Programme Specification (Undergraduate) FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2023/24

Date created: 26/02/2021 **Last amended:** 06/06/2025 **Version no.** 3

1. Programme title(s) and code(s):

BA International Relations and History
BA International Relations and History with a Year Abroad*
BA International Relations and History with a Year in Industry*
*Students may only enter this degree programmes by transferring at the end of year 1 or year 2

a) HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100490	50%
100753	50%

b) UCAS Code (where required)

LV21

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

BA International Relations and History
The normal period of registration is 3 years
The maximum period of registration 5 years

BA International Relations and History with a Year Abroad
The normal period of registration is four years
The maximum period of registration six years

BA International Relations and History with a Year in Industry
The normal period of registration is four years
The maximum period of registration 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.

For the aims, learning outcomes and application criteria for the GCSA Year Abroad please see https://le.ac.uk/study/undergraduates/courses/abroad

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 basis and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims

The programme aims to:

- Provide a coherent and attractive curriculum by utilising the teaching and research expertise of the Department of Politics and International Relations and School of Historical Studies;
- Provide a rigorous programme of study, embodying a disciplinary flexibility, across both subjects and by exploring the intellectual synergies between International Relations and History;
- Enable students to understand and apply theories and concepts to analyse and explain International Relations within a historical and contemporary context;
- Develop student expertise in the key areas of both disciplines – allowing for dissertation specialisation in the final year;
- Provide a supportive, stimulating and challenging learning experience for students;
- 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, History and cognate disciplines.

In addition, for the 'with Industry' variants

- The 'Year in industry' variant of this programme is offered in accordance with the University's standard specification for year in industry programme variants.
- To provide experience of applications of professional and discipline-specific skills in Industry and to reinforce knowledge through its use in different environments.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations
- QAA Benchmarking statement for History
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education
- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy [login required]
- University of Leicester Periodic Developmental Review Report
- External Examiners' reports (annual)
- United Nations Education for Sustainable Development Goals
- Student Destinations Data

9. Programme Outcomes

Unless otherwise stated, programme outcomes apply to all awards specified in 1. Programme title(s).

a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies

i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate mastery of an	Lectures, seminars, tutorials,	Essays, essay-based

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
appropriate body of knowledge in International Relations and History. [Year Abroad] Acquire knowledge of another European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English	directed reading, individual consultations with staff and independent research. Language classes provided during 2nd year; 3rd year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.	examinations, short answer examinations, dissertations, reviews, written reports, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.

ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with the major theoretical and analytical issues in the discipline of International Relations. Demonstrate understanding of a range of approaches, issues and concepts in History. [Year Abroad] As above.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, individual consultations with staff and independent research. As above.	Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises. As above.

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain arguments addressing questions and issues in International Relations and History, formulating appropriate questions and drawing on evidence. Analyse the history of different states, societies or cultures, and reflect critically on a range of historical and contemporary developments in International Relations.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Reflect critically on the (contested) nature of the discipline of International Relations. [Year Abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of European international relations and foreign political and social structures.	As above.	As above.

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present issues and problems in International Relations and History in a variety of written and oral forms.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer examinations, dissertations, writing tasks, seminar presentations and contributions to class discussions.

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain arguments, formulating appropriate questions and utilizing evidence. Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon major texts and other source materials in International Relations and History.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, written reports seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.

vi) Other discipline specific competencies

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Plan, design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing in International Relations and/or History. Present referencing and bibliographic material to appropriate subject-specific standards.	Dissertation supervisions, research methods classes, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Independent research projects, dissertations, research proposal and research presentations.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
[Year Abroad] Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding.	As above.	As above.

b) Transferable skills

i) Oral communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression of issues in International Relations and History. Participate effectively as a student in group discussions.	Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations.	Seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, individual dissertation presentation.
[Year Abroad] 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.	Language classes.	Exercises, oral presentations.

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain arguments in International Relations and History in a variety of written forms. Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of issues in International Relations and History.	Seminars, tutorials, problem-solving exercises, independent research, individual consultations with staff and feedback on coursework and assessed work.	Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer examinations, dissertations, written reports, reviews, seminar presentations, problem-solving exercises.
[Year Abroad] To produce texts of various types in a European language demonstrating accuracy and appropriate discourse conventions, if the student	Language classes, formative coursework in partner institutions.	As above.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.		

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Use IT to effectively support their studies in International Relations, including use of IT for bibliographic and archive searches, data analysis and written/visual presentation of work. Integration of IT into presentations (e.g. PowerPoint)and research (e.g. Blackboard, online archives/sources).	Induction programme, computer practical classes, online learning resources, independent research, interaction with staff and peers via Blackboard and email.	Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises. [Year Abroad] With regard to the 3rd year of the programme, communication with students abroad is conducted via the internet.

iv) Numeracy

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Analyse data associated with International Relations and History using statistical and graphical techniques.	Lectures, computer practical classes.	Independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises. [Year Abroad] Equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.

v) Team working

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Be able to work collaboratively to jointly explore issues and arguments in International Relations and History, and to recognise the value of working closely with others.	Interactive seminars, tutorials and group-work exercises.	Participation in group work, role plays and simulations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions. [Year Abroad] Plus equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Address problems in	Seminars, tutorials and	Essays, independent research

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
International Relations and History in depth using a range of primary and secondary sources. Synthesise different approaches to both disciplines.	problem-solving exercises.	projects, written reports, problem-solving exercises.

vii) Information handling

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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, independent research projects, written reports, problem-solving exercises.

viii) Skills for lifelong learning

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate intellectual independence through the setting of research tasks and the solving of problems in International Relations and History.	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.	

Year in Industry

In addition, for the Year in Industry' variants the additional programme outcomes apply

10. Progression points

Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study: https://le.ac.uk/policies/regulations

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

Year Abroad
Application to Transfer from BA International Relations and History to BA International Relations and History with a Year Abroad

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

Progression from 2nd 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 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 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 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.

Year in Industry

For the Year in Industry variant, the additional progression points apply

11. Scheme of Assessment:

The programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in Senate Regulation 5.

12. Special features

Students learning experience is enhanced by a strong commitment to developing synergy between its research and teaching activities. It is also enhanced by the close links between the research and teaching activities of members of staff in the School of History, Politics and International Relations.

The University recognises that undertaking a work placement as part the programme of study can enhance career prospects and provide added value, and as such this programme includes a 'year in industry' variant.

By experiencing real-world scenarios and applying skills and knowledge to a professional environment, students can gain a unique insight into how their studies can be utilised in industry. This will not only showcase their abilities to future employers but will also enhance their studies upon returning to university to complete your programme.

To understand the special features for year in industry undergraduate programme variants, this programme specification should be read in conjunction with the programme specification content which can be found here. This outlines details including programme aims, support, progression and duration.

13. Indications of programme quality

External Examiners' reports

14. External Examiner(s) reports

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

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

The University regularly reviews its programmes and modules to ensure that they reflect the current status of the discipline and offer the best learning experience to students. On occasion, it may be necessary to alter particular aspects of a course or module.

Updates to the programme

Academic year affected	Module Code(s)	Update
2023/24	HS1017	Module title changed from "With Liberty and Justice for All? US History since 1877"

BA International Relations and History

Level 4/Year 1 2023/24

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	45 credits

SEMESTER ONE

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS1001	Medieval and Early Modern Europe: People, Power, Faith, and Culture	15 credits
Sem 1	HS1002	The Shock of the Modern	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1022	Key Concepts in International Relations	30 credits

SEMESTER TWO

Core Module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL1016	Order and Disorder: International Relations from 1989 to the Present	15 credits

One Optional Module in Politics and International Relations from:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	PL1021	Power in the World Economy	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1012	Comparative European Politics	15 credits

Two Optional Modules in History from:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	HS1012	Global History: Connections and Cultures in a Changing World, 1750 to the present	15 credits
Semester 2	HS1013	Modern Britain: The State We're In	15 credits
Semester 2	HS1016	Europe 1861-1991: Emancipation and Subjugation	15 credits
Semester 2	HS1017	US History since 1776	15 credits

Level 5/Year 2 2024/25

SECOND YEAR MODULES

ROUTE A: For students taking a final year Dissertation in History

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	15 credits
Optional	n/a	45 credits	45 credits

SEMESTER ONE

Core Module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2401	Perceiving the Past	15 credits

Three Optional Modules from:

(i)

History Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2238	Global Cities	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2302	Blood, Position and Power: The Nobility of Later Medieval England, 1066-1485	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2329	A World Connected: Economy, Wellbeing and Sustainability since 1950	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2346	Slavery, Abolition and Reconstruction in the United States	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2353	Enter the Dragon: An Introduction to Modern China	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2359	The History of Alcohol in North America, 1650-1950	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2362	Living with Dictatorship: European Societies, 1918-1941	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2369	Digital Histories	15 credits

Politics and International Relations Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL2015	International Theory	15 credits
Sem 1	PL2021	The Curious Feminist: Gender in Global Politics	15 credits
Sem 1	PL2029	Politics of the Global South	15 credits

SEMESTER TWO

Core Module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2502	Becoming the Historical Researcher	15 credits

Three Optional Modules from:

(i)

History Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2027	The Latin World: Ancient, Medieval and Modern	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2307	Madness, Monarchy and Politics in Georgian Britain	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2311	Domestic Revolutions: Women, Men and the Family in American History	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2314	Imperialism and Decolonisation	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2348	Rise and Fall of the Soviet Union	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2360	History in the Classroom	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2368	Fight the Power! Race, Rights and Protest in the USA	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2802	Working with History: The Heritage Field Project	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2803	The Worlds End: Historical Perspective on Contemporary Environmental Crisis	15 credits

(ii) Politics and International Relations approved Options

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	PL2016	European Union Politics	15 credits
Semester 2	PL2018	International Security Studies	15 credits
Semester 2	PL2019	Foreign Policy Analysis	15 credits

Note: Over the Second Year as a whole, students must take 60 credits in History and 60 credits in Politics & International Relations.

ROUTE B: For students taking a final year Dissertation in Politics & International Relations

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Optional	n/a	45 credits	30 credits

120 credits in total

SEMESTER ONE

Core Module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS2401	Perceiving the Past	15 credits

Three Optional Modules from

(i) History approved Options
(ii) Politics and International Relations Options

See Route A (above) for Approved Options

SEMESTER TWO

Core Module

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL2095	Preparing for your Dissertation	30 credits

Two Optional Modules from:

(i) History approved Options
(ii) Politics and International Relations approved Options

See Route A (above) for Approved Options

Notes

1. Over the Second Year as a whole, students must take 60 credits in History and 60 credits in Politics & International Relations

Level 6/Year Final 2025/26

FINAL YEAR MODULES

ROUTE A: For students taking a final year Dissertation in History

Credit breakdown

Option 1 (With Special Subject)

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	30 credits	30 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

Option 2 (Without Special Subject)

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	45 credits	30 credits

Core Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS3505	Dissertation I	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3506	Dissertation II	30 credits

SEMESTER 1

Either 45 credits in approved optional modules (see below):

i. History approved Options
ii. Politics & International Relations approved Options

OR

One History Special Subject and 30 credits in approved optional modules

i. History approved Options

- Politics & International Relations approved Options

SEMESTER 2

Either 30 credits in approved optional modules (see below):

i. History approved Options
ii. Politics & International Relations approved Options

OR

One History Special Subject and 15 credits in approved optional modules

i. History approved options

- ii. Politics & International Relations approved Options

Note: The credit balance across subjects can be 45/75 or 60/60 in the final year. Students must take at least 60 credits in the discipline of their dissertation, and no more than 75 credits in that discipline.

ROUTE B: with Politics & International Relations Dissertation

Credit breakdown

Option 1 (With Special Subject)

Status	**Year long**	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**
Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	30 credits	30 credits	15 credits

120 credits in total

Option 2 (Without Special Subject)

Status	**Year long**	**Semester 1**	**Semester 2**

Core	n/a	15 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	45 credits	30 credits

Core Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL3094	Dissertation 1	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3095	Dissertation 2	30 credits

SEMESTER ONE

Either 45 credits in approved optional modules (see below):

ii. History approved Options

iii. Politics & International Relations approved Options

OR

One History Special Subject and 30 credits in approved optional modules

i. History approved Options

- Politics & International Relations approved Options

SEMESTER 2

Either 30 credits in approved optional modules (see below):

ii. History approved Options

iii. Politics & International Relations approved Options

OR

One History Special Subject and 15 credits in approved optional modules

i. History approved options

- ii. Politics & International Relations approved Options

Note: The credit balance across subjects can be 45/75 or 60/60 in the final year. Students must take at least 60 credits in the discipline of their dissertation, and no more than 75 credits in that discipline.

HISTORY SPECIAL SUBJECTS

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Year long	HS3766	Ideals of Womanhood in 19th-Century America	30 credits
Year long	HS3768	The British Antislavery Movement, 1787-1833	30 credits
Year long	HS3771	After Hitler	30 credits
Year long	HS3777	The Presidency of Franklin D. Roosevelt	30 credits

HISTORY FINAL YEAR OPTIONS

Semester One

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	HS3627	The Civil Rights Movement, 1945-1968	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3646	Fourteenth-Century Crisis in England?	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3653	The Death Penalty and its Abolition: A Global History	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3677	Sport and the British	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3681	You are what you wear? Clothing, Fashion and Belonging in the Modern World	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3689	When Two Dragons Fight: China and Japan at War in the Twentieth Century	15 credits
Sem 1	HS3694	Diasporas and Migrations in the Modern World	15 credits

Semester Two

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS3614	Britain's Imperial Economy: Power, Wealth and Colonialism 1830-1939	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3620	What Difference did the War Make? British Society and the Great War, 1900-1939	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3682	Daring to be Free: The Women's Movement, 1850s to 1970s	15 credits
Sem 2	HS3808	Gender, Crime and Deviance in Eighteenth-Century Britain	15 credits

POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FINAL YEAR OPTIONAL MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL3118	Global Justice and Human Rights	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3129	The Politics of Nuclear Weapons	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3137	The Politics of Contemporary British Foreign Policy	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3143	International Migration in the Age of Securitisation	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3147	Emotions in Conflict and Cooperation	15 credits

SEMESTER 2

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL3114	American Political Development	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3116	Politics of Contemporary War and Conflict	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL3121	The Politics of Slavery	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3145	Gender, Race and War	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3150	Politics, Conflict and Statecraft in Africa	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3154	The Political Theory of Disobedience and Protests	15 credits

Appendix 2: Module specifications

See undergraduate module specification database [login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).

Appendix 3: Skills matrix