, reflect upon, and respect the complex cultures of the societies in which your chosen languages are spoken				✔	
Recognise, synthesise, and utilise the language as a gateway to understanding cultures and appreciating diversity				✔	
Recognise, reflect upon, and respect the complex cultures of the societies in which your chosen languages are spoken					✔
Recognise, synthesise, and utilise the language as a gateway to understanding cultures and appreciating diversity					✔

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards	This course has no designated alternative course (DAC). Department may offer opportunities to transfer to an alternative course. Please consult Director of Studies. Exit awards: Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education

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