

Programme Specification

International Foundation Year (2019-20)

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	1
Accreditation details	None
Final award	Foundation Year International
Name of award	International Foundation Year
Interim Exit awards	
FHEQ level of final award	Level 0
UCAS code	LMV0
Programme code	4261
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	
Programme Lead	Elwyn Edwards (eie1c06)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The International Foundation Year (IFY) is an integrated programme which is designed to equip talented international students to prepare for and take one of a range of undergraduate programmes at the University of Southampton. The programme is designed to provide you with the English language, study, research and critical thinking skills.

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

You will be helped to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme by a range of learning and assessment methods.

- Lectures and Seminars: these activities are the core of the teaching. Lectures are teacher led and will provide you with the knowledge and support you need for your undergraduate degree programme. In classes for

the subject specific modules you will develop your understanding of the concepts and approaches used in the teaching of the discipline you will study in more depth in your undergraduate programme.

- Independent study: you will be expected to spend a significant amount of time working independently on a range of tasks including preparatory tasks for classes, carrying out personal research and completing assignments.
- Giving individual and group presentations: presenting your work orally will be an important aspect of undergraduate studies. Preparing and giving allows you to improve the specialised English language skills you will need for your future studies. Preparing and delivering group presentations allow you to experience the opportunities and challenges of working as a team.
- Information Technology (IT): the Southampton pre- masters integrates IT supports into its teaching. The principle IT support which is used is Blackboard, a virtual learning environment (VLE) which is used to distribute and curate materials for teaching.

Assessment

A varied range of assessment methods is central to this programme, besides ensuring that you have reached the level required to be a successful student on an undergraduate programme at the University of Southampton, it will help develop your intellectual flexibility for use both in your studies and your future career.

The following assessment methods are typically used;

- Essays, reports and other writing assignments from 500 to 3 000 words in length
- Examinations
- Individual presentations
- Group projects & presentations
- Observed seminars and discussions
- Reflective assignments including online writing.

Special Features of the programme

The IFY is Year Zero of an integrated undergraduate programme. If you achieve the minimum marks required for progression you will be able to progress to year one of your chosen undergraduate programme at the University of Southampton.

The undergraduate programmes which students can progress to on successful completion of the IFY are specified in the tables showing the Progression Requirements on pages 5 and 6 of this programme specification.

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

The aims of the programme are to:

- Prepare students for academic study who, on entry, have good school grades but either less than the required 13 years of schooling and/or an English language level below the required IELTS equivalent of 6.5, though not less than 5.5.
- Improve students' English and study skills through 90 credits of compulsory modules covering English for Academic Study, Critical Thinking & Research Skills and Global Society together with a personal research project. The remaining 30 credits will be provided through content based options.
- Enable students to progress to their chosen undergraduate degree programme on achieving the

appropriate progression grade for their programme.

- Provide students with an exit award: The University of Southampton International Foundation Year Award

Programme Learning Outcomes

Knowledge and Understanding

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

- A1. Various topics at an appropriate A level standard
- A2. The requirements of academic discourse in selected subjects
- A3. A topic in more depth through independent research

Teaching and Learning Methods

You will develop your knowledge and understanding through lectures, tutor-led or student-led seminars, tutorials, group projects, and independent research.

Assessment Methods

Assessment of your knowledge and understanding includes examinations, extended essays, shorter pieces of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations. Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests the breadth and complexity of knowledge and understanding through to consolidation and application.

Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills

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

- B1. Use English for a range of academic purposes
- B2. Critically evaluate evidence and opinion in selected subjects

Teaching and Learning Methods

Activities particularly designed to enhance your thinking skills include tutor-led or student-led seminars, tutorials, group work, and oral presentations.

Assessment Methods

Examinations, essays and shorter pieces of assessed work, individual and group presentations in addition to a research project will be used to assess your intellectual skills. Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests your cognitive skills, moving from understanding and explaining simple concepts through to synthesising and evaluating arguments.

Transferable and Generic Skills

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

- C1. Present reasoned and structured arguments, both orally and in written form
- C2. Identify, select and draw upon a range of printed and electronic sources
- C3. Extract and synthesise key information from written and spoken sources
- C4. Carry out a piece of independent research
- C5. Organise your study time effectively
- C6. Demonstrate interpersonal skills whilst working with others in the investigation of problems, and in the presentation of arguments and evidence. (Not Assessed)
- C7. Deal with the requirements of university life

Teaching and Learning Methods

Your key skills will be developed through tutor-led and student-led seminars and tutorials, library sessions, group projects and independent research

Assessment Methods

You will be asked to demonstrate your key skills through participating in individual and group presentations, class exercises, group work and a piece of independent research. Progression is recognised in the assessment scheme, which tests key skills at appropriate levels of study.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

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

- D1. have the English language and study skills required to study your chosen subject at undergraduate level at the University of Southampton

Disciplinary Specific Learning Outcomes

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

- E1. to enhance your English language and study skills for your chosen undergraduate programme which will have its own specific learning outcomes

Programme Structure

Business

Part I

CORE MODULES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
IFYP0017	Critical Thinking and Research Skills	15	Core
IFYP0016	English for Academic Study	15	Core
IFYP0014	Global Society	15	Core
MANG1009	Management and Organisations	7.5	Optional
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Optional
IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Optional
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory

Economics

Part I

CORE MODULES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
IFYP0017	Critical Thinking and Research Skills	15	Core
IFYP0016	English for Academic Study	15	Core
IFYP0014	Global Society	15	Core
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory

IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory
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Geography

Part I

CORE MODULES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
IFYP0017	Critical Thinking and Research Skills	15	Core
IFYP0016	English for Academic Study	15	Core
IFYP0014	Global Society	15	Core
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory

Interdisciplinary

Part I

CORE MODULES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
IFYP0017	Critical Thinking and Research Skills	15	Core
IFYP0016	English for Academic Study	15	Core
IFYP0014	Global Society	15	Core
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory

Law

Part I

CORE MODULES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
IFYP0017	Critical Thinking and Research Skills	15	Core
IFYP0016	English for Academic Study	15	Core
IFYP0014	Global Society	15	Core
IFYP0019	English for Law	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0020	Understanding Law	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory

Modern Languages

Part I

CORE MODULES FOR ALL PATHWAYS

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
IFYP0017	Critical Thinking and Research Skills	15	Core
IFYP0016	English for Academic Study	15	Core
IFYP0014	Global Society	15	Core
IFYP0022	Introduction to Liberal Arts	15	Compulsory
IFYP0018	Mathematics and Statistics	7.5	Compulsory
IFYP0021	Survey Methods for Management and Social Sciences	7.5	Compulsory

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.

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:

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

- Completing student evaluation questionnaires for each module of the programme
- 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 Assessment Exercise (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

The International Foundation Year gives you opportunity to progress to a range of undergraduate programmes at the University of Southampton. Each of these programmes offers our students the chance to go on to succeed in range of careers. For details you should check the web pages for your chosen undergraduate degree programme.

The IFY prepares you for study as undergraduate but also gives you a set transferable skills which will be , valuable to any future employer including;

- Strong English language skills
- Ability to make reasoned, critical evidence-based arguments
- Skills in written and oral presentations
- Use of IT for research and communication
- Working in teams, and with other individuals and groups.

External Examiner(s) for the programme

Name: Mr Alan Evison - British Council

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
Software Licenses	All software is provided
Hardware	It is advisable that students provide their own laptop or personal computer, although shared facilities are available across the University campus.
Computer discs or USB drives	Students are expected to provide their own portable data storage device
Stationery	You will be expected to provide your own day-to-day stationary 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	<p>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.</p> <p>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.</p>
Laboratory Equipment and Materials	All laboratory equipment and materials are provided.
Printing and Photocopying Costs	<p>Where possible, 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. The University printing costs are currently:</p> <p>A4 - 5p per side (black and white) or 25p per side (colour) A3 - 10p per side (black and white) or 50p per side (colour)</p> <p>Please Note: Paper sizes not recognised by the printing devices will prompt you to select the size and then charge a minimum of 50p per black and white copy and a maximum of £1 per colour copy.</p> <p>You can pay for your printing by using the money loaders or by using print copy payment service by going to http://www.southampton....nting-for-students.page</p> <p>The University Print Centre also offers a printing and copying service as well as a dissertation/binding service. Current printing and copying costs can be found in http://www.southampton....copyrooms/service.page. They also provide a large format printing service, e.g. Academic posters. Details of current costs can be found in http://www.southampton..../academicposters.page?</p>

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.