

BSc(Hons) Politics and International Relations (UHPL-AFB53)

Course and Award Details

Course title	BSc(Hons) Politics and International Relations
Route(s)	BSc(Hons) Politics and International Relations
Awarding body	University of Bath
Award	Undergraduate Degree with Honours
Award name	Bachelor with Honours
Course mode of delivery	Full time
Course length	3 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

Combine the study of politics and global affairs to develop the knowledge and skills needed to understand and respond to contemporary political challenges.

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During this course, you'll deepen and develop your understanding of politics at local, domestic, regional and international levels.

You'll also gain the skills needed to critically analyse contemporary international and domestic socio-political challenges, from political polarisation to climate change. This will give you an effective platform to respond to key political factors that impact everyday life.

In Year 1, you'll study topics such as political theory and analysis, international relations and British politics, the latter studied from a global and comparative perspective.

In Year 2, you'll increase your knowledge of political theory and international relations, and advance your skills in research design and data analysis. A range of optional units will give you the opportunity to specialise in areas such as foreign policy analysis or technology and politics.

In your final year, you'll write a dissertation. You'll also choose from a range of optional units, giving you the freedom to explore topics that interest you and prepare you for your potential future career. Optional units may cover areas like economic crises, war and peace or electoral politics.

Informed teaching to advance your learning

You'll learn from teaching staff with diverse backgrounds and expertise in different areas of politics and international relations. Their passion, knowledge and research shape their teaching to enhance your learning experience.

Develop your professional skills

We work to provide you with the tools and support to prepare you for employment and further study. These include

- critical and analytical thinking
- presentation and communication skills
- data analysis
- adaptability and resilience.

Contact hours

Contact hours

Timetabled contact hours, which may be made up of lectures, seminars, tutorials and workshops, vary throughout your course and between courses but are typically between 8 and 12 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 23 to 32 hours per week in your first year, and include individual research, 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
Seminars
Tutorials
Workshops

Assessment summary

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

55% - 75% of your course will be assessed through coursework. The balance of the assessment by examinations and assessment by coursework may depend on the optional units you choose.

The final degree classification is determined by your second and final year marks and each contributes 32% and 68% respectively.

You will primarily be assessed individually, but may also be assessed as part of a group.

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

Examinations
Coursework

Placement/Stud Year Abroad details

We also offer this course with a professional placement or study abroad(/courses/undergraduate-2024/politics/bsc-politics-and-international-relations-with-professional-placement-or-study-abroad/) option in Year 3. This allows you to take advantage of our links with a range of organisations in different sectors, experience a new culture, or even combine the two.

A professional placement(/campaigns/enhance-your-employability-with-a-humanities-and-social-sciences-placement/) is a great way to get insights into the career path you

want; contribute to projects and services; have fun, make friends and build your professional network; and even earn a salary.

If you decide to study abroad(/campaigns/studying-abroad-as-part-of-your-undergraduate-degree/), you will spend time at one of our partner institutions across the globe. During this time, you will study a course that complements your existing learning while experiencing a new culture.

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: 32% 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	PL12005	Global Britain? the UK's place in the world	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	20	
S1	PL12004	Essential study skills in politics	Part 1 Stage 1 Compulsory	Certificate (FHEQ level 4)	5	
S2	PL12007	Solving puzzles about 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	
S1	PL22027	Comparative politics	Part 2 Stage 2 Compulsory	Intermediate (FHEQ level 5)	10	
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 20

Overview of options in this study yr In Year 2, you will study 20 credits of optional units. You'll select at least one all-year option worth 10 credits.

Options cover a range of topics, such as foreign policy making, international political economy, the politics of technology, and UK Parliamentary democracy.

Year 3

Period of study	Module code	Module title	Module status	Level	Credits	Option choice rules
AY	PL32057	Dissertation	Part 3 Stage 3 Compulsory	Honours (FHEQ level 6)	20	
Title	Final Year Options					
Total credits in this study yr	40					
Overview of options in this study yr	<p>In the final year, you will study 40 credits of optional units.</p> <p>Options cover a range of topics, such as emerging powers, peacebuilding, the politics of culture and national identity and contemporary UK politics.</p> <p>You'll study these optional units alongside your dissertation.</p>					

Learning Outcomes

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

	Knowledge and Intellectual Understanding	Professional and Transferable Skills	Study Year
		Skills	Placement Abroad
Illustrate and evaluate the normative and material foundations of ideas in politics and international relations	✓		
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	✓		
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	✓		
Describe, compare and critique different events	✓		

Critique current events and issues in world politics

Select, systematise and use evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources in accordance with the ethical requirements of study in Politics and International Relations	✓
Identify, assess, formulate and advocate solutions to problems in the context of Politics and International Relations	✓
Display critical judgement in source selection	✓
Use a range of digital and non-digital formats to communicate research findings to a variety of audiences	✓
Collaborate with others to achieve common goals through group-based research activities	✓

Alternative Courses and Exit Awards

Designated Alternative Courses (DAC) and exit awards	This course has no designated alternative course (DAC). Exit awards: Diploma of Higher Education Certificate of Higher Education
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