



**1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):**

BA Politics and International Relations, L290

BA Politics and International Relations with a Year Abroad\*

\*Students may only enter these degree programmes by transferring at the end of year 1

**2. Awarding body or institution:** University of Leicester

**3. a) Mode of study:** Full-time

**b) Type of study:** Campus-based

**4. Registration periods:**

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration is five years

Year Abroad

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

**5. Typical entry requirements:**

A/AS levels: BBB. (Two AS levels considered in place of one A level.)

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 32 points minimum.

European Baccalaureate: Pass with 70% overall.

**BTEC Nationals:** Full Diploma DDM.

**6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:**

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

**7. Programme aims:**

The BA International Relations programme aims to:

- provide a rigorous, coherent and attractive curriculum in Politics and International Relations that draws on the Department's research expertise and teaching strengths;
- provide a supportive, stimulating and challenging learning experience for students;
- ensure that students acquire a good knowledge and understanding of a range of theoretical approaches in Politics and International Relations;
- enable students to understand and apply theories and concepts to analyse and explain historical and contemporary developments in Politics and International Relations;
- develop in students a capacity to think critically about a range of key analytical issues in Politics, including political theory and government as well as International Relations

- provide students with a solid knowledge of key areas in and understanding of the main developments in Politics and International Relations since 1945 so that they are able to account for the historical origins of contemporary world politics;
- provide students with the knowledge and skills to think critically about contemporary developments in UK and world politics;
- assist students to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development;
- equip graduates with skills of research and analysis as a foundation for further study at postgraduate level in International Relations and cognate disciplines.

For those on the Year Abroad:

- provide an opportunity for Leicester students to spend their third year abroad, studying at a partner institution in Europe as part of the European Erasmus framework exchange program or a partner institution on another continent as part of the Study Abroad exchange programme;
- develop study skills in another university following a guided programme of learning for the period spent abroad;
- provide an opportunity for exchange students from partner institutions in another country to study in the United Kingdom;
- provide and build on links between the University of Leicester and its partner institutions develop an awareness of International Relations education in another country;
- develop a critical understanding of the different national, international and European dimensions of Politics and International Relations;
- develop an appreciation of the different approaches to the study of Politics and International Relations adopted by different types of scholars both in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- develop linguistic skills in a European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.

#### **8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:**

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations
- <http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf>
- University of Leicester Learning Strategy
- <https://www2.le.ac.uk/offices/sas2/quality/learnteach>
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Development Review Report (February 2014)
- External Examiners' Reports
- First Destination Survey
- Student feedback (NSS)
- Annual Development Review

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies</b>		
<b>(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge</b>		
<p>Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge in Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Acquire knowledge of another European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, individual consultations with staff and independent research.</p> <p>Language classes provided during 2<sup>nd</sup> year; 3<sup>rd</sup> year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.</p> <p>Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.</p>
<b>(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques</b>		
<p>Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with the major theoretical and analytical issues in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Acquire knowledge of another European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, individual consultations with staff and independent research.</p> <p>Language classes provided during 2<sup>nd</sup> year; 3<sup>rd</sup> year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.</p> <p>Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.</p>



Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(vi) Other discipline specific competencies</b>		
<p>Plan, design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing in Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>[Year Abroad]</p> <p>Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding.</p>	<p>Dissertation supervisions, research methods classes and independent research.</p> <p>Language classes provided during 2<sup>nd</sup> year; 3<sup>rd</sup> year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.</p>	<p>Dissertation, independent research projects, research proposal and poster presentation.</p> <p>Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.</p>
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>		
<b>(i) Oral communication</b>		
<p>Develop clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression of issues in Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>Participate effectively as a student in group discussions of Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>[Year Abroad]</p> <p>To display the ability to communicate in a European language in a fluent, accurate and appropriate manner if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations.</p> <p>Language classes.</p>	<p>Seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, individual dissertation presentation (podcast).</p> <p>Exercise, oral presentations.</p>
<b>(ii) Written communication</b>		
<p>Develop and sustain arguments in Politics and International Relations in a variety of written forms.</p> <p>Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of issues in Politics and International Relations.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, problem-solving exercises, independent research, individual consultations with staff and feedback on coursework and assessed work.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, problem-solving exercises.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(iii) Information technology</b>		
<p>Use IT to effectively support their studies in Politics and International Relations, including use of IT for bibliographic and archive searches, data analysis and written/visual presentation of work.</p> <p>Integration of IT into presentations (e.g. PowerPoint) and research (e.g. Blackboard, online archives/sources).</p>	<p>Induction programme, computer practical classes, online learning resources, independent research, interaction with staff and peers via Blackboard and email.</p>	<p>Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises, blog posts, podcasts, online tests.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] With regard to the 3<sup>rd</sup> year of the programme, communication with students abroad is conducted via the internet.</p>
<b>(iv) Numeracy</b>		
<p>Analyse data associated with Politics and International Relations using statistical and graphical techniques.</p>	<p>Lectures, tutorials, seminars, computer practical classes, online learning resources.</p>	<p>Independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.</p>
<b>(v) Team working</b>		
<p>Be able to work collaboratively to jointly explore issues and arguments in Politics and International Relations and to recognise the value of working closely with others.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Be able to work collaboratively in an international environment.</p>	<p>Interactive seminars, tutorials and group-work exercises.</p>	<p>Participation in group work, role plays and simulations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Plus equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.</p>
<b>(vi) Problem solving</b>		
<p>Address problems in Politics and International Relations in depth using a range of primary and secondary sources.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials and problem-solving exercises.</p>	<p>Essays, independent research projects, written reports, problem-solving exercises.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(vii) Information handling</b>		
Gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information.	Seminars, tutorials, directed reading, specialist research methods workshops, practical problem-solving exercises, online learning resources.	Essays, research projects, dissertation, written reports, problem-solving exercises.
<b>(viii) Skills for lifelong learning</b>		
Demonstrate intellectual independence through the setting of research tasks and the solving of problems in Politics and International Relations.	All of the above particularly independent research.	All of the above, particularly the dissertation.
Reflect upon own learning and achievements and plan for personal, educational and career development.	Tutorials, career development programmes, resource-based learning, personal development planning programme and individual consultations with staff.	Portfolio, curriculum vitae.
[Year Abroad] To demonstrate strategies for self-monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in a European language, if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English. Adaptation to a foreign environment.	Development of metalinguistic awareness through language classes, tasks designed to expand a foreign language repertoire.	Language assignments, ability to self-correct.

#### 10. Progression points:

##### [Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study.](#)

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

##### **Application to Transfer from BA Politics and International Relations to BA Politics and International Relations with a Year Abroad**

Students are invited to apply at the end of their first year to transfer to the BA Politics and International Relations with a Year Abroad.

##### **Progression from 2<sup>nd</sup> year to year abroad**

Students may progress to the year abroad with no more than 30 credits of failed modules in year 2. Good attendance and observation of academic obligations must continue to be maintained

throughout year 2. Failure to do so may result in the opportunity to study abroad being withdrawn and the student being transferred to the BA Politics and International Relations (without year abroad) or withdrawn from the course entirely.

For the year abroad year students are required to complete the equivalent of 60 ECTS if studying at a European partner institution.

For a student to progress to the final year of the BA with a Year Abroad programme the following will apply:

i) If the student is studying and being assessed in a foreign language he/she has to pass at least half of his/her second semester modules in the partner institution. This requirement emphasises that the year abroad is to be taken seriously as a period of study but is not so onerous as to negatively impact students on this programme. If a student has failed to pass half the credits in his/her second semester during the year abroad, including resit options as per the partner institution's rules, by the September Board of Examiners, the Board will consider whether the student should have to transfer on to the BA Politics and International Relations (without year abroad) for their final year, taking their overall attendance and observation of academic obligations into consideration.

ii) If the student is studying and being assessed in English he/she has to achieve an average of 50% for the whole year. If a student has failed to achieve an average of 50% for the year, including resit options as per the partner institution's rules, by the September Board of Examiners, the Board will consider whether the student should have to transfer on to the BA Politics and International Relations (without year abroad) for their final year, taking their overall attendance and observation of academic obligations into consideration.

iii) If the student is studying and being assessed in a combination of English and a Foreign Language the progression rules used will be based on the language used to teach the majority of modules. Therefore, if the majority of modules are taught in English the rules described in ii) above will apply, and if the majority of modules are taught in a Foreign Language the rules described in i) above will apply.

The year abroad will not contribute towards the overall classification, and will therefore be assessed on a pass or fail basis.

#### **11. Scheme of Assessment:**

Scheme of Assessment: This programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in [Senate Regulation 5](#).

#### **12. Special features:**

Students learning experience is enhanced by the School's strong commitment to developing synergy between its research and teaching activities.

Students may apply to transfer to the BA Politics and International Relations with a Year Abroad after successful completion of the first year and subsequent successful completion of the second year.



The BA Politics and International Relations with a Year Abroad provides for students spending their third year at one of our partner institutions and then returning to Leicester for their final year.

**13. Indications of programme quality**

External Examiners' reports have consistently praised the programme, highlighting the range of modules and variety of assessment methods.

**14. External Examiners:**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

## Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

### First Year

#### Semester One

##### Core Modules

		<b>Credits</b>
PL1015	Cold War, Crisis and Confrontation: International Relations, 1945-89	15
PL1019	Politics, Power and Ethics	15
PL1022	Key Concepts in International Relations	15

##### One Optional Module from

PL1119	Case Studies in Politics, Power and Ethics	15
AM1003	Introduction to American Politics	15

#### Semester Two

##### Core Modules

PL1011	Political Concepts	15
PL1016	Order and Disorder: International Relations from 1989 to the Present	15

##### Two Optional Modules from

PL1012	Comparative European Politics	15
PL1021	Power in the World Economy	15
PL1116	Case Studies in Post-Cold War (Dis-)Order	15

### Second Year

#### Semester One

##### Core Modules

PL2094	Political Analysis 1: Understanding Political Science Research	15
PL2015	International Theory	15

##### Two Optional Modules from

PL2011	Political Ideas	15
PL2019	The Making of Contemporary US Foreign Policy	15
PL2020	Political Parties in Contemporary Britain	15
PL2021	Sex and Gender in Global Politics	15
PL2029	Politics of the Global South	15

#### Semester Two

##### Core Module

PL2095	Political Analysis 2: Preparing for your Dissertation	15
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##### Three Optional Modules from

PL2016	European Union Politics	15
PL2018	International Security Studies	15
PL2022	Foreign Policy Analysis	15
PL2024	Governing Societies in Conflict	15
PL2027	Contemporary Political Philosophy: Theories of Justice	15
PL2028	Latin American Politics	15

### THIRD YEAR MODULES

#### SEMESTER 1

Core Modules	Credits
PL3094 Dissertation 1	15
<b>Optional Modules</b>	
Three options chosen from a range of PL modules	15,15, 15
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>60</b>

#### SEMESTER 2

Core Modules	Credits
PL3095 Dissertation 2	30
<b>Optional Modules</b>	
Two options chosen from a range of PL modules	15,15
<b>Semester Total</b>	<b>60</b>

### FINAL YEAR OPTIONAL MODULES

#### SEMESTER 1

- PL3060 Feminism
- PL3071 The American Presidency
- PL3103 The Politics of War and Peace: Northern Ireland After 1972
- PL3106 Parliamentary Studies
- PL3107 Brexit and British Politics
- PL3119 The Politics of Intelligence
- PL3129 The Politics of Nuclear Weapons
- PL3137 The Politics of Contemporary British Foreign Policy
- PL3140 Climate Change: Ethics, Issues, Justice
- PL3142 Politics of the International Drug Trade
- PL3143 International Migration in the Age of Securitisation
- PL3146 Corruption, Informality and Scandals
- PL3147 Emotions in Conflict and Cooperation
- PL3148 Comparative Public Opinion

#### Semester 2

- PL3076 Politics and the Environment
- PL3098 The Conservatives: Crisis and Recovery
- PL3114 American Political Development
- PL3116 The Changing Character of War
- PL3118 Global Justice and Human Rights
- PL3121 The Politics of Slavery
- PL3122 The Political Legacies of Conflict in Northern Ireland
- PL3127 Political Participation in Britain
- PL3136 Democracy and EU Membership in Post-Communist Europe
- PL3144 Politics and War in Outer Space
- PL3145 Gender, Race and War
- PL3149 Strategy and International Security

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### **THIRD YEAR (YEAR ABROAD)**

The third year will be spent abroad either taking approved courses amounting to 120 Leicester credits in an institution associated with the Department of Politics and International Relations under the Erasmus framework student mobility programme, (European institutions), or under the University's Study Abroad programme (institutions outside the European Union). Students will be required to complete the approved courses satisfactorily. Passing examinations in those courses shall be regarded as evidence of the students having completed them satisfactorily. Students who, in the opinion of the Board of Examiners, have not satisfactorily followed the approved courses at the overseas institution will not normally be allowed to proceed to the final year of the course, but may be permitted to transfer to the final year of BA Politics and International Relations without year abroad.

The year abroad will not contribute towards the overall classification, and will therefore be assessed on a pass or fail basis.

List of partner institutions:

[Université de Liege, Belgium](#)

[Justus-Liebig-Universität Giessen, Germany](#)

[Univerzita Komenského Bratislava, Slovakia](#)

[Maastricht University, Netherlands](#)

### **Appendix 2: Module specifications**

See module specification database <http://www.le.ac.uk/sas/courses/documentation>

### **Appendix 3: Skills matrix**

Skills matrices submitted as a separate file