

## Part B - Doctoral Programme Profile

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### Politics and International Relations 2020/21

This Politics and International Relations Doctoral Programme Profile accompanies the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2019/20*, and details additional Faculty/programme-specific information.

Awarding Institution	University of Southampton
Teaching Institution	University of Southampton
Mode of study	Full time/part time
Duration in years	36-48 months following standard progression for a FT student.
Accreditation details	N/A
Final award	PhD
Name of award	PhD
Interim Exit awards	MPhil (FHEQ level 7)
FHEQ level of final award	8
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	<a href="#">QAA Doctoral Degree Characteristics Statement (2015)</a>
Programme Lead	John Boswell
Date specification was written	18/09/16
Date Programme was validated	
Date specification last updated	18/09/16

All Doctoral Programme Profiles should be read alongside the University of Southampton *Doctoral Programme Profile 2019/20* and the University of Southampton's [Regulations for the degrees of Master of Philosophy and Doctor of Philosophy](#) and [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

### Programme Overview

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#### Brief outline of the programme

We offer MPhil/PhD programmes in many areas of politics and international relations. We pursue and supervise research across political science, political philosophy, comparative politics, public policy, global politics, international political economy and international relations. Our research interests in these areas cover a wide range of topics, including:

- Citizenship, justice and democracy
- Governance and public policy
- Migration and the politics and policies of membership
- Globalization, development and inequality
- Institutions, risk and security

### Aims of the Programme

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The degrees of PhD and MPhil are awarded to students who complete a programme of research, present the findings in a thesis and defend it successfully in an oral examination. The object of such research is to examine a single area or problem in depth, under the supervision of an experienced member of staff, as a training programme in advanced research. It is expected that you will also acquire a rounded, overall knowledge of aspects of political science related to your proposed topic and undergo training in a variety of research methods. Teaching opportunities on our undergraduate programmes may also be available.

### Programme Structure

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The following summary should be read in conjunction with the Faculty Postgraduate Research Handbook and the University Regulations as specified in the [Calendar](#).

Unlike undergraduate study, the open-ended nature of research means it is not possible to always predict the structure of a programme of study leading to a thesis. Research students are however, all required to

undertake three Progression Reviews during their studies, as detailed in the [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#). The timetable shown below is indicative of what you can expect. Maximum candidature is 48 months in full-time registration, 84 months in part-time Registration. Candidates may be in receipt of funding for shorter periods. The timings listed below are those for a full-time student. Timings for a part-time student are adjusted suitably.

## Programme details

### Year 1

By the end of three months you should have completed your Academic Needs Analysis and highlighted any modules or training that should be attended to enhance your studies, confirmed your full supervisory team and written an outline of the motivation for your research, together with a plan of work for year 1. It is expected that you will take a mixture of substantive, technical and skills training courses throughout the year to develop the skills that you need for the whole PhD process. Regular training workshops are offered, both within PAIR and in other parts of the School, Faculty, and University.

Throughout the year you will be expected to develop knowledge in your chosen area of research through reading and developing a review of previous work in the area. You will also be developing your research questions for your research and starting to conduct analyses, where appropriate. The relative timescales for these tasks will be discussed with your supervisors. You may also undertake preliminary fieldwork (if appropriate) and present your work to colleagues, for instance in a lunchtime research seminar for one of PAIR's key research centres..

At the end of your first year there will be a review meeting (first progression review) conducted by at least one of your supervisors and an independent assessor. This is to ensure that the research is progressing well and on target, and provide an opportunity for issues to be raised about the programme or the supervisory arrangements.

Students have the opportunity to meet regularly with the members of the Graduate School, the Director of Graduate School, and other relevant academic staff, at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues a PGR may be having during their studies.

### Year 2

Your progress on the programme will continue to be monitored and assessed as specified in the University's [Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#). In this year you are expected to expand on the work started in year 1 and to enter fully into the analysis of the research questions. This year is likely to involve the bulk of your data gathering and/or fieldwork (if applicable). You might also be involved in other forms of professional development, including undergraduate teaching, if desired.

Between months 18 and 24 of your candidature (months 36 to 42 for part time students) it is expected that you will submit a confirmation thesis. You must successfully meet the requirements of the **Confirmation of PhD Registration** (Second Progression Review) if you wish to submit for a PhD. The criteria you must meet in order to be confirmed to PhD status and the process which must be adhered to is outlined in the University's Code of Practice and the Faculty's PGR Student Handbook. Candidates unsuccessful at this review may be allowed to transfer to the MPhil degree programme.

If you meet the requirements for confirmation you will remain on the PhD programme, otherwise you may either request to be transferred to an MPhil, or be given further time to meet the requirements of the Confirmation Panel. Failure to meet the criteria for a successful progression review will lead to the termination of your PhD candidature.

Training requirements for year two will be discussed with your supervisory team and this training will be followed up throughout the year.

### Year 3

Evidence of continued progress is provided by publications and presentations in a suitable venue (e.g. an international conference). For full-time students it is unlikely that further major training will be needed at this stage; the target date for submission of your thesis is normally at the end of year 3 as this may coincide with the end of any supporting studentships.

Towards the end of your third year there will be a review meeting (the Third Progression Review) conducted by your supervisors. In most cases you will be required to produce a short report on your progress since confirmation, identify publications and other research outputs, and the work left to complete your thesis. If

your progress at this review is deemed to be unsatisfactory, a full review will be conducted with an independent assessor.

#### **Year 4 (and higher for part time)**

For students in full-time registration, the final thesis (whether MPhil or PhD) must be submitted *at the latest* by the end of the 48<sup>th</sup> month (excluding periods of suspension) unless special dispensation is granted by the Graduate School following review by the Special Considerations Board. (For candidates in part-time registration the deadline for submission is 84 months). The latter will only be granted rarely, in the case of exceptional and unforeseen circumstances.

## **Programme Outcomes**

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

- the creation and interpretation of new knowledge through original research or other advanced scholarship, of a quality to satisfy peer review, extend the forefront of the discipline and merit publication
- a systematic acquisition and understanding of a substantial body of knowledge which is at the forefront of an academic discipline or an area of professional practice
- the general ability to conceptualise, design and implement a project for the generation of new knowledge, applications or understanding at the forefront of the discipline, and to adjust the project design in the light of unforeseen problems
- a detailed understanding of applicable techniques for research and advanced academic enquiry

## **Knowledge and Understanding**

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Having successfully completed this programme you will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- Current scientific and technical principles underlying your PhD topic in Politics and/or International Relations, including the terminology used in your PhD topic.
- Current research issues relevant to your PhD topic.
- Theory, practice, analysis and (where relevant) interpretation of data in your PhD, including relevant general tools and approaches relevant to your research topic.
- Theoretical and empirical developments at the research frontiers in your PhD topic.

### ***Learning and Teaching Methods***

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings. In addition, you will further develop knowledge and understanding via seminars and presentations, as well as student-led study groups.

### ***Assessment methods***

Assessment methods will include written examinations, oral presentations, written assignments, research proposal, progression reviews including **Confirmation of PhD Registration** and a thesis with viva voce as described in part A.

## **Subject Specific Intellectual and Research Skills**

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The study of Politics and International Relations involves a wide variety of methods and approaches and, depending on your chosen project, your research may also draw on the methods of cognate disciplines, such as anthropology, economics, geography, history, philosophy, or sociology. The specific research skills that you will develop will therefore depend on your chosen topic and approach. You might, for instance, develop skills in interviewing, survey design, participant observation, quantitative methods, etc.

Specific training requirements will be identified through Academic Needs Analysis. Research skills training is provided in PAIR, within the School of Economic, Social and Political Sciences, other Schools within the Faculty of Social Sciences, or the Doctoral College. Some of these courses involve formal assessment but, in all cases, progression reviews will confirm that you have the subject specific skills necessary for your project.

## Support for student learning

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### Learning and Supervision

You will develop core knowledge and understanding through your own research and guided independent study via individual supervision meetings.

Research students are allocated a supervisory team of at least two members, one of whom will be the main supervisor. This team may be multidisciplinary, including staff outside of PAIR where necessary.

Applicants may indicate a preference for the supervisory team on their application form, but the names will not be confirmed until a formal offer is made. In some cases, the composition of a supervisory team may change as the research project evolves and in response to other circumstances.

In addition to the University-wide learning support, students studying on the Doctoral Programme in Politics and International Relations will be able to access:

- An academic supervisory team who will provide advice and support throughout the programme and who are actively engaged in research closely related to your chosen area.
- Other staff in the Academic Unit
- Systems for the support of student learning within the Faculty.
- A dedicated desk in shared office space.
- A Research Training and Support Grant (usually £750 per annum for up to 3 years FT, £375 for up to 6 years PT).
- A computer for their exclusive use.

The Faculty also offers the following learning support:

- Induction programme for orientation, introduction of the programme and staff, and dissemination of materials.
- Postgraduate Student Handbook, including guidance on selection of technical modules.
- Access to all administrative and academic material on the Faculty, Programme and individual module web sites and Blackboard.
- An opportunity to meet with the Graduate School (which comprises academic representatives from each Academic Unit or subject area, as well as the Director of Graduate School) at a mixture of training and networking meetings. This gives ready access to an independent and impartial source of advice about any issues you may be having during your studies.
- Infrastructure to support your research.
- Access to other staff of the Faculty.
- Access to Faculty cluster of computers with relevant specialist software.

Other support may be available, for instance from your funder or the ESRC Doctoral Training Partnership.

## Fees, Additional Costs and Funding

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Any fieldwork or related research costs are your responsibility; if you have external funding then this may include expenses, but the department will not cover expenses beyond the Research Training and Support Grant mentioned above.

### Intermediate exit points (where available)

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### Admission

At a minimum, successful applicants must meet the admissions requirements of the [University Code of Practice for Research Candidature and Supervision](#).

#### Subject-specific criteria:

Applicants should have, or expect to have, a Master's degree or equivalent in a relevant subject (such as history, economics, sociology or philosophy). A good honours degree will also be considered.

#### Academic background

In most cases, applicants have a background in politics and/or international relations or a related subject (such as history, sociology, social policy or philosophy). However, applicants with backgrounds in other subjects may also be considered. The PhD entry requirements are normally a good Master's degree in a relevant discipline area, including coverage of appropriate research methodologies. If instead you hold a

good honours degree, we will still consider your application and you may be required to complete an MSc as a preparation for the PhD.

#### **English Language requirement for candidates whose first language is not English:**

Applicants whose first language is not English, and who are not exempt from taking an English Language test according to the University of Southampton's regulations, are required to obtain a minimum of 7.0 overall in the IELTS test, with no individual elements of the test scoring below 6.0 (or an equivalent secure English Language test from band D in the [University list of recognised tests](#)).

#### **Other Criteria:**

A research proposal in research area of interest to the doctoral programme must be submitted with the University application.

All candidates whose first language is not English and who require a visa to study must comply with the minimum requirements for language proficiency set by UK Visas and Immigration for the issuance of the visa. Candidates will not be able to register for the programme until they have received an offer letter and met and/or accepted the conditions laid out in it.

#### **Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)**

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#). This programme is not particularly designed to provide for admission through RPL.

## **Career Opportunities**

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Career opportunities are wide ranging and varied. Opportunities exist as a member of a research team in academia, leading to future leadership positions within an academic context. Recent doctoral graduates from PAIR have gone on to academic positions at the Universities of London (Queen Mary and Royal Holloway), Newcastle, and Southampton. The nature of the generic and discipline-specific skills obtained during your study make your experience and skills attractive to a range of organisations post-qualification, such as civil service, polling and research, or think tanks.

**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 (or other appropriate guide).

## **Appendix 1:**

#### **Additional Costs**

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 typically also have to pay for the items listed in the table below.

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
Approved Calculators		

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
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		As a doctoral researcher, you will not be set a reading list. You will need access to books and journal articles in the course of your research. These will normally be accessible via the library, or Inter-Library Loan arrangements. You may benefit from purchasing some core texts.
Equipment and Materials Equipment	Design equipment and materials:	
	Excavation equipment and materials:	
	Field Equipment and Materials:	Fieldwork may involve additional stationery needs and/or travelling equipment. Depending on the nature of your fieldwork, you may require specialist equipment, such as a Dictaphone for recording interviews.
	Laboratory Equipment and Materials:	
	Photography:	
	Recording Equipment:	
IT	Computer Discs	
	Software Licenses	Quantitative work, in particular, may require specialist software. This should normally be available via University licences.
	Hardware	
Printing and Photocopying Costs		In the majority of cases, coursework such as essays; projects; dissertations is likely to be submitted online. However, there are some items where it is not possible to submit on line and students will be asked to provide a printed copy.
Fieldwork: logistical costs		You are responsible for all fieldwork expenses, including travel and insurance, except where met by your funding body or your RTSG.
Placements (including Study Abroad Programmes)	Accommodation	
	Insurance	
	Medical Insurance	
	Travel costs	

Main Item	Sub-section	PROGRAMME SPECIFIC COSTS
	Immunisation/vaccination costs	
	Disclosure and Barring Certificates or Clearance	
	Translation of birth certificates	
	Other	
Conference expenses		Your RTSG can be used towards the costs of conferences (registration, travel, and accommodation) but you will be responsible for any costs beyond this.