



ACADEMIC SERVICES

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Part 1: Basic Data			
Awarding Institution	UWE		
Teaching Institution	UWE		
Delivery Location	UWE		
Faculty responsible for programme	Faculty of Health and Applied Sciences		
Department responsible for programme	Health and Social Sciences		
Modular Scheme Title			
Professional Statutory or Regulatory Body Links			
Highest Award Title	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations		
Default Award Title	None		
Fall-back Award Title			
Interim Award Titles	BA Politics and International Relations Dip HE Politics and International Relations Cert HE Politics and International Relations		
UWE Progression Route			
Mode(s) of Delivery	FT / PT/ Foundation Year		
Codes	UCAS: L290	JACS:	
	ISIS2: L290	HESA:	
Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Statements	Politics and International Relations		
First CAP Approval Date	Feb 2016	Valid from	September 2016
Revision CAP Approval Date		Revised with effect from	
Version	1		
Review Date	September 2022		

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

The BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (with Foundation Year) programme is four-year programme. This programme offers students an opportunity to engage with the important area of Politics and International Relations. Students can study both aspects of the subject on an equal basis, or specialise in pathways in either Politics or International Relations, or indeed any combination in between. The

Part 2: Educational Aims of the Programme

programme contains maximum flexibility in the second and third years, and a very wide range of available option choices, allows students to design their own programme of study as freely as possible. One of the most important and distinctive characteristics of Politics and International Relations at UWE is that it is academically rigorous, while using innovative methods of teaching and learning to develop skills and contacts needed for future study and employment. The programme has the option to be entered via a thematically organised introduction to Social Sciences foundation year.

The programme aligns itself closely with the University's 20/20 Strategy, including promoting outstanding learning and encouraging ready and able graduates. It seeks to foster a strong global outlook in students. It is designed to encourage innovation and creativity in assessing current opportunities, challenges, and processes in Politics and International Relations, and in designing responses, thus preparing graduates for employment in both the private and public sectors in the UK and internationally. The foundation year, where taken, allows students to gain understating of and engagement with core Social Science disciplines such as Criminology, Sociology, Philosophy and Psychology.

The programme is based on an understanding of Politics and International Relations as both a subject of academic study and a vocational discipline as part of the wider Social Sciences. The programme seeks to reflect this by:

- Introducing students to the interdisciplinary nature of Politics and International Relations as defined as part of wider Social Science framework;
- Engaging students with core research and practice skills pertaining to Politics and International Relations academically and in society;
- Equipping students with an understanding of Politics and International Relations and related disciplines, especially focusing on current issues at the forefront of academic study;
- Developing the analytical skills needed to make reasoned, creative and original judgments regarding the development and operation of domestic and international politics;
- Assisting students to develop greater intellectual autonomy and to become independent learners;
- Equipping students with the research skills and methodological knowledge needed to conduct advanced research;
- Refining students' ability to communicate effectively complex ideas in a diverse range of oral and written forms;
- Encouraging effective decision-making, incorporating broad concerns in relation to issues such as development, sustainability, and global citizenship;
- Assisting students to develop the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of initiative and personal responsibility and decision-making;
- Encouraging lifelong learning and personal development and thereby enabling students to be able to work with self-direction and originality and to make a positive contribution to society;
- To offer a foundational pathway at Level 0 as part of the University widening participation strategy;
- To acknowledge the wide diversity of students and their interests through a flexible programme, enabling the student to choose between a variety of modules and disciplines in order to meet their particular educational needs and to foster their individual development;
- To offer work-integrated learning and placements as key elements of the educational experience;
- To provide an opportunity for international exchange and study abroad.

Programme requirements for the purposes of the Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR)

The Politics and International Relations programme at UWE offers students a wide-ranging and contemporary insight into today's political world. It focuses uniquely on politics as a vocation, equipping graduates with the necessary skills to build careers in government, civil service, NGOs, research organisations, and other relevant areas of the public and private sector. The course is taught by experienced staff members who are active researchers committed to delivering high quality teaching.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Teaching and learning strategies to enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (with Foundation Year) has been devised to facilitate student learning in line with current university and faculty strategies. The teaching and learning and assessment strategies of UWE and HSS encourage students to take responsibility for aspects of their learning and staff to take responsibility for facilitating that learning. The balance of student and staff responsibility varies according to individual student profiles, academic level and according to the nature of the learning outcomes the students are expected to meet. Ultimately, the aim of this programme is to enable students to progress to a high level of autonomy in learning and thus engender lifelong learning within a socially inclusive environment.

At UWE, Bristol there is a policy for a minimum average requirement of 12 hours/week contact time over the course of the full undergraduate programme. This contact time encompasses a range of face to face activities as described below. In addition a range of other learning activities will be embedded within the programme which, together with the contact time, will enable learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated.

The curriculum is delivered through a range of teaching and learning activities encompassing lectures (presentations), tutor-led group discussions, students-led group discussions, seminars, projects, case studies, simulation games, and field trips (conference attendance). These approaches are underpinned by the concept of BA (Hons) (with Foundation Year) level study as concerned with developing the capacity for critical thought and independent, as well as interdependent, learning.

The teaching and learning methods used in the programme intend to challenge the existing perspectives of the students and encourage creative thinking. Thus many of the approaches used, including those that are case-based, set concepts and problems in a wide range of contexts to add depth and complexity and to ensure an applied focus. Group learning approaches will also challenge students in a number of ways that will play a significant role in learning about leading and problem solving.

Teaching is based on research literature, professional experience and significant use of debate and discussion. The emphasis on using real world examples, places the focus on the very practical nature of learning about the operation and outcomes of global trade. In addition, a range of teaching approaches are employed to give depth and breadth to the learning experience. The project allows students to explore a substantial issue utilising appropriate concepts, frameworks and methodologies in a highly independent manner.

Students will be encouraged to become active participants both in their own learning and in the creation of knowledge through their own research. This will be accomplished through interactive learning activities where students share their knowledge with their peers, reflective exercises designed to apply theoretical knowledge to practical situations, and students working in groups. Students will also be encouraged to reflect on their own life and experiences with a view to developing their capacity for reflective practice.

The use of TEL is an integral feature at all levels of study in each module on the programme. MyUWE and Blackboard, the university supported learning portal and virtual learning environment, will be used to support students' learning, conduct activities, organise and communicate learning materials. Students will be able to engage with the material, other students and members of staff through these systems and make use of the various functionalities built into them (e.g., blogs, journals, audio, video, discussion boards, wikis, etc.) as appropriate and useful. In addition, students and tutors will be able to utilise TEL (e.g. Collaborate, Lync and Skype) to, where appropriate and useful, facilitate remote contact and thus increase flexibility and accessibility for students. Existing university resources will be utilised such as The Research Observatory (<http://ro.uwe.ac.uk/>) where appropriate. Learning technologies such as e-portfolios might also be exploited to potentially support students e.g. while on placement and to facilitate students' development and assessment of a portfolio of work.

Scheduled learning includes lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, workshops, simulation games, and external visits. Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Independent learning includes hours engaged with essential reading, case study preparation, assignment preparation and completion, 30 hours of work-integrated learning (Level 2). Scheduled sessions may vary slightly depending on the module choices made.

Placement learning: will include a placement, and an option to study abroad at Level 2 through in particular the Erasmus programme.

Student Support and Guidance

Student support is provided by the programme manager and academic colleagues, usually module leaders, for all issues relating to the content, delivery and assessment of modules. The university's Student Advisors provide timely, accurate and confidential advice where necessary on all aspects of the provision, for example coursework and examination arrangements, extenuating circumstances procedures, as well as personal issues, including when relevant how to access the wider support provided by the University. This service is supported by extensive online resources.

At each level, students are assigned an Academic Personal Tutor from the academic staff that provides tailored support and guidance throughout the year.

An important part of the programme is the involvement of students. Student representatives are selected from the programme to serve on the Student Representatives Staff Forum (SRSF). These are held regularly to discuss issues raised by students in relation to their experience of studying at UWE and on the programme. Issues raised are discussed in an open and friendly atmosphere so that students feel able to contribute openly and honestly about their experiences. Any issues raised are taken forward for action by programme managers. Where appropriate they may be discussed at Departmental Committees or Faculty Academic Standards and Quality Committee.

Further student support is provided by the Admissions Office and Careers and Employability Services. Support to students with disability is offered both at the faculty level under the remit of the Leader of Widening Participation and centrally through the university's Disability Resource Centre.

In addition to the above The University's Student Services offers a range of services to support students during their time at university and beyond:

- University Health Centre and general advice on 'Staying Healthy';
- Well-being Services for students, including counselling and financial advice;
- UWE volunteering, opportunities for students to get involved in the local community through the Community Volunteer Programme;
- The Living Centre, for support with faith and spiritual matters;
- Global student support, to help international students to make the most of living and studying in the UK.

Description of the teaching resources provided for students

Students have access to library resources both on campus and online. The development of literature searching skills is supported by a Library seminar in the first semester. Students will be presented with further opportunities within the curriculum to develop their information retrieval and evaluation skills in order to identify such resources effectively.

All modules have teaching/learning resource handbooks; some have set texts, and all also draw on publications and research from academic, industry and international organisation communities. Additional support is provided through the library and an extensive student computing network. All undergraduate modules use the institutional VLE – Blackboard – for web enhanced delivery and to thus provide students with 24/7 access to module information and resources on and off campus.

Part 4: Student Learning and Student Support

Students are directed towards the University Library online MySkills resource for the development of skills appropriate to the style of each module. Students will be directed on how the resources on this site should be used to develop the skills that will underpin their studies in module handbooks and/or via Blackboard.

Additional support is provided through the library by means of information skills sessions and self-directed online tutorials. There is also an extensive programme of regular workshops including referencing management, database searching and finding journal articles. The library offers zoned space from silent to group study and student bookable rooms. There is excellent access to electronic databases on campus through the extensive student computing network and Wi-Fi. Most databases are also available off campus and supported by the online library enquiry service.

Description of any Distinctive Features

- The programme offers entry via a Social Sciences interdisciplinary foundation year;
- The programme supports one of the key aims of UWE, in seeking to foster a strong global outlook in students. It is designed to encourage innovation and creativity in assessing current opportunities, challenges, and processes in Politics and International Relations, thus preparing graduates for employment in both the private and public sectors in the UK and internationally;
- Every student will have the opportunity to complete a work based learning opportunity related to Politics and International Relations;
- To supplement the main teaching programme, students will be encouraged to attend additional events in the Faculty and University with relevance to the issues under consideration; they will have the opportunity to access other local activities which will enhance the learning outcomes of the programme; and they will be invited to attend conferences and seminars outside of Bristol;
- Research is integrated into teaching throughout this programme. Sessions are informed by activities of relevant staff research, and the departmental research strengths are reflected in the design of the curriculum. Students are able to engage with research active staff through diverse means which may include, for example, supervision of final year projects, volunteer research placements, and support in attendance at relevant undergraduate conferences. Extra-curricular activities organised outside formal teaching sessions support the strengthening of associations between departmental research activity and student learning. For example, a range of guest speakers from state and private sector actors will be invited, who will guide and support student's development;
- Students have access to the full range of career planning and employability services offered by UWE Careers during their period of study and for three years after graduation.

Part 5: Assessment

A: Approved to [University Regulations and Procedures](#)

Assessment Strategy

Assessment strategy to enable the learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated:

A range of assessment methods are employed to monitor student attainment of the full range of Learning Outcomes. Assessment incorporates the Department's assessment strategy and The QAA Code of Practice on Assessment of Students. The principles, procedures and processes of assessment for each module are described in each module handbook, which is provided to each student (online) at the start of the module.

Part 5: Assessment

Effective learning is achieved by employing a range of assessment approaches across the suite of modules that recognise differential approaches to learning. The development of a flexible, inclusive and accessible curriculum ensures a high quality learning experience for all students. The programme incorporates a range of innovative and novel assessments, many utilizing new technologies.

The foundation year assessments build skills native to Politics and IR as part of a wider Social Sciences programme and tests knowledge retention appropriate to the Foundational Level.

The assessment strategy comprises of formal tutor assessment, informal tutor assessment and informal peer review and feedback. Formal testing of the knowledge base, intellectual, subject specific and transferable skills is through a combination of exams, essays, case studies, presentations, projects and simulation games. Informal testing of intellectual, subject specific and transferable skills is through class interaction during work on current academic research and understanding, case studies, practical exercises and experiential exercises.

Technology Enhanced Learning (TEL) is integral to the subject matter within this programme. Many taught topics are technology rich and TEL is also used to supplement learning and to help student learn through assessment, e.g. through the use of virtual online tutorials.

The Assessment Strategy has been designed to support and enhance the development of both subject-based and generic key skills and allow students to realise their true potential. The focus is on assessments that link directly to employability relevant skills as well as assessments for learning of discipline content. Assessments are designed to achieve the learning outcomes for each module and this is described on the module specification. The range and progression of assessment methods are shown below.

Assessment Map

The programme encompasses a range of **assessment methods** including essays, case studies, position papers, simulation games, and individual oral presentations. These are detailed in the following assessment map:

Assessment Map for BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

		Type of Assessment*									
		Unseen Written Exam	Open Book Written Exam	In-class Written Test	Practical Exam	Practical Skills Assessment	Oral assessment and/or presentation	Written Assignment	Report / Project	Dissertation	Portfolio
Compulsory Modules Level 0	UZQRUX-30-0						A(25)	B(75)			
	UZQRUY-30-0						A(20)	B(80)			
	UZQRV9-30-0			A(50)				B(50)			
	UZQRVA-30-0	A(40)									B(60)
Compulsory Modules Level 1	UZQNFB-30-1	A (50)		B (50)				B (50)			
	UZQNFD-30-1	A (50)						B (50)			
	UZQNFH-30-1						A (40)		A (60)		
	UZQSSX-15-1						A (50)	B (50)			
Compulsory Modules Level 2	UZQSTQ-15-1						A (50)				A(50)
	UZQSSW-30-2	A (40)						B (60)			
	UZSSTA-15-2										A(100)
Compulsory Modules	UZSSTR-15-2										A (100)
	USPSTS-30-3										A (100)
	UZQNGS-30-2	A (40)					B (10)	B (50)			

Part 5: Assessment

Level 3	UZQNHE-30-2	A (40)					B (60)			
	UZQNHG-30-2					A (70)	B (30)			
Optional Modules	UZQNHA-30-2	A (40)				B (30)	B (30)			
	UZQNJP-30-2	A (40)					B (60)			
Level 2	UZQNHG-30-2	A (30)				B (15)	B (55)			
Optional Modules	UZQNGB-30-3	A (40)					B (60)			
	UZQNJN-30-3	A (40)					B (30)	B (30)		
Level 3	UZQNJB-30-3	A (40)					B (60)			
	UZQNGG-30-3	A (40)				B (10)	B (50)			
	UZQNGP-30-3	A (40)					B (60)			
	UZQQRB-30-3	A (40)				B (25)	B (35)			
	UZQNJM-30-3	A (40)				B (20)	B (40)			
	UZQNHK-30-3	A (40)					B (60)			

*Assessment should be shown in terms of either **Written Exams**, **Practical exams**, or **Coursework** as indicated by the colour coding above.

Part 6: Programme Structure

This structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **full time student**, including: level and credit requirements, interim award requirements module diet, including compulsory and optional modules

ENTRY			
	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
Year 0	UZQRUX-30-0 Academic Skills for Social Science	None	None
	UZQRUY-30-0 Exploring the Social World and the Problems of Crime		
	UZQRV9-30-0 From Plato to NATO		
	UZQRVA-30-0 People and Social Science		
ENTRY	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
Year 1	UZQNFB-30-1 Politics Beyond the Nation State	None	Cert HE Politics and International Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements 120 credits of which not less than 100 credits are at level 1 or above. Other requirements: None
	UZQNFD-30-1 Foreign Policy		
	UZQNFH-30-1 Politics of Crisis and Change		
	UZQSSX-15-1 Ethics and Power		
	UZQSTQ-15-1 Critical Thinking		
Year 2	UZQSSW-30-2 Theories of Politics and International Relations	UZQNJP-30-2 US Foreign Policy: From Cold War to Terror War UZQNGS-30-2 Global Political Economy	Dip HE Politics and International Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements 240 credits of which not less than 220 credits are at level 1 or above and not
	UZSSTA-15-2 Nature and Use of Research		

	UZSSTR-15-2 Developing Self and Society	UZQNHE-30-2 International Development UZQNHB-30-2 Human Rights and the International Order UZQNHG-30-2 Comparative Politics UZQNHA-30-2 The Politics of European Integration	less than 100 credits are at level 2 or above Other requirements: None
Year Out: Not applicable for this Award.			
	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	USPSTS-30-3 Social Sciences Project and Placement module	UZQNGB-30-3 Ethical Issues in Politics UZQNGG-30-3 Europe in the World UZQQRB-30-3 Politics of Latin American Underdevelopment UZQNHK-30-3 The Politics of Climate Change UZQNJM-30-3 Global Governance UZQNJB-30-3 Theories of Justice UZQJN-30-3 Theories and Practices of Securitisation UZQNGP-30-3 Policy-Making in Britain	BA Politics and International Relations • Credit requirements 300 credits of which not less than 280 credits are at level 1 or above, not less than 100 are at level 2 or above and not less than 60 are at level 3 or above. Target/highest Award: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations • Credit requirements 360 credits of which not less than 340 credits are at level 1 or above, not less than 200 credits are at level 2 or above and not less than 100 credits are at level 3 or above Other requirements: None

GRADUATION

Part time: The following structure diagram demonstrates the student journey from Entry through to Graduation for a typical **part time student**. **NB: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Foundation Year: entry at year 0: students should take two modules in Year 0.1 and two modules in Year 0.2.**

ENTRY	Year 0.1	Compulsory Modules UZQRUX-30-0 Academic Skills for Social Science UZQRVA-30-0 People and Social Science	Optional Modules None	Interim Awards
	Year 0.2	UZQRUY-30-0 Exploring the Social World and the Problems of Crime UZQRV9-30-0 From Plato to NATO		
ENTRY	Year 1.1	Compulsory Modules UZQNFB-30-1 Politics Beyond the Nation State	Optional Modules None	Interim Awards Cert HE Politics and International Relations <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Credit requirements 120 credits of which not less than 100 credits are at level 1 or above. Other requirements: None
		UZQNFD-30-1 Foreign Policy		
	Year 1.2	UZQNFH-30-1 Politics of Crisis and Change		
		UZQSSX-15-1 Ethics and Power		
		UZQSTQ-15-1 Critical Thinking		
Year 2.1	Compulsory Modules UZQSSW-30-2 Theories of Politics and International Relations UZSSTA-15-2 Nature and Use of Research UZSSTR-15-2 Developing Self and Society	Optional Modules	Interim Awards	

Year 2.2		<p>UZQNHB-30-2 Human Rights and the International Order</p> <p>UZQNHA-30-2 The Politics of European Integration</p> <p>UZQNJP-30-2 US Foreign Policy: From Cold War to Terror War</p> <p>UZQNGS-30-2 Global Political Economy</p> <p>UZQNHE-30-2 International Development</p> <p>UZQNHG-30-2 Comparative Politics</p>	<p>Dip HE Politics and International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit requirements <p>240 credits of which not less than 220 credits are at level 1 or above and not less than 100 credits are at level 2 or above</p> <p>Other requirements: None</p>
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Year Out: Not applicable for this Award.

Year 3.1 / Year 3.2	Compulsory Modules	Optional Modules	Interim Awards
	<p>USPSTS-30-3 Social Sciences Project and Placement module</p>	<p>UZQNGB-30-3 Ethical Issues in Politics</p> <p>UZQNGG-30-3 Europe in the World</p> <p>UZQQRB-30-3 Politics of Latin American Underdevelopment</p> <p>UZQNHK-30-3 The Politics of Climate Change</p> <p>UZQNJM-30-3 Global Governance</p> <p>UZQNJB-30-3 Theories of Justice</p> <p>UZQNJN-30-3 Theories and Practices of Securitisation</p> <p>UZQNGP-30-3 Policy-Making in Britain</p>	<p>BA Politics and International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit requirements <p>300 credits of which not less than 280 credits are at level 1 or above, not less than 100 are at level 2 or above and not less than 60 are at level 3 or above.</p> <p>Target/highest Award: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Credit requirements <p>360 credits of which not less than 340 credits are at level 1 or above, not less than 200 credits are at level 2 or above and not less than 100 credits are at level 3 or above</p> <p>Other requirements: None</p>

Part 7: Entry Requirements

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply with the following additions/exceptions*:

The University's Standard Entry Requirements apply. For entry requirements see the UWE website: <http://courses.uwe.ac.uk/L290>.

Part 8: Reference Points and Benchmarks

Description of **how** the following reference points and benchmarks have been used in the design of the programme:

The following reference points and considerations were used in designing the programme:

- UWE Strategy 2020;
- Staff research projects;
- QAA Subject Benchmarks for Politics and International Relations.

The Programme Team has used these reference points and considerations to test the outcomes of the proposed programme award for compliance with the University's strategic priorities, teaching and learning and other policies, and the extent to which the proposal has appropriate currency in the wider academic, professional or vocational world.

In particular, the learning outcomes for the modules at level 3 are considered consistent with the QAA's descriptor for a higher education qualification at level 6: Bachelor's degree with honours. Graduates of the programme achieving an Honours classification will have developed a systematic understanding of a wide range of advanced Political and International Relations methods and transferable skills that are essential for future employment.

Moreover, the UWE strategic framework is embedded at all levels of study with particular reference to three modules at level 1 (Politics of Crisis and Change; Ethics and Power; and Critical Thinking) and 30 credits at Level 2 (Nature and Use of Research and Developing Self and Society). At level three students undertake the Social Sciences Project and Placement module and have the option to take subject modules tailored to introduce specific staff research expertise. Students on the programme have the option of a part-time study pathway. At each level, students are assigned a Academic Personal Tutor from the academic staff that provides tailored support and guidance throughout the year.

What methods have been used in the development of this programme to evaluate and improve the quality and standards of learning? This could include consideration of stakeholder feedback from, for example current students, graduates and employers.

Staff are actively involved in their own research, practice and knowledge exchange activities with relationships across a broad range of governmental, commercial and non-commercial organisations, and these links have informed the development of the programme. In addition, feedback from current students and graduates has helped to shape the programme, both in terms of content and assessment.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of individual modules can be found in module specifications, available on the [University's website](#).