UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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

Date created: 03/03/2021 **Last amended:** 06/06/2025 **Version no.** 4

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

BA Politics and Sociology
BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad*
*Students may only enter these degree programmes by transferring at the end of year 1 or year 2

a) HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100491	50%
100505	50%

b) UCAS Code (where required)

LL23

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 Politics and Sociology LL23]

The normal period of registration is 3 years

The maximum period of registration 5 years

[BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad]

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 *[write for the student audience]*

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 the Department of Sociology;
- Provide a rigorous programme of study, embodying a disciplinary flexibility, across both subjects and by exploring the intellectual synergies between Politics and Sociology;
- Enable students to apply a theoretical understanding of Politics within a sociological 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 Politics, Sociology 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 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 and Sociology education in another country;
- develop a critical understanding of the different national, international and European political and social phenomena;
- develop an appreciation of the different approaches to the study of Politics and Sociology 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
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Sociology

- University Education Strategy
- University Assessment Strategy
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Development Review Report (February 2014)
- External Examiners' Reports
- First Destination Survey
- Student feedback (NSS)

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 Sociology.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, problem- solving exercises, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, written reports, reviews, portfolios, 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 2nd year; 3rd 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 the assimilation of core theoretical concepts and their application in Politics and Sociology. Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with a range of approaches, issues and concepts in both disciplines. [Year Abroad] As above	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, problem- solving exercises, individual consultations with staff, and independent research. As above.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, reviews, portfolios, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises, computer-based 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 Politics and Sociology, formulating appropriate questions and drawing on evidence. Analyse the Politics and Sociology of different states, societies, and/or cultures. Reflect critically on a range of historical and contemporary developments in the disciplines of Politics and Sociology. [Year Abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of European politics and societies, and foreign political and social structures & dynamics.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff, and independent research. As above.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises. As above.

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present issues and problems in Politics and Sociology in a clear and concise way in a variety of written and oral formats.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, reviews, portfolios, seminar presentations and contributions to class discussions.

v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon major texts and other source materials in Politics and Sociology.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, written reports, reviews, portfolios, 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 Politics. [Year Abroad] Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding.	Dissertation supervisions, research methods classes and independent research. As above.	Independent research projects, dissertations and research presentations. 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 Politics and Sociology. Participate effectively as a student in group discussions. [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.	Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations. Language classes.	Seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, individual dissertation presentation. Exercise, oral presentations.

ii) Written communication

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

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
appropriate discourse conventions if the student 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 Politics and Sociology, 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 Politics and Sociology 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 Politics and Sociology, and to recognise the value of working closely with others. [Year Abroad]	Interactive seminars, tutorials and group-work exercises.	Participation in group work, seminar presentations, role plays and simulations, contributions to class discussions, problem-based exercises. [Year Abroad]

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Be able to work collaboratively in an international environment		Plus equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.

vi) Problem solving

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Address problems in Politics and Sociology in depth using a range of primary and secondary sources. Synthesise differing approaches to both disciplines.	Seminars, tutorials and problem-solving exercises.	Essays, examinations, 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 and 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 Politics and Sociology.	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: 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.

11. Scheme of Assessment:

Scheme of Assessment: This programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in Senate Regulation 5

Application to Transfer from BA Politics and Sociology to BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad

Students are invited to apply at the end of their first or second year to transfer to the BA Politics and Sociology 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 Sociology (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 Board of Examiners, the Board will consider whether the student should have to transfer on to the BA Politics and Sociology (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 Board of Examiners, the Board will consider whether the student should have to transfer on to the BA Politics and Sociology (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. Special features

Students learning experience is enhanced by both Departments' strong commitment to developing synergy between its research and teaching activities.

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

The BA Politics and Sociology 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.

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

Consistently positive feedback from External Examiners over a number of years. Highly positive outcome of the Periodic Developmental Review undertaken in 2014.

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.

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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	PL1019	Module title changed from Politics, Power and Ethics
2024/25	SY2101 We Are What We Buy	Option module deleted

BA Politics and Sociology

Level 4/Year 1 2023/24

Credit breakdown

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	60 credits	30 credits
Optional	n/a	n/a	30 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1019	Introduction to Politics	15 credits
Sem 1	PL1013	The Government and Politics of the USA	15 credits
Sem 1	SY1004	Sociology in Practice	30 credits

SEMESTER 2

Core Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	SY1002	Society in Transformation	30 credits

And Two Optional Modules in Politics from:

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 2	PL1011	Political Concepts	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1012	Comparative European Politics	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1021	Power in the World Economy	15 credits

Level 5/Year 2 2024/25

Credit breakdown

Route A: With Politics Dissertation

Status	Year long	Semester 1	Semester 2
Core	n/a	n/a	30 credits
Optional	n/a	60 credits	30 credits

120 credits in total

Core modules:

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

SEMESTER 1 – Choose four 15 credit optional modules from the list below
SEMESTER 2 – Choose two 15 credit optional modules from the list below

Route B: With Sociology Dissertation

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

SEMESTER 1 – Choose four 15 credit optional modules from the list below
SEMESTER 2 – Choose four 15 credit optional modules from the list below

Optional Modules

Politics and International Relations Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL2011	Political Ideas	15 credits
Sem 1	PL2020	Political Parties in Contemporary Britain	15 credits
Sem 1	PL2021	The Curious Feminist: Gender in Global Politics	15 credits

Sociology Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	SY2012	Youth, Young Adulthood and Society	15 credits
Sem 1	SY2091	Live Sociology	15 credits
Sem 1	SY2094	Gender and Society	15 credits

Semester Total 60

SEMESTER 2

Politics and International Relations Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL2016	European Union Politics	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2019	Foreign Policy Analysis	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2024	Governing Societies in Conflict	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2027	Contemporary Political Philosophy: Theories of Justice	15 credits

Sociology Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	SY2078	Sociological Theory Explored	15 credits
Sem 2	SY2098	Sociology through Literature and Film	15 credits
Sem 2	SY2102	Environmental Sociologies	15 credits

Semester Total 60

Level 6/Year 3 2025/26

Credit breakdown

Route A: With Politics Dissertation

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

SEMESTER 1 – Choose three 15 credit optional modules from the list below
SEMESTER 2 – Choose two 15 credit optional modules from the list below
Students' choice of optional modules must result in a total of 60 credits of Sociology modules and 60 credits of Politics modules for the third year as a whole.

Route B: With Sociology Dissertation

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	SY3103	Research, Reflection and Future Direction	30 credits
Sem 2	SY3104	Doing Social Research	30 credits

SEMESTER 1 – Choose three 15 credit optional modules from the list below
SEMESTER 2 – Choose three 15 credit optional modules from the list below

Students' choice of optional modules must result in a total of 60 credits of Sociology modules and 60 credits of Politics modules for the third year as a whole.

Optional modules

Semester 1

Politics and International Relations modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL3060	Feminism	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3071	The American Presidency	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3098	The Conservatives: Ideology, Statecraft and Party Change	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3106	Parliamentary Studies	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3122	The Political Legacies of Conflict in Northern Ireland	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3143	International Migration in the Age of Securitisation	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3147	Emotions in Conflict and Cooperation	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3148	Comparative Public Opinion	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3155	Animals and the Environment	15 credits

Sociology modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	SY3094	Selfie Society	15 credits
Sem 1	SY3065	Body and Society	15 credits
Sem 1	SY3100	Social Psychology	15 credits

Semester 2

Politics and International Relations modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL3107	Brexit and British Politics	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3114	American Political Development	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3121	The Politics of Slavery	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3150	Politics, Conflict and Statecraft in Africa	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3152	Grenfell: Violence and the Possibility of Nonviolence	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3154	The Political Theory of Disobedience and Protests	15 credits

Sociology Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	SY3057	Football and Society	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3090	Drugs and Society	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3095	Sociology of Health and Illness	15 credits
Sem 2	SY3097	International Migration	15 credits

For those on a 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 University's Study Abroad programme . 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 Sociology 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: Skills matrix

See separate file

Appendix 3: Skills matrix

See module specification database [login required]