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

Date created: 01/12/2020 **Last amended:** 06/06/2025 **Version no.** 2

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

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

a) HECOS Code

HECOS Code	%
100491	100

b) UCAS Code (where required)

L200

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

The normal period of registration is three years

The maximum period of registration five years

BA Politics with a Year Abroad

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration six years

BA Politics 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 and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims

The programme 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 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.

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

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 (political theory, government, 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 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 a familiarity and engage critically with the major theoretical and analytical issues in the discipline of Politics.	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 2nd year; 3rd 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?
Develop and sustain arguments addressing questions and issues in Politics, formulating appropriate questions and drawing on evidence.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	Essays, essay-based examinations, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.
Reflect critically on a range of historical and contemporary developments in Politics.		
[Year Abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of European political and social structures.	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.

iv) Clear and concise presentation of material

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Present issues and problems in Politics in a variety of written and oral forms.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff and independent research.	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 Politics.	Lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, 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.

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.	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 2nd year; 3rd 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. Participate effectively as a student in group discussions of Politics.	Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations.	Seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, individual dissertation presentation (podcast).
[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 provided during 2nd year; 3rd year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.	Exercise, oral presentations.

ii) Written communication

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
Develop and sustain arguments in Politics in a variety of written forms. Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of issues in Politics. [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.	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, short answer exams, reviews, written reports, independent research projects, dissertations, seminar presentations, problem-solving exercises. Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial.

iii) Information technology

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
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. 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 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 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 to recognise the value of working closely with others. [Year Abroad] Be able to work collaboratively in an international environment.	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 Politics 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. [Year Abroad] Plus equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.

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. Reflect upon own learning and achievements and plan for personal, educational and career development. [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.	All of the above particularly independent research. Tutorials, career development programmes, resource-based learning, personal development planning programme and individual consultations with staff. Development of metalinguistic awareness through language classes, tasks designed to expand a foreign language repertoire.	All of the above, particularly the dissertation. Portfolio, curriculum vitae. Language assignments, ability to self-correct.

Year in Industry

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

10. Progression points

This programme follows the standard Scheme of Progression set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes relevant to the year of entry.

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

Course transfers

N/A

Year Abroad

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

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

Year in Industry

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

11. Criteria for award and classification

This programme follows the standard scheme of undergraduate award and classification set out in Senate Regulations – see the version of *Senate Regulation 5 governing undergraduate programmes* relevant to the year of entry.

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 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.

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 have consistently praised the programme, highlighting the range of modules and variety of assessment methods.

14. External Examiner(s) reports

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports for this programme can be found at exampapers@Leicester [log-in required]

UNIVERSITY OF LEICESTER

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Date created: 01/12/2020 **Last amended:** 06/06/2025 **Version no.** 2

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	PL1013	Changed from optional to core.
2023/24	PL1012	Changed from optional to core.
2023/24	PL1019	Title changed from Politics, Power and Ethics

BA Politics

Level 4/Year 1 2023/24

Credit breakdown

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

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1019	Introduction to Politics	30 credits

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL1013	The Government and Politics of the USA	15 credits
Sem 2	PL1011	Political Concepts	30 credits
Sem 2	PL1012	Comparative European Politics	15 credits

Notes
N/A

Option modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Semester 1	PL1015	The Global Cold War: International Relations 1945 - 1989	15 credits
Semester 1	PL1022	Key Concepts in International Relations	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1016	Order and Disorder: International Relations from 1989 to the Present	15 credits
Semester 2	PL1021	Power in the World Economy	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.

Level 5/Year 2 2024/25

Credit breakdown

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

120 credits in total

Semester 1

Core modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL2020	Political Parties in Contemporary Britain	15 credits

Notes
N/A

Optional modules

Politics Modules

Delivery period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 1	PL2011	Political Ideas	15 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

History Modules

Delivery Period	Code	Title	Credits

Sem 1	HS2329	A World Connected: Economy, Wellbeing and Sustainability since 1950	15 credits
Sem 1	HS2369	Digital Histories	15 credits

Semester 2

Core Modules

Along with PL2095, students must take at least one core module from PL2016, PL2024 or PL2027. Therefore, students can choose one of the following routes:

- PL2095 and PL2016 and PL2024
- PL2095 and PL2016 and PL2027
- PL2095 and PL2024 and PL2027
- PL2095 and PL2016 and one other 15 credit optional module
- PL2095 and PL2024 and one other 15 credit optional module
- PL2095 and PL2027 and one other 15 credit optional module

Delivery Period	**Code**	**Title**	**Credits**
Sem 2	PL2095	Preparing for your dissertation	30 credits
Sem 2	PL2016	European Union Politics*	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2024	Governing Societies in Conflict*	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2027	Contemporary Political Philosophy: Theories of Justice*	15 credits

*Students have to select at least one of these modules. If students choose to only to do one plus two options from the list below, the modules they haven't selected are no longer core.

Optional Modules

Politics Modules

Delivery Period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	PL2018	International Security Studies	15 credits
Sem 2	PL2019	Foreign Policy Analysis	15 credits

History Modules

Delivery Period	Code	Title	Credits
Sem 2	HS2360	History in the Classroom	15 credits
Sem 2	HS2803	World's End: Historical Perspectives on Contemporary Environmental Crises	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.

Level 6/Year 3 2025/26

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

Semester 1

Core modules

Delivery period	**Code**	**Title**	**Credits**
Sem 1	PL3094	Dissertation 1	15 credits

Notes
N/A

Optional modules

Politics 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	PL3118	The Conservatives: Ideology, Statecraft and Party Change	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3122	Political Legacies of Conflict in Northern Ireland	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
Sem 1	PL3148	Comparative Public Opinion	15 credits
Sem 1	PL3155	Animals and the Environment	15 credits

Core modules

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

Optional 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	PL3116	Politics of Contemporary War and Conflict	15 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	PL3152	Grenfell: Violence and the Possibility of Nonviolence	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3153	Race, Caste and Political Theory	15 credits
Sem 2	PL3154	The Political Theory of Disobedience and Protests	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. 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 undergraduate module specification database [login required] (Note - modules are organized by year of delivery).

Appendix 3: Skills matrix

Skills matrices submitted as a separate file.