



UNIVERSITY OF  
LEICESTER

## Pathway Specification (Undergraduate)

For students entering in 2019/20

Last amended: January 2019

### 1. Pathway Title(s) and UCAS code(s):

BA Politics L200,

BA Politics 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 **Politics single pathway** aims to:

- provide a rigorous, coherent and attractive curriculum in Politics 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;
- enable students to understand and apply theories and concepts to analyse and explain historical and contemporary developments in Politics;
- develop in students a capacity to think critically about a range of key analytical issues in Politics, particularly in political theory, government and international relations;

- provide students with a solid knowledge of key areas in and understanding of the main developments in Politics since 1945 so that they are able to account for the historical origins of contemporary politics;
- provide students with the knowledge and skills to think critically about contemporary developments in 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 Politics, 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 politics education in another country;
- develop a critical understanding of the national, international and European politics;
- develop an appreciation of the different approaches to the study of politics 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:  
BA Politics

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 (political theory, government, 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 discipline of Politics.</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>(iii) Critical analysis of key issues</b>		
<p>Develop and sustain arguments addressing questions and issues in Politics, formulating appropriate questions and drawing on evidence.</p> <p>Reflect critically on a range of historical and contemporary developments in Politics.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of European political and social structures.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, 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, 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>(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material</b>		
<p>Present issues and problems in Politics in a variety of written and oral forms.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.</p>	<p>Writing tasks, seminar presentations and contributions to class discussions.</p>
<b>(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight</b>		
<p>Develop and sustain arguments, formulating appropriate questions and utilizing evidence.</p> <p>Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon major texts and other source materials in Politics.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.</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>
<b>(vi) Other discipline specific competencies</b>		
<p>Plan, design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing in Politics.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] 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>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<b>(b) Transferable skills</b>		
<b>(i) Oral communication</b>		
<p>Develop clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression of issues in Politics.</p> <p>Participate effectively as a student in group discussions of Politics.</p> <p>[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.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations.</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>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 in a variety of written forms.</p> <p>Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of issues in Politics.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] To produce texts of various types in a European language demonstrating accuracy and appropriate discourse conventions if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, problem-solving exercises, independent research, individual consultations with staff and feedback on coursework and assessed work.</p> <p>Language classes, formative coursework in partner institutions.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, problem-solving exercises.</p> <p>Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.</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, 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 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 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 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> <p>[Year Abroad] Plus equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.</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.	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. Excluded combinations and course transfers

### a) Course transfers

## 11. Progression points:

As defined in [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 to BA Politics with a Year Abroad

Students are invited to apply at the end of their first year to transfer to the BA Politics 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 (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 (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 (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.

## **12. Scheme of Assessment:**

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

## **13. Key/extra 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 with a Year Abroad after successful completion of the first year and subsequent successful completion of the second year.

The BA Politics 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.



**14. Indications of programme quality**

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

**15. Summary of programme/pathway delivery and assessment:**

Please see skills matrices and, in due course, module specifications.

**16. External Examiners**

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#). For the major/minor variant of this programme, these are to be included following receipt of first report.

## Appendix 1: Programme structure (programme regulations)

### BA POLITICS

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#### FIRST YEAR MODULES

##### SEMESTER 1

Core Modules		Credits
PL1019	POLITICS, POWER AND ETHICS	15
PL1119	CASE STUDIES IN POLITICS, POWER AND ETHICS	15

##### Two optional modules from:

PL1015	COLD WAR, CRISIS AND CONFRONTATION: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, 1945-89	15
PL1022	KEY CONCEPTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS	15
AM1003	INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS	15

**Semester Total**      **60**

##### SEMESTER 2

Core Modules		Credits
PL1011	POLITICAL CONCEPTS	15
PL1012	COMPARATIVE EUROPEAN POLITICS	15

##### Two optional modules from

PL1016	ORDER AND DISORDER: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS FROM 1989 TO THE PRESENT	15
PL1116	CASE STUDIES IN POST-COLD WAR (DIS-)ORDER	15
PL1021	POWER IN THE WORLD ECONOMY	15

**Semester Total**      **60**

#### SECOND YEAR MODULES

##### SEMESTER 1

Core Modules		Credits
PL2094	POLITICAL ANALYSIS 1: Understanding Political Science Research	15
PL2011	POLITICAL IDEAS	15
PL2020	POLITICAL PARTIES IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN	15

##### One optional module from:

PL2015	INTERNATIONAL THEORY	15
PL2021	SEX AND GENDER IN GLOBAL POLITICS	15
PL2019	THE MAKING OF CONTEMPORARY US FOREIGN POLICY	15
PL2028	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS	15
PL2029	POLITICS OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH	15

**Semester Total**      **60**

##### SEMESTER 2

Core Modules		Credits
PL2095	POLITICAL ANALYSIS 2: Preparing for your Dissertation PLUS EITHER OR BOTH OF	15
PL2016	EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS AND/OR	15

**Optional modules – if further credits required, one of:**

PL2018	INTERNATIONAL SECURITY STUDIES	15
PL2022	FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS	15
PL2024	GOVERNING SOCIETIES IN CONFLICT	15
PL2027	CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORIES OF JUSTICE	15
<b>Semester Total</b>		<b>60</b>

**THIRD YEAR MODULES**

**SEMESTER 1**

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>
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**

<b>Core Modules</b>		<b>Credits</b>
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 (15)
- 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 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**