Programme Specification

Politics And International Relations [Frenchay]

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Section 1: Key Programme Details

Part A: Programme Information

Programme title: Politics And International Relations [Frenchay]

Highest award: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

Interim award: BA Politics and International Relations

Interim award: DipHE Politics and International Relations

Interim award: CertHE Politics and International Relations

Awarding institution: UWE Bristol

Teaching institutions: UWE Bristol

Study abroad: Yes

Year abroad: Yes

Sandwich year: Yes

Credit recognition: No

School responsible for the programme: CHSS School of Social Sciences, College of Health, Science & Society

Professional, statutory or regulatory bodies: Not applicable

Modes of delivery: Full-time, Part-time, Sandwich

Entry requirements:

For implementation from: 01 September 2023

Programme code: L29000

Section 2: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Part A: Programme Overview, Aims and Learning Outcomes

Overview: The BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations programme can be done as a six year (Part-time), four year (Sandwich) or three year (Full-time) programme. This undergraduate 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 combination of both Politics and International Relations into a single course, with maximum flexibility in the Levels 5 and 6, 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 offers the opportunity to explore Politics and International Relations at local, national and global levels, engaging in theoretical, empirical, and practical dimensions of the discipline.

Features of the programme: 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, as well as in the third sector, in the UK and internationally.

Every student will have the opportunity to complete a placement 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-curricula 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.

Educational Aims: The programme aims to promote in its students capacity for outstanding learning, developing ready and able graduates who are active citizens, making a real contribution to their communities, workplaces and society; graduates with the skills, knowledge, attitude and confidence to create, critique, and make a difference to the world beyond university; graduates who are prepared for lifelong learning, personal-development, excellence and success in whatever fields they choose to work and participate.

The programme 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, as well as in the third sector, in the UK and internationally. The programme is based on an understanding of Politics and International Relations as both a subject of academic study and a vocational discipline. The programme seeks to reflect this by:

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 well informed 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 their own research, such as in their project and placement module.

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 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 provide an opportunity for international exchange and study abroad through the sandwich year.

To provide opportunity for placements.

Programme Learning Outcomes:

On successful completion of this programme graduates will achieve the following learning outcomes.

Knowledge and Understanding

A1.   The importance and quality of political knowledge

A2.   The range of political theories

A3.   The nature and evolution of political systems

A4.   The nature and evolution of the international system

A5.   The methodology of political science and international relations

Intellectual Skills

B1.   Ability to deal with complex and specialised problems and to explore the current limits of knowledge in Politics and International Relations

B2.   Ability to critically analyse, at the appropriate undergraduate level, approaches to Politics and International Relations, and to apply them to complex and developing factual situations

B3.   Ability to analyse and synthesise abstract concepts and theories

B4.   Ability to present a structured argument at both abstract and concrete levels

B5.   Ability to gather, retrieve and synthesize information

Subject/Professional Practice Skills

C1.   Ability to use information and knowledge effectively

C2.   Ability to communicate effectively in both written and oral form

C3.   Ability to articulate ideas, develop arguments and engage in debates orally, through presentations and group discussions and in written work

C4.   Ability to use relevant ICT effectively

Transferable Skills and other attributes

D1.   Effective communication to a variety of audiences through the use of a range of different media

D2.   Use of information technology to facilitate the exercise of the other skills listed here

D3.   Capacity for learning new information and knowledge and understanding how to apply it in practice

D4.   Ability to work effectively in a variety of roles as part of a team to achieve common goals

D5.   Ability to self-manage in order to be able to exercise the other skills identified above

Assessment strategy: 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.

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 assessment strategy comprises 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, policy briefs, podcasts, 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.

Student support: Student support is provided by the programme leader and academic colleagues, usually module leaders, for all issues relating to the content, delivery and assessment of modules. Academic personal tutors are also assigned to all students throughout their time at the university. 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, 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.

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.

Further student support is provided by the Admissions Office and Careers and Employability Services. Support to students with disability is offered through the university's Disability Support Services.

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.

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 B: Programme Structure

Year 1
Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 1.
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 1.

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)
Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQK8M-30-1	Critical Thinking and Political Theory 2024-25	30
UZQNFB-30-1	International Relations 2024-25	30
UZQNFH-30-1	Politics of Crisis and Change 2024-25	30

| UZQSYE-30-1 | Politics, States and Resistance 2024-25 | 30 |

Year 1 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQNFB-30-1	International Relations 2024-25	30
UZQSYE-30-1	Politics, States and Resistance 2024-25	30

Year 2

Full time and sandwich students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 2.
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 2.

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)

Full time and sandwich students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQYJE-30-2	Political Innovation, Leadership and Communication 2025-26	30

Year 2 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)

Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQK8M-30-1	Critical Thinking and Political Theory 2025-26	30
UZQNFH-30-1	Politics of Crisis and Change 2025-26	30

Year 2 Optional Modules (Full Time and Sandwich)
Full time and sandwich students must take 90 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time and Sandwich).

Available at the discretion of the Programme Leader:
The following optional Independent study modules may be made available to students to facilitate participation in, and completion of, study abroad exchange schemes.

UZQY33-15-2
UZQY34-15-2
UZQY35-15-2
UZQY36-15-2
UZQY37-15-2

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQNHB-30-2	Atrocities in Global Politics 2025-26	30
UZQYJF-30-2	Conflict, Security and Terror 2025-26	30
UZQYJG-30-2	Development and Decolonisation 2025-26	30
UZQSXP-30-2	Gender and Global Politics 2025-26	30
UZQNGS-30-2	Global Political Economy 2025-26	30
UZQNJP-30-2	US Foreign Policy 2025-26	30

Year 3
Full time students must take 120 credits from the modules in Year 3.
Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Year 3.
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 3.

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Full Time)
Full time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit

| UZQY5M-30-3 | Politics and International Relations Project and Placement 2026-27 | 30 |

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)
Part-Time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQJST-30-2	Interrogating the International 2026-27	30
UZQYJE-30-2	Political Innovation, Leadership and Communication 2026-27	30

Year 3 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)
Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZSY5D-15-3	Social Sciences Placement Year 2026-27	15

Year 3 Optional Modules (Full Time)
Full time students must take 90 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Full Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQY69-15-3	Britain After 'Brexit' 2026-27	15
UZQY6M-15-3	Climate and Society 2026-27	15
UZQY6C-15-3	Crimes and Criminality in World Politics 2026-27	15
UZQY6D-15-3	Critical Reflections on Security and Strategy 2026-27	15
UZRYJH-15-3	Decolonisation in Theory and Practice 2026-27	15
UZQY6E-15-3	Democracy in Theory and Practice 2026-27	15

UZQY6F-15-3	Development and Resistance in Latin America 2026-27	15
UZQY6G-15-3	Europe Reloaded 2026-27	15
UZQY6H-15-3	Exploring the International Relations of Southeast Asia 2026-27	15
UZQY6J-15-3	From Terror to Trauma: Politics in the Aftermath of Violence 2026-27	15
UZQY6A-15-3	Gender and Security 2026-27	15
UZQY6K-15-3	Global Governance 2026-27	15
UZQY6B-15-3	Identity, Agency and Violence in South Asia 2026-27	15
UZQYN9-15-3	Parliamentary Studies 2026-27	15
UZQY6L-15-3	Perspectives on Global Migration 2026-27	15
UZQY6N-15-3	Public Policy and Decision Making 2026-27	15
UZQY6P-15-3	Religion and Politics 2026-27	15
UZQK9A-15-3	Terrorism, Security and Migration in Europe 2026-27	15
UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2026-27	15
UZQY66-15-3	The Berlin Republic 2026-27	15
UZQY6Q-15-3	Violence and the International Order: Law, Ethics and Politics 2026-27	15

Year 4
Sandwich students must take 105 credits from the modules in Year 4.
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 4.

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)
Part-Time students must take the 30 credit compulsory module in Compulsory Modules (Part-Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQJSU-30-2	Governing Society 2027-28	30

Year 4 Compulsory Modules (Sandwich)
Sandwich students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Sandwich).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQYMY-30-3	Advanced Debates in International Relations 2027-28	30
UZQYN3-30-3	Advanced Debates in Politics 2027-28	30

Year 4 Optional Modules (Part Time)
Part-time students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part-time).

Available at the discretion of the Programme Leader:

The following optional Independent study modules may be made available to students to facilitate participation in, and completion of, study abroad exchange schemes.

UZQY33-15-2
UZQY34-15-2
UZQY35-15-2
UZQY36-15-2
UZQY37-15-2

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQJSQ-15-2	Atrocities in Global Politics 2027-28	15
UZQJSP-15-2	Foreign Policy 2027-28	15
UZQJSS-15-2	Gender in Politics 2027-28	15

| UZQJSR-15-2 | Global Political Economy 2027-28 | 15 |

Year 4 Optional Modules (Sandwich)
Sandwich students must take 45 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Sandwich), 30 credits from Group A and 15 credits from Group B.

Year 4 Optional Modules (Sandwich) Group A
Sandwich students must take 30 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Sandwich) Group A

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQY5M-30-3	Dissertation Project 2027-28	30
UZQYN6-30-3	Global Governance 2027-28	30
UZQYN7-30-3	Justice in Global Politics 2027-28	30

Year 4 Optional Modules (Sandwich) Group B
Sandwich students must take 15 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Sandwich) Group B

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQY6M-15-3	Climate and Society 2027-28	15
UZRYJH-15-3	Decolonisation in Theory and Practice 2027-28	15
UZQYN9-15-3	Parliamentary Studies 2027-28	15
UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2027-28	15

Year 5
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 5.

Year 5 Compulsory Modules (Part Time)
Part-Time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Compulsory Modules (Part-Time).

Module Code	Module Title	Credit

| UZQYMY-30-3 | Advanced Debates in International Relations 2028-29 | 30 |
| UZQYN3-30-3 | Advanced Debates in Politics 2028-29 | 30 |

Year 6
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Year 6.

Year 6 Optional Modules (Part Time)
Part time students must take 60 credits from the modules in Optional Modules (Part Time). These can either be made up of 30 credits from Group A and 30 credits from Group B, or 60 credits from Group A alone.

Year 6 Optional Modules (Part Time) Group A
Part time students must take a minimum of 30 credits and a maximum of 60 credits from the Optional Modules in Group A

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQY5M-30-3	Dissertation Project 2029-30	30
UZQYN6-30-3	Global Governance 2029-30	30
UZQYN7-30-3	Justice in Global Politics 2029-30	30

Year 6 Optional Modules (Part Time) Group B
Part time students who have chosen only 30 credits from Group A must choose 30 credits from Group B. (Part time students who have chosen 60 credits from Group A cannot select additional modules from Group B.)

Module Code	Module Title	Credit
UZQY6M-15-3	Climate and Society 2029-30	15
UZRYJH-15-3	Decolonisation in Theory and Practice 2029-30	15
UZQYN9-15-3	Parliamentary Studies 2029-30	15
UZQYN8-15-3	Terrorism: History, Myths and Policy 2029-30	15

Part C: Higher Education Achievement Record (HEAR) Synopsis

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 D: External Reference Points and Benchmarks

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

University teaching and learning policies.
 Staff research projects.
 QAA Subject Benchmarks for Politics and International Studies.

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 6 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 core modules at all levels. At level 6 students undertake the Politics and International Relations Project and Placement module and have the option to take subject modules tailored to introduce specific staff research expertise.

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

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.

Part E: Regulations

Approved to University Regulations and Procedures.