Programme Specification

Politics and International Relations (2018-19)

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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of Study	Full-time
Duration in years	3
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Bachelor of Science in the Social Sciences with Honours (BSc SocSci (Hons))
Name of award	Politics and International Relations
Interim Exit awards	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE)
	Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)

FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	L260
Programme code	4551
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics And International Relations 2007
Programme Lead	Ana Margheritis (am4v12)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

· Enables you to specialise in areas of contemporary politics and issues of global relevance such as globalization, security studies, migration, development, international organisations, and national/regional politics.
· Helps develop indispensable research skills such as effective oral and written communication, problem-solving, data analysis and independent thought.
· Provides excellent training for a wide range of careers in the civil service, international organisations, NGOs, advocacy and lobby groups, political campaigning, journalism, as well as in a broad range of corporate and business careers.
· Provides a strong grounding for future postgraduate study in international politics and politics more broadly.

The key features of this programme are breadth, depth, flexibility and choice:

· Breadth is achieved by studying across the essential subfields of political theory, global politics, public policy, and political analysis, and in delivering rigorous training in research methods.
· Depth is achieved through the range of compulsory modules in Part 2, which build on the foundations delivered in Part 1, and which together provide the knowledge and understanding required of a politics and international relations degree.
· Flexibility is achieved through the optional module capacity in each part of study, which provides for specialisation as your knowledge and understanding of the discipline develops, and through the dissertation in Part 3, which is pursued in a topic of your choice in politics and international relations.
· Choice is achieved by way of the wide selection of available options, which enable you to deepen your knowledge in those areas of most interest to you.

Tailoring your degree (Minor subject)

The structure of your degree programme allows you to exercise choice in each part of study. You can exercise this choice in a number of ways.

· You can use these optional modules to deepen your knowledge of your main subject areas.
· You can combine additional modules from your main subjects with modules from other disciplines or choose from a selection of interdisciplinary modules.
· You can choose modules that build into a minor pathway, the title of which will be mentioned in your degree transcript. Details of the minors available and the modules that are included can be found at www.southampton.ac.uk/cip.

Your contact hours will vary depending on your module/option choices. Full information about contact hours is provided in individual module profiles.

Learning and teaching

Teaching is generally by lectures and seminars, but you may also be involved in workshops and case-study analysis in some classes. Most modules have two lectures per week and one seminar per fortnight. You will have about 12 hours of taught contact time per week. To cope with the demands of your programme, you will need to do at least another 28 hours of private study per week. Group work, individual supervision (the dissertation) and focused feedback on assignments may also be used.

Lectures offer an overview of a topic, an explanation of difficult concepts or a discussion of key issues. They often require some additional reading. Seminars provide a forum for a closer examination of particular aspects of each module and are an important part of the learning process. You will have opportunities to prepare papers and lead discussions or debates, and so develop your written and presentational skills.
A particular feature of our learning environment is research-led teaching. Our staff undertake research in areas of important contemporary significance and bring to their teaching the experience of working in the wider world.

Students may draw on a wide range of optional modules in additional to the compulsory modules which are fundamental to the degree. The optional choices include introductory modules in economics, sociology and other social sciences, history, philosophy or modern languages. In later stages of the degree programme, most of our students choose to take optional modules mainly within Politics & International Relations, where they can follow up the specialist interests they developed. Modern languages are also a particularly attractive choice as they enable students to take advantage of exchange arrangements with foreign universities, including European Universities via the Erasmus scheme. This can be very good preparation for jobs in the European Union as well as in UK/EU/global corporate organisations.

Study abroad opportunities are available in the first semester of Part 3.

Assessment

Modules are examined through a combination of examination and coursework, and specific arrangements vary according to module. Final degree classifications are based upon marks from the second and third parts.

Special Features of the programme

N/A

Please note: As a research-led University, we undertake a continuous review of our programmes to ensure quality enhancement and to manage our resources. As a result, this programme may be revised during a student's period of registration; however, any revision will be balanced against the requirement that the student should receive the educational service expected. Please read our Disclaimer to see why, when and how changes may be made to a student's programme.

Programmes and major changes to programmes are approved through the University's programme validation process which is described in the University's Quality handbook.

Educational Aims of the Programme

Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate:

- Knowledge of the central theoretical and methodological issues in the study of politics and international relations.
- Knowledge of selected issues and events within politics and international relations.
- Capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in the field of politics and international relations, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work.
- Capacity to undertake independent enquiry into political issues, using appropriate methodologies.
- Skills in written and oral communication, the use of information technology, the analysis of different forms of information, and working co-operatively in groups to achieve designated outcomes.
- Ability to work independently in identifying and analysing the subjects of your enquiry.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

On successful completion of this programme you will have knowledge and understanding of:

A1. The nature and significance of politics and international relations.

A2. Political institutions, the organisation of international politics, and the exercise of power and governance.

A3. The application of political concepts, theories and methods relevant to the understanding of the dynamics of politics and international relations.

A4. Different interpretations of issues and events in politics and international relations.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent research.

Assessment Methods

Written seen and unseen examinations; essays – both extended essays and short pieces of assessed coursework; non-essay coursework, such as policy papers; individual and group presentations; poster presentations; group reports; dissertation.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

B1. Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems

B2. Developed reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement

B3. Reflect on your own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback

B4. Manage your own learning self-critically

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, computer workshops, library sessions, group projects, independent research.

Assessment Methods

Written seen and unseen examinations; essays – both extended essays and short pieces of assessed coursework; non-essay coursework, such as policy papers; individual and group presentations; poster presentations; group reports; dissertation.

Transferable and Generic Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

C1. Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats

C2. Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations

C3. Use statistical techniques and other methods to analyse and evaluate evidence

C4. Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management

C5. Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals

C6. Identify, select and draw upon a range of sources of printed, electronic and other material as a means to the development and presentation of arguments and evidence.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent research

Assessment Methods

Written seen and unseen examinations, ‘standard’ essays, extended essays and short pieces of assessed coursework; individual and group presentations; poster presentations; group reports; dissertation.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme you will be able to:

D1. Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information.

D2. Identify issues for political inquiry.

D3. Assess the ethical implications of your own research and others.

D4. Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources.

D5. Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions.

Teaching and Learning Methods

Lectures, tutor- and student-led seminars, group projects, independent research

Assessment Methods

Written seen and unseen examinations, ‘standard’ essays, extended essays and short pieces of assessed coursework; individual and group presentations; poster presentations; group reports; dissertation.

Programme Structure

The programme structure table is below:

Information about pre and co-requisites is included in individual module profiles.

Part I

Typical programme content

We teach a range of core modules common to all the politics and international relations degrees in the first part, as well as core modules which are particular to some degrees only. Four modules are typically studied per semester. There are optional module choices in all three parts, and in Part 3 all modules taken are optional (except the dissertation, which is compulsory).

Research methods modules are taught in both Part 1 and Part 2, in order to deliver the key research skills required on this programme, to support your research and study in your other modules, and to prepare you for the dissertation in Part 3.

Students select optional modules from a range which may include those listed below (although specific options may change from year to year). In addition to this, our Curriculum Innovation Programme offers our students the chance to take optional modules outside their core disciplines. This allows you to personalise your education, to develop new skills and knowledge for your future.

The structure of the programme and the modules currently offered are set out below. Of the modules shown against each part of your programme, some are compulsory (i.e., enrolment is automatic) and others are optional. Against each part, you are directed to which modules are compulsory and which are optional. The optional modules listed constitute an indicative list. There will always be choice but the options might vary between parts. A list of optional modules will be available to you via the Student Record Self-Service system once you enrol at the University.

The programme comprises three parts, each corresponding to one year of full-time study. You will normally have to take 4 modules (30ECTS/60 CATS) each semester (i.e., 8 modules (60ECTS/120 CATS) in each part of the programme. Each credit can be considered as the equivalent of approximately ten hours of study. All the modules offered in this programme (except the dissertation) are 7.5ECTS/15 CATS modules. This means that each module comprises around 150 hours of study divided into contact time (e.g. lectures, seminars, workshops) and non-contact time when you will be engaged in directed study (preparation for classes) and independent study when you will be involved in producing assignments and preparing and taking examinations.

The dissertation is a 15 ECTS/30 CATS module comprising 300 hours of study divided into contact time (workshops and supervisory tutorials) and a significantly larger portion of hours allocated to non-contact, independent study time. This is because the dissertation is designed to foster independent inquiry and is the culmination of three years of study, enabling you to apply theories and methods explored at all parts and to examine one area of the discipline in detail.

Part I Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
STAT1003	Introduction to Quantitative Methods	7.5	Compulsory

Part I Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR1001	Introduction to International Relations	7.5	Core
PAIR1005	Introduction to Political Inquiry	7.5	Core
PAIR1004	Political Ideas	7.5	Core
PAIR1002	Political Systems	7.5	Core

Part I Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PHIL1023	Ethics	7.5	Optional
PHIL1024	Knowledge and Mind	7.5	Optional
UOSM2001	Business Skills for Employability	7.5	Optional
ECON1004	Economic Perspective and Policy	7.5	Optional
ANTH1001	Exploring Other Cultures	7.5	Optional
ARCH1001	Human Origins	7.5	Optional
DEMO1001	Introduction to Demographic Methods	7.5	Optional
DEMO1003	Population and Society	7.5	Optional
SOCI1001	Understanding Everyday Life	7.5	Optional

Part II

Part II Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR2002	Political Thinkers	7.5	Compulsory

PAIR2020	Realism and Idealism in International Relations	7.5	Compulsory
STAT2009	Research Methods in The Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory
PAIR2004	Research Skills in Politics & International Relations	7.5	Compulsory
PAIR2010	The Struggle for Democracy	7.5	Compulsory
PAIR2001	Theorising International Politics	7.5	Compulsory

Part II Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
SOCI2003	Gender & Society	7.5	Optional
PAIR3014	Globalisation and World Politics	7.5	Optional
PAIR2014	International Security	7.5	Optional
PHIL2012	Moral Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PAIR2004	Research Skills in Politics & International Relations	7.5	Optional
PAIR2021	The Politics and Governance of the EU	7.5	Optional
UOSM2004	Global Health	7.5	Optional
PHYS2015	Introduction to Energy in The Environment	7.5	Optional
UOSM2022	Social Enterprise	7.5	Optional

Part III

Part III Core

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR3003	Dissertation in Politics & International Relations	15	Core

Part III Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR3039	Comparative Party Politics	7.5	Optional
PAIR3033	Democratic Theory	7.5	Optional
PHIL2012	Moral Philosophy	7.5	Optional
PAIR3027	Partisans, Public Opinion and Elections: Understanding the Political Mind	7.5	Optional
GEOG3023	River Basin Management and Restoration	7.5	Optional
PAIR3045	Strategy and War	7.5	Optional
UOSM2008	Living and Working on the Web	7.5	Optional
PSYC2018	Perception	7.5	Optional
PAIR3032	Politics of the Media	7.5	Optional
LAWS3098	Violence and Sex in Law, Literature and Culture	7.5	Optional

Progression Requirements

The programme will follow the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes*** or the University's regulations for ***Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Standalone Masters Programmes*** as set out in the General Academic Regulations in the University Calendar: http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/sectIV-index.html

Support for student learning

There are facilities and services to support your learning some of which are accessible to students across the University and some of which will be geared more particularly to students in your particular Faculty or discipline area.

The University provides:

- library resources, including e-books, on-line journals and databases, which are comprehensive and up-to-date; together with assistance from Library staff to enable you to make the best use of these resources

- high speed access to online electronic learning resources on the Internet from dedicated PC Workstations onsite and from your own devices; laptops, smartphones and tablet PCs via the Eduroam wireless network. There is a wide range of application software available from the Student Public Workstations.
- computer accounts which will connect you to a number of learning technologies for example, the Blackboard virtual learning environment (which facilitates online learning and access to specific learning resources)
- standard ICT tools such as Email, secure filestore and calendars.
- access to key information through the MySouthampton Student Mobile Portal which delivers timetables, Module information, Locations, Tutor details, Library account, bus timetables etc. while you are on the move.
- IT support through a comprehensive website, telephone and online ticketed support and a dedicated helpdesk in the Hartley Library.
- Enabling Services offering support services and resources via a triage model to access crisis management, mental health support and counselling. Support includes daily Drop In at Highfield campus at 13.00 – 15.00 (Monday, Wednesday and Friday out of term-time) or via on-line chat on weekdays from 14.00 – 16.00. Arrangements can also be made for meetings via Skype.
- assessment and support (including specialist IT support) facilities if you have a disability, long term health problem or Specific Learning Difficulty (e.g. dyslexia).
- the Student Services Centre (SSC) to assist you with a range of general enquiries including financial matters, accommodation, exams, graduation, student visas, ID cards
- Career and Employability services, advising on job search, applications, interviews, paid work, volunteering and internship opportunities and getting the most out of your extra-curricular activities alongside your degree programme when writing your CV
- Other support that includes health services (GPs), chaplaincy (for all faiths) and 'out of hours' support for students in Halls and in the local community, (18.00-08.00)
- A Centre for Language Study, providing assistance in the development of English language and study skills for non-native speakers.

The Students' Union provides
- an academic student representation system, consisting of Course Representatives, Academic Presidents, Faculty Officers and the Vice-President Education; SUSU provides training and support for all these representatives, whose role is to represent students' views to the University.
- opportunities for extracurricular activities and volunteering
- an Advice Centre offering free and confidential advice including support if you need to make an academic appeal
- Support for student peer-to-peer groups, such as Nightline.

Associated with your programme you will be able to access:

· Module convenor's support. Module convenors will be available at designated times during the week to discuss issues related to the particular modules you are studying at the time. This will be in addition to class contact time.
· Academic/personal tutor. As soon as you register on this programme, you will be allocated a personal tutor. S/he is a member of the academic team and will be available to discuss general academic issues related to the programme as well as offer advice and support on any personal issues which may affect your studies.
· Module handbooks/outlines. These will be available at the start of each module (often in online format). The Handbook includes the aims and learning outcomes of the module, the methods of assessment, relevant background material to the module and a session-by-session breakdown of the module together with appropriate reading lists.
· Within the Faculty, administrative support is provided by your Student Office which deals with student records and related issues and with queries related to your specific degree programme.

Methods for evaluating the quality of teaching and learning

You will have the opportunity to have your say on the quality of the programme in the following ways:

· Completing mid-term student evaluation surveys for each module
· Completing student evaluation surveys for each module of the programme at the end of the semester
· Acting as a student representative on various committees, e.g. Staff-Student Liaison Committees, Faculty Programmes Committee OR providing comments to your student representative to feedback on your behalf.
· Serving as a student representative on Faculty Scrutiny Groups for programme validation
· Taking part in programme validation meetings by joining a panel of students to meet with the Faculty Scrutiny Group

The ways in which the quality of your programme is checked, both inside and outside the University, are:

- Regular module and programme reports which are monitored by the Faculty
- Programme validation, normally every five years.
- External examiners, who produce an annual report
- A national Research Excellence Framework (our research activity contributes directly to the quality of your learning experience)
- Institutional Review by the Quality Assurance Agency

Further details on the University's quality assurance processes are given in the *Quality Handbook.*

Career Opportunities

Employability is embedded into modules from the first part onwards and right from the first lecture. We explain the degree skills which are taught throughout the modules and offer a number of optional modules that prepare students for various career paths.

The skills you will acquire are in high demand. Our degrees are a passport to vocational and non-vocational careers alike, with recent graduates employed in the Foreign Office, British Council, international organisations and NGOs.

Councillor Paul Holmes is a graduate of Politics and International Relations. “Not only did I receive a degree from an internationally recognised university, I also made some great friends,” he said. “I would very much recommend studying at Southampton. It is a genuinely nice place with great facilities, friendly staff and great course mates.”

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Professor Richard Beardsworth - University of Aberystwyth

Name: Professor Rosie Campbell - Birkbeck College University of London

Name: Dr Phil Parvin - Loughborough University

Students must not contact External Examiner(s) directly, and external examiners have been advised to refer any such communications back to the University. Students should raise any general queries about the assessment and examination process for the programme with their Course Representative, for consideration through Staff: Student Liaison Committee in the first instance, and Student representatives on Staff: Student Liaison Committees will have the opportunity to consider external examiners' reports as part of the University's quality assurance process.

External examiners do not have a direct role in determining results for individual students, and students wishing to discuss their own performance in assessment should contact their Personal Academic Tutor in the first instance.

Please note: 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 s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information can be found in the programme handbook.

Appendix 1:

Students are responsible for meeting the cost of essential textbooks, and of producing such essays, assignments, laboratory reports and dissertations as are required to fulfil the academic requirements for each programme of study. In addition to this, students registered for this programme also have to pay for:

Additional Costs

Type	Details
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationery items, e.g. pens, pencils, notebooks, etc.). Any specialist stationery items will be specified under the Additional Costs tab of the relevant module profile.
Textbooks	Where a module specifies core texts these should generally be available on the reserve list in the library. However due to demand, students may prefer to buy their own copies. These can be purchased from any source. Some modules suggest reading texts as optional background reading. The library may hold copies of such texts, or alternatively you may wish to purchase your own copies. Although not essential reading, you may benefit from the additional reading materials for the module.
Approved Calculators	Candidates may use calculators in the examination room only as specified by the University and as permitted by the rubric of individual examination papers. The University approved model is Casio FX-570 This may be purchased from any source and no longer needs to carry the University logo.
Optional Visits (e.g. museums, galleries)	Some modules may include optional visits to a museum, galleries, etc. You will normally be expected to cover the cost of travel and admission, unless otherwise specified in the module profile.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted on line. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy. A list of the University printing costs can be found here: http://www.southampton.ac.uk/isolutions/students/printing-for-students.page

In some cases you'll be able to choose modules (which may have different costs associated with that module) which will change the overall cost of a programme to you. Details of such costs will be listed in the Module Profile. Please also ensure you read the section on additional costs in the University's Fees, Charges and Expenses Regulations in the University Calendar available at www.calendar.soton.ac.uk.