



Programme Specification

GENERAL INFORMATION	
Programme title	BSc (Hons) Politics and International Relations
Awarding Institution//Body	University of Bath
Teaching Institution	University of Bath
Programme accredited by (including date of accreditation)	
Subject Benchmark Statement*Subject Benchmark Statement:	Politics and International Relations
Date of Specification preparation/revision	
Applicable to cohorts	
Programme Approved by	

Synopsis and academic coherence of programme

The first year of study provides a foundation in concepts and theories relating to both Politics and International Relations, linked to more empirical studies of both recent history and contemporary national and global politics. Additionally, there is scope to study options in a variety of other fields, such as languages, psychology, social policy or sociology. The second and final years combine deepening knowledge in the core subjects with the possibility of continuing a particular option stream. Students are also required to undertake a year-long, supervised dissertation in Politics or International Relations in their final year. The optional placement year enables students to work in a relevant area of government or business or an NGO – options likely to lead to even greater employability after graduation. It is also possible to spend this year on study abroad.

Units are worth 6 credits unless otherwise indicated. Students take four or five units each semester, depending on 6 or 12C units. There is an optional placement/study abroad year (60 credits) which is spent on an approved work or study abroad placement. Options available include units in Foreign Languages, Psychology, Social Policy, and Sociology. Some options may take the form of full-year units. Full lists and details of all units are published in the Programme Catalogue which is available at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/catalogues/>

All students at the University of Bath are entitled to take extra units to the value of 6 credits in any year, which do not count towards their degree classification.

Educational aims of the programme

The Politics and International Relations degree programme is designed to:

- encourage the development of a critical perspective towards problems in politics and international relations;
- develop a systematic understanding of political ideas, institutions and relationships and a critical appreciation of debates relating to key political concepts and processes;
- develop a systematic understanding of international relations and a critical appreciation of debates relating to key concepts and processes, as appropriate to the balance between politics and international relations on the degree programme;
- encourage students to develop their academic potential within a constructive research-led environment;
- allow specialisation in a broad course of study within a flexible educational framework;
- develop academic and transferable skills.

- Knowledge & Understanding: Graduates in Politics and International Relations will:

- have an appropriate understanding and knowledge base in politics and international relations. They will have acquired an awareness of the institutional and global contexts within which political debates take place;
- have reached an appropriate level of knowledge and understanding, sufficient to enter into and benefit from further training in politics, international relations or related areas, through formal higher degree or vocational programmes, or in the course of their subsequent professional careers;
- have gained knowledge and understanding in the key disciplines and an appreciation of their interrelationship.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Intellectual Skills: 	<p>Graduates in Politics and International Relations will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • possess a sound understanding of political and international relations theories and concepts and their contestability, have a knowledge and appreciation of issues of data and evidence in these disciplines and be able to appraise different models and approaches; • have developed an enquiring and critical mind, the ability to find and identify, assimilate and evaluate new information, and to engage in problem solving, thereby demonstrating a capacity to think clearly and logically about a range of contemporary problems and policy decisions in politics and international relations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Professional Practical Skills: 	<p>Graduates in Politics and International Relations will:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • be able to demonstrate good written and oral communication skills, both individually and in group environments; • be able to use information technology effectively for processing information, as appropriate for the programme; • be able to plan and organise their time effectively to ensure that schedules are observed and all tasks are therefore completed within the prescribed time frame. <p>Graduates who complete a work placement will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • acquired practical experience in the application of knowledge and skills gained at the University; • developed competencies in communication, both oral and written, planning and time-management procedures, problem-solving and analytical decision-making, and gained confidence in their own ability to participate within a team framework, and assimilate and appraise new information; • acquired an understanding of the structure of employing organisations and an opportunity to investigate and assess potential career options prior to graduation. <p>Graduates who complete a study year abroad will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • gained additional academic insights from exposure to different academic traditions and national perspectives on the world today; • gained confidence in their own abilities and developed practical and intercultural competencies from living and studying in a culture different to that of the UK; • where the medium of instruction is not English, developed advanced language skills.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transferable/Key Skills: 	<p>Graduates in Politics and International Relations will have acquired:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the ability to develop and present a well structured essay to a set question; other presentation skills in projects and presentations; • investigative skills and the ability to use a variety of sources of information; • the ability to work and communicate as individuals; • skills in working and communicating effectively as a team; • skills in information technology; • critical and analytical skills

Summary of assessment and progression regulations

NFA - fully compliant

Progression Regulations and Awards

Politics and International Relations: UHPL-AFB30

This programme is fully compliant with the University's New Framework for Assessment: Assessment Regulations (NFAAR). The NFAAR describes the rules for progression from one stage of the programme to the next (including supplementary assessment, and the extent of failure that can be condoned) as well as for the award of degrees. Students taking the programme will be assessed according to these rules; further information about the NFAAR is available at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/registry/nfa/index.htm>.

Below is a description of how the programme is structured in terms of the NFAAR. Information about Designated Essential Units (DEUs) and Designated Alternative Programmes (DAPs), and the definitions for parts and stages of programmes, are also available in the NFAAR (see Appendix 2: Definitions).

Year 1 (Stage 1) constitutes Part One of the programme.

In the three-year programme, Year 2 (Stage 2) constitutes Part Two.

In the four-year programme Year 2 (Stage 2) and Year 3 (Stage 3) if taken constitute Part Two. The placement in Year 3 is standard (ie not assessed). If a study placement is chosen it does not replace a normal period of study at Bath.

Year 4 constitutes Part Three of the programme.

Year 1 and the Placement Year, if taken, do not contribute towards final degree marks.

Year 2 contributes 32% and Year 4 68%.

Details of Work Placements Requirements / Work Based Learning / Industrial Training Requirements

Students who undertake the four-year Politics and International Relations degree programme undertake a placement between their second and final years of academic study at the University. All placement students need to complete their placement satisfactorily, and to submit a final report and poster, as a condition of graduating 'with placement'.

(1) Work placements

Students undertake a placement in an approved company or public service organisation. Placements are arranged through the Faculty Placements Office. Recent Politics and International Relations students have undertaken placements with the House of Lords, House of Commons, the Welsh Assembly Government, the European Parliament; regulatory bodies such as Ofgem; government affairs companies such as Interel; businesses including Airbus, Microsoft, Morgan Stanley and PricewaterhouseCoopers; and voluntary sector agencies including Oxfam.

Preparation and support provided to students for work placements:

First year:

- Students given a Placement Handbook and access to placements website, which displays placement information and newsletters
- They attend five placement preparation sessions covering general placement information and advice on CV writing, interview skills, application forms and letters, aptitude tests and assessment days
- They receive individual help throughout the year from a Placements Officer with CVs, application forms and letters, and mock interviews

Second year

- Students attend placement information sessions delivered by a Placement Officer
- Placement vacancies advertised on placement website
- Further individual help given throughout year by a Placement Officer

Third year

- Students on placement are sent a monthly newsletter
- They are assigned a Placement Tutor who provides support and visits them if they are in the UK or in Brussels

Fourth year

- They design a poster about their placement experience which they present at a meeting for first-year and second-year students and staff
- Placement Tutors hold individual post-placement meetings with students to evaluate placement experience and discuss dissertation and future career plans.

Progress and achievement of students on workplacements is monitored by the visit, two reports that are submitted by their managers or supervisors and submission of the poster.

Details of Study Abroad Requirements

(2) Study year abroad

Students who can offer a foreign language at the appropriate level may participate in the Department's exchanges with leading institutions in France, Germany, Italy and Spain (under the Erasmus programme) and in Chile, Mexico and Russia. Selection will be made on academic merit, except that for foreign-language exchanges, priority will be given to students on languages programmes. Placements are arranged through the Department's Year Abroad Officer for the country concerned. The Department hopes to provide English-language exchange opportunities in the coming years.

Students undertaking a study year abroad undertake an approved programme of study at a partner institution.

Preparation and support provided to students for study abroad comprises briefings in the second year, support from their personal tutor and the Year Abroad Officer for the country concerned during the third year, and individual and group de-briefings upon return. There are also designated contacts for visiting students in each host institution. Students will agree a programme of study with the relevant Year Abroad Officer.

Progress and achievement of students on study abroad is monitored by submission of reports and transcripts of marks awarded by the host institution.

Details of Professional Accreditation

Admissions Criteria including APL/APEL arrangements

Three good passes at A2, or a similar standard in the Scottish Highers, European or International Baccalaureates, or equivalent qualifications from other countries. A good pass at GCSE in English Language is required; international students may be asked to provide evidence that they meet the University's minimum standard of proficiency in English. Applicants with Access or BTEC qualifications, as well as combinations of A levels with GNVQ and successor qualifications, will also be considered. Mature applicants without formal qualifications will be considered on an individual basis but may in some cases be requested to complete an Access course or a Foundation Year. Credit can be given for up to one year of study on a similar programme at another university at the discretion of the Faculty Board of Studies. Details of current offers, in terms of grades or points required, can be found in the prospectus or at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/study/ug/prospectus/subject/politics-international-relations>: they are likely to range from AAA to A*AA at A2 or 38-40 points in the International Baccalaureate.

Details of Support Available to Students

University of Bath students attending programmes of study at the Claverton Campus are usually encouraged to stay in University halls of residence during their first year and will be supported in their transition into University life and study by Resident Tutors. These are postgraduate students or staff who live in the halls of residence and are responsible for the general welfare, health and safety and discipline of student residents.

Undergraduate students will be allocated a Personal Tutor who is responsible for monitoring and supporting the academic progress and general welfare of their students.

Staff in these roles will be able to respond to many of the questions and concerns raised by their students. However, there is also a range of specialist student support services that will offer both information and advice to support these staff working with their students, as well as take referrals to work more directly with the students. Students can also self-refer to these services.

These services can provide information, advice and support in relation to accommodation, emotional difficulties, assessment of needs and provision of support relating to disability, student funding, general welfare, academic problems, student discipline and complaints, careers, international students, spiritual matters, part time work, security and personal safety. The Students' Union can also provide advocacy for students. More information about these services can be accessed via: <http://www.bath.ac.uk/students/support/>.

There are also Medical and Dental Centres, and a Chaplaincy on campus that are very experienced in meeting the needs of a student population, as well as a University nursery and vacation play scheme to provide childcare for older children during the school holidays.

There are good Arts facilities and exceptional Sports facilities on campus.

Department and Programme Specific Support Information

The Department offers an induction week at the start of the first year, complementing a more general induction programme offered by the University. During this week students are issued with the *Programme Handbook* which gives further advice and full details of their programme of study. They are introduced to their first-year subjects and teachers and given advice on studying and skills development. All teaching staff are available to see students in regular office hours or by appointment; students are always encouraged to seek advice from teachers. The Department prides itself on its commitment to its undergraduates and aims to create a friendly and welcoming atmosphere.

Further information about the programme family can be found on the web pages of the Department of Politics, Languages and International Studies at <http://www.bath.ac.uk/polis>.