

University of Plymouth

Faculty of Arts & Humanities
School of Law, Criminology & Government

Programme Specification

BSc (Hons) International Relations with Politics

This award incorporates an integrated Foundation Year

Definitive Document Approved: 3.5.19

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'S. C. Smith', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Implementation Date: September 2019

The BSc International Relations with Politics with Foundation

The BSc International Relation with Politics with Foundation (four years) runs alongside the three-year BSc (Hons) International Relations with Politics.

Final award title: BSc (Hons) International Relations with Politics

Award titles		
Final award title	Level 6	Bachelor of Science International Relations with Politics
Intermediate award title	Level 5	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) (unnamed)
Intermediate award title	Level 4	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) (unnamed)
	Level 3	Transcript

The approved content of the Foundation Year is described in this Programme Specification, is an integral part of the final award route, and is therefore not reflected in the final award title.

UCAS code: L251

HECOS code: 100484

- 1. Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth
Teaching institution(s): University of Plymouth
- 2. Accrediting body(ies):** N/A
- 3. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**
 - The School of Law, Criminology and Government at Plymouth runs two parallel programme pathways in Politics and International Relations, thus respecting the longstanding tradition in the social sciences for maintaining a distinction between these subjects as recognised by BISA and the PSA. At the same time, however, the two programmes are also designed to provide students with many opportunities to explore the multiplying overlaps, interactions and interfaces between Politics and International Relations in our increasingly globalized world. The Politics programme seeks to promote the knowledge and understanding of government and society, involving the analysis of power,

justice, order, conflict, authority and legitimacy, with a focus on the unifying theme of democracy and democratization within the state, or federation of states. The International Relations programme maintains a focus on the global and regional domains beyond the level of the state, and studies the key issues, actors and forces that operate in these domains.

- At the University of Plymouth, the importance of providing students with opportunities to study Politics and IR in combination with other disciplines in the social sciences is recognized. Politics can be studied in combination with Law or History as a minor. International Relations can also be studied as a minor with History or Geography.
- The Politics programme, on both Major and Minor pathways, is distinctive in its thematic coherence, with each of the constituent modules at level 4 and level 5 built around the theme of 'democracy and democratization'. In Level 4 several theories of democracy are introduced as alternative means for the critical evaluation of different national political systems and to reflect and debate upon some of the key issues, challenges and crises they face in the 21st century. In Level 5 the contemporary focus deepens with research and debates on: the politics of European integration; structures of power and legitimacy in relations between states, business and markets; sources of deliberative agency and personal development within social movements and through campaigns within civil society and the public sphere.
- The International Relations programme on all Honours, Major and Minor pathways, is distinctive for its critical and applied approaches to understanding international affairs, security studies and foreign policy analysis. At Level 4, a range of different perspectives used by state and non-state actors to imagine world order are introduced in order to reflect and discuss upon the evolution of international relations since 1945 and the present status quo. At Level 5 the contemporary focus deepens, applying IR perspectives to key case studies and issues, to questions of national and international security, debates upon national and international economic policy in relation to business and commerce, trade and financial affairs, and the international relations of the developing world.
- At stage 6, all Honours and Major programmes come together toward research and work-based learning in politics and international relations. Students choose from a range of research based elective modules on NATO, US political and foreign affairs, environmental politics, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, United Nations and global governance. Students are also required to develop and deliver a research project to dissertation level, and have the option to

develop their skills portfolio through our Politics and IR work-based learning module.

- The Politics and IR programme team is committed to the enhancement of the student learning and progression. Formative assessment is a central component of the learning experience and the teaching team uses a diverse range of activities (one-to-one and class-based) that deliver feedback and feed-forward on a weekly basis. Each module includes explicit use of formative assessment tools (e.g. observation, questioning, summarising, peer instruction), and covers both the lecture/seminar activities and the individual student coursework and examination techniques. The programme is designed to ensure that students' knowledge and skills develop throughout the programme. The lecture/seminar programme is based on a variety of activities and blended learning, including use of IT learning resources, individual and group presentations, video and podcasts – all of these activities are accompanied by a formative assessment approach underpinned by feed-back and feed-forward to facilitate student learning and skills development, support progression and ultimately enable the student to graduate with a good degree. The Politics and IR programme team continually reviews the formative assessment activities across the three levels to ensure coherence and effectiveness in learning outcomes, and to maintain a balance between formative and summative assessment. Programme leaders work closely with module and seminar leaders to monitor and review the feedback and feed-forward activities, and the impact upon student learning.
- The Politics and IR programme team recognises the need to provide opportunities to enhance personal development outside as well as within the formal curriculum, with extracurricular activities including a film club, a student led Politics and International Affairs Society, staff supported field trips, plus access to our PISC seminars and to talks and presentations by invited practitioners of politics.
- Additionally, the IR and Politics programmes offer all students the opportunity to study Politics for a year or a semester abroad at Level 5, as part of our exchange programme in one of our partner institutions in the United States or Europe.
- The allocation of our student enrichment fund is prioritised toward the provision of opportunities for personal development and employability, including bursaries for students seeking work experience through summer internships.
- Employability and personal development is embedded by design within the curriculum at all Levels from 4 to 6 and in all modules. This is facilitated through

close collaboration and professional advice from Plymouth Compass and the Careers and Employability team. It is also supported by our personal tutoring scheme which culminates in a PDP element within our dissertation module, and by alumni who volunteer to return and share their own stories of postgraduate life and positive advice based upon direct and lived experience.

4. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)

The Politics and International Relations programmes at Plymouth are designed to comply with the benchmarks laid down by the QAA in its *Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations (2015)*. This document sets out some defining principles, outlines the nature and extent of politics and international relations, suggests a number of required aims and objectives, notes a key set of common generic and transferable skills, and identifies appropriate methods for teaching, learning and assessment. It also takes account of SEEC (2010) Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, which identifies a more generic set of key competencies, skills and developmental objectives.

5. Programme Structure for BSc (Hons) International Relations with Politics

Level 3

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	30	LCG001	Foundational Ideas & Concepts in Law, Government & Society	39.5% to pass
S1	30	LCG002	Introduction to Law and Criminal Justice	39.5% to pass
S2	30	LCG003	Introduction to Government & Society	39.5% to pass
S2	30	LCG004	Work & Employment in the 21st Century	39.5% to pass

Level 4

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	PIR100	Discovering World Politics	39.5% to pass
S1	20	IRL100	Imagining World Order	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR101	Democracy and Democratization	39.5% to pass

S2	20	GOV1000PP	One Planet? Society and Sustainability.	39.5% to pass
S2	20	IRL102	International Relations Since 1945	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL101	Comparative Democracies	39.5% to pass

Level 5

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	IRL200	Understanding Global Politics	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR200	International Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S1	20	POL204	The Politics of European Integration	39.5% to pass
S2	20	IRL201	International Security Studies	39.5% to pass
S2	20	IRL203	International Relations of the Developing World	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL205	Campaigns, Voting, Elections and British Politics	39.5% to pass

Note: Students are also able to study a year abroad in Level 5. In order to progress to Level 6, students need to achieve a pass in their year abroad. 90% of their marks at Level 6 will then contribute to their final degree award.

Level 6 – 40 credits all-year core dissertation module plus 40 credits options per semester.

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
AY	40 core	PIR300	Dissertation and PDP Review	39.5% to pass
AY	20 elective	PIR310	Work-Based Learning in Politics and International Relations	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	IRL302	NATO after the Cold War and Beyond	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	SOC3538	Philosophy of Social Science	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR304	US Foreign Policy Since 1945	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR305	The Politics of the United States	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR306	Environmental Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR307	Europe in the World	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR312	The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	39.5% to pass

6. Programme Aims

All Politics and IR programmes seek to develop knowledge and understanding of the significance, concerns, concepts, theories and methods of the discipline of Politics and International Relations, and to assist students to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.

Specifically the programmes aim to:

- Provide modules where design, content and delivery are informed by contemporary research and scholarship.
- To offer students with varying entry qualification and experience a supportive learning environment that is receptive to their needs and views and encourages them to develop their full potential.
- Develop in students a capacity to think critically and independently about political events, ideas and institutions.
- To foster the development of graduate attributes and skills that are relevant to student aspirations and attractive to employers and other stakeholders.
- Encourage students to relate the academic study of politics to questions of contemporary public concern and to relate academic theory to policy, practice and behaviour.
- Place questions of political order and decision-making at the centre of analysis.
- Enable students to evaluate the key concepts, theories and methods of political analysis and develop an understanding of their contested nature and the problematic character of inquiry in the discipline.

7. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes

7.1. Level 3

The intended learning outcomes of the Foundation Year should be read in conjunction with those of the Level 4-6 award, to demonstrate the full scope of the intended study.

On successful completion of the Foundation Year, students will demonstrate the following intended learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

- Describe the main ideas that have shaped Western societies in the modern period.

- Describe at a basic level the structure and operation of the legal system and criminal justice process
- Describe the main domestic and international governmental institutions and demonstrate basic knowledge and understanding of key issues and theories in politics and international relations
- Demonstrate a foundational knowledge and understanding of sociological concepts and theories employed to make sense of the structure and organisation of society
- Describe the nature, characteristics and wider context of an employment sector.

Cognitive skills

- Use the ideas that have shaped Western societies to illuminate the nature of current issues and controversies in modern society
- Draw upon appropriate tools and concepts to analyse the institutions of the legal system and criminal justice process

Key transferable skills

- Communicate through written work at an appropriate standard, and in a clear, concise and accurate way
- Work effectively in groups to research an employment sector and its characteristics
- Orally present research findings in a clear and effective way

7.2. Levels 4-6

7.2.1. Knowledge and understanding

1. Knowledge base: has a given factual and/or conceptual knowledge base with emphasis on the nature of the political science/politics field of study and its appropriate terminology
2. Ethical issues: can demonstrate awareness of ethical issues in current areas of study and is able to discuss these in relation to personal beliefs and values

7.2.2. Cognitive/Intellectual Skills

1. Analysis: can analyse with guidance using given political science classifications and/principles
2. Synthesis: can collect and categorise ideas and information in a predictable and standard format
3. Evaluation: can evaluate the reliability of data using defined techniques and/or tutor guidance
4. Application: can apply given tools/methods accurately and carefully to a well-defined problem and begin to appreciate the complexity of the issues.

7.2.3. Key and Transferable Skills

1. Group working: can work effectively with others as a member of a group and meet obligations to others
2. Learning resources: can work within an appropriate ethos and can use and access a range of learning resources
3. Self-evaluation: can evaluate own strengths and weaknesses within criteria largely set by others.
4. Management of information: can manage information; collect appropriate data from a range of sources and undertake simple research tasks with external guidance.
5. Autonomy: can take responsibility for own learning with appropriate support
6. Communications: can communicate effectively in a format appropriate to the discipline and report practical procedures in a clear and concise manner.
7. Problem solving: can apply given tools/methods accurately and carefully to a well-defined problem and begin to appreciate the complexity of the issues in the discipline

7.2.4. Employment-related skills

1. Effective communication skills
2. Skills in personal reflection, team-working, independent working, and problem-solving
3. Gathering, summarising and synthesising information

7.2.5. Practical Skills

1. Application: can operate in predictable, defined contexts that require use of a specified range of standard skills
2. Autonomy in skill use: is able to act with some autonomy, under direction or supervision, within defined guidelines.

Students on the Politics or IR Minor programme with another subject as a Major will be expected to achieve knowledge and understanding of that discipline. Students taking the Politics Minor will be expected to achieve learning outcomes 8.1., 8.1.2, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, and 8.4.3 (above).

8. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

All applicants are recommended to have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above (from 2017 this is Grade 4 or above). If applicants do not have the equivalent, completing this during this degree will be promoted.

Entry Requirements for all BSc (Hons) Politics and IR Programmes with Foundation	
A-level/AS-level	For level 3 entry the tariff points entry level will normally be 32-48 points from A level or equivalent. Non-standard applicants will normally be interviewed.
BTEC National Diploma/QCF Extended Diploma	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Candidates can be interviewed before an offer is made. Pass an Access to HE Diploma in any subjects with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist.
Welsh Baccalaureate	All applications to be referred to the Admissions Tutor
Scottish Qualifications Authority	32-48 points at Advanced Highers – refer to admissions tutor
Irish Leaving Certificate	Irish Highers, H5 in five subjects equivalent to 32-48 points
International Baccalaureate	24 overall – refer to admissions tutor.
Proficiency in English	Students for whom English is an additional language will need to demonstrate ability in spoken and written English equivalent to an IELTS score of 6.0 and/or successfully complete the University's special test before entering the Foundation Year.

Other qualifications may be accepted for entry; information is provided on Programme Course pages specifying what these are and the level at which they need to be achieved.

9. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards

Students are required to pass all modules of the Foundation Year to progress to Level 4 of the BSc Politics and International Relations degree programmes. Requests to change programmes at the end of the Foundation Year will be considered only within the normal University regulations.

- Students must achieve 120 credits at Level 3 to progress to Level 4. There is no exit award for those leaving after the Foundation Year only.
- If students withdraw from the degree programme after successfully completing Level 4, they are eligible for the award of a Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE).
- If students withdraw from the degree programme after successfully completing Level 5, they are eligible for the award of a Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE).
- If students fail to achieve 120 credits at Level 6 but gain 80 credits they may be eligible for an Ordinary Degree.

Students must achieve 120 credits at Level 4 to progress to Level 5, and 240 credits (including 120 at Level 5) to progress to Level 6.

Students from appropriate other courses may be eligible to join Level 5 if they have 120 credits at Level 4 from a relevant programme. If, in addition to 120 credits at Level 4, they also have 120 Level 5 credits from a relevant programme they may be eligible to join Level 6.

The final mark on which final degree classification is based will be calculated on the following basis:

Level 4 – average mark from best 80 credits: 10%

Level 5 – average mark from all 120 credits: 30%

Level 6 – average mark from all 120 credits: 60%

10. Non Standard Regulations

There are no exceptions to the University regulations.

11. Transitional Arrangements

N/A

Appendices

Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules on Levels 4-6 contributing to the meeting of award learning outcomes.

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical	
		Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills							Employment related skills		Practical skills			
		1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	1			2
Level 4	PIR100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR101	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	IRL100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	POL101	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	IRL102	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 70% P1 30%
	GOV1000PP	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% P1 50%
Level 5	POL204	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 70% P1 30%
	IRL200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% T1 50%
	POL205	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	IRL201	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	IRL203	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
Level 6	PIR300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%

Confirmed Award LOs																
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ELECTIVE MODULES

Elective Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																	Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical
		Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills							Employment related skills		Practical skills			
		1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	1	2		
Level 4 LOs																				
Level 4																				
Level 5 LOs																				
Level 5																				
Level 6 LOs																				
Level 6	PIR310	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 80% P1 20%
	IRL302	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR304	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR305	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	PIR306	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	PIR307	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 60% E1 40%
	PIR312	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
Confirmed Award LOs																				