



Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2020/21

Date created: 17/03/2021

Last amended: 17/03/2023

Version no. 5

1. Programme title(s) and 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

a) [HECOS Code](#)

HECOS Code	%
[100491]	[50%]
[100490]	[50%]

b) UCAS Code (where required)

[L290]

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study

Full-time

b) Type of study

Flexible/blended learning

4. Registration periods:

[BA Politics and International Relations, L290]

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration five years

[BA Politics and international Relations with Year Abroad]

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration four 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

- Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ)
- UK Quality Code for Higher Education

- [University Learning Strategy](#)
- [University Assessment Strategy](#)
- 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 appropriate body of knowledge in Politics and International Relations.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.
[Year Abroad] Acquire knowledge of another European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.	Language classes provided during 2 nd year; 3 rd year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language	Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.

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 disciplines of Politics and International Relations.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.
[Year Abroad] Acquire knowledge of another European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.	Language classes provided during 2 nd year; 3 rd year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.	Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.

iii) Critical analysis of key issues

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Develop and sustain arguments addressing questions and issues in Politics and International Relations, formulating appropriate questions and drawing on evidence.</p> <p>Reflect critically on a range of historical and contemporary developments in Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>Reflect critically on the (contested) nature of the discipline of Politics and International Relations.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of European politics and international relations, and foreign 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 2nd year; 3rd 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>

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Present issues and problems in Politics and International Relations 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>

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
<p>Develop and sustain arguments, formulating appropriate questions and utilizing evidence.</p> <p>Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually</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</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
upon major texts and other source materials in Politics and International Relations.		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 Politics and International Relations.	Dissertation supervisions, research methods classes and independent research.	Dissertation, independent research projects, research proposal and poster presentation.
[Year Abroad] Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding.	Language classes provided during 2 nd year; 3 rd year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.	Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.

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 Politics and International Relations.	Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations.	Seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, individual dissertation presentation (podcast).
Participate effectively as a student in group discussions of Politics and International Relations.		
[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.	Exercise, oral presentations.

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain arguments in Politics and International Relations in a variety of written forms.	Seminars, tutorials, problem-solving exercises, independent research, individual consultations with staff and feedback on coursework and assessed work.	Essays, essay-based examinations, short answer exams, reviews, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of issues in Politics and International Relations.		presentations, problem-solving exercises.

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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. 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, blog posts, podcasts, online tests. [Year Abroad] With regard to the 3 rd 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 Politics and International Relations using statistical and graphical techniques.	Lectures, tutorials, seminars, computer practical classes, online learning resources.	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 Politics and International Relations and to recognise the value of working closely with others. [Year Abroad]	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.

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Be able to work collaboratively in an international environment.		

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Address problems in Politics and International Relations in depth using a range of primary and secondary sources.	Seminars, tutorials and problem-solving exercises.	Essays, independent research 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, research projects, dissertation, 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 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 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 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](#).

Programme Specification (Undergraduate)

FOR ENTRY YEAR: 2020/21

Date created: 17/03/2021

Last amended: 17/03/2023

Version no. 5

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.

[BA POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS]

Level 4/Year 1 2020/21

Credit breakdown

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

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1319	Politics, Power and Ethics	30 credits
Sem 2	PL1311	Political Concepts	30 credits

TWO Optional Modules from:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL1022	Key Concepts in International Relations	15 credits
Semester 1	PL1015	The Global Cold War: International Relations 1945-1989	15 credits
Semester 1	AM1003	Introduction to American Politics	15 credits

TWO Optional Modules from:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	PL1012	Comparative European Politics	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1021	Power in the World Economy	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1016	Order and Disorder: International Relations from 1989 to the Present	15 credits

Level 5/Year 2 2021/22

Credit breakdown

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

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL2094	Political Analysis 1: Understanding Political Science Research	15 credits
Sem 1	PL2015	International Theory	30 credits
Sem 2	PL2095	Political Analysis 2: Preparing for your Dissertation	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2019	The Making of Contemporary US Foreign Policy	30 credits

ONE Optional Module from

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL2011	Political Ideas	15 credits
Semester 1	PL2020	Political Parties in Contemporary Britain	15 credits
Semester 1	PL2021	Sex and Gender in Global Politics	15 credits

ONE Optional Module from:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	PL2016	European Union Politics	15 credits
Semester 2	PL2028	International Security Studies	15 credits
Semester 2	PL2027	Contemporary Political Philosophy: Theories of Justice	15 credits

Level 6/Year 3 2023/24

Credit breakdown

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

120 credits in total

Core modules

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

Option modules

SEMESTER ONE – THREE options chosen from a range of PL modules = 15,15,15

SEMESTER TWO – TWO options chosen from a range of PL modules = 15, 15

FINAL YEAR OPTIONAL MODULES

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL3060	Feminism	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3071	The American Presidency	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3098	The Conservatives: Crisis and Recovery	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3122	The Political Legacies of Conflict in Northern Ireland	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3XXX	Animals and the Environment	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL3106	Parliamentary Studies	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3129	The Politics of Nuclear Weapons	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3137	The Politics of Contemporary British Foreign Policy	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3143	International Migration in the Age of Securitisation	15 credits
Semester 1	PL3151	East Asian International Relations: Strategic, Economic and Societal Dilemmas	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3116	The Changing Character of War	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3118	Global Justice and Human Rights	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3XXX	Race, Caste and Political Theory	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3XXX	The Political Theory of Disobedience and Protests	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3145	Gender, Race and War	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3121	The Politics of Slavery	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3144	Politics and War in Outer Space	15 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL3147	Emotions in Conflict and Cooperation	15 credits
Semester 2	PL3150	International Relations, Statecraft and Political Conflict in Africa	15 credits

Notes

This is an indicative list of option modules and not definitive of what will be available. Option module choice is also subject to availability, timetabling, student number restrictions and, where appropriate, students having taken appropriate pre-requisite modules.

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