

Programme Specification

Politics and Economics (2017-18)

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 Economics
Interim Exit awards	Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE)
FHEQ level of final award	Level 6
UCAS code	LL12
Programme code	4636
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics And International Relations 2007
Programme Lead	Ana Margheritis (am4v12)

Programme Overview

Brief outline of the programme

The key features of the programme are depth and choice:

Depth of study is achieved by the core modules in each discipline:

- politics: core modules in political science, political theory and international relations
- economics: core modules in microeconomics, macroeconomics and statistics

Choice is provided through the provision of optional modules which allow you to select specialist areas to suit your own interests. You will also be able to undertake independent research for a dissertation either in politics or in economics.

The programme provides excellent training in both disciplines and opens up opportunities in a wide range of

careers, such as the civil service, international organisations, NGOs, economic and financial organisations, advocacy and lobby groups, journalism, political campaigning, as well as in a broad range of corporate and business careers.

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 week or 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, so that you develop your written and presentational skills.

This programme includes opportunities to study abroad in the 1st semester of Part 3.

Assessment

Modules are assessed through a combination of examinations and coursework, and the specific arrangements vary according to module. Final degree classifications are based on 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 and understanding of central theoretical and methodological issues in the study of politics.
- Knowledge and understanding of selected issues and events within the study of politics.
- Knowledge and understanding of core areas of economics, i.e. microeconomics, macroeconomics and quantitative methods.
- Application of economic analysis to a range of policy areas.
- Knowledge and understanding of the workings of an economy.
- Capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in the field of politics and economics, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work.
- Capacity to undertake independent enquiry into political and economic 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 a student will have knowledge and understanding of:

- A1. The nature and significance of politics.
- A2. Political institutions, and the organisation and exercise of power and governance.
- A3. The application of political concepts, theories and methods.
- A4. Different interpretations of political issues and events.
- A5. Central concepts and arguments in both microeconomics and macroeconomics
- A6. Economic data, both qualitative and quantitative, and appropriate methods of structuring and analysing such data
- A7. Applications of economics in a variety of settings, including the analysis of economic policy.

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 a student 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 a student 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 data and quantitative and qualitative techniques appropriately and effectively
- 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, 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.

Subject Specific Practical Skills

On successful completion of this programme a student will be able to:

- D1. Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information.
- D2. Identify issues for political and economic 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 and workshops, 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.

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 in politics and economics in Part 1, as well as further compulsory modules in Part 2 and 3 which build on this knowledge foundation. Four modules are studied per semester. There are optional module choices in all three parts. The dissertation is compulsory in Part 3, and you decide whether to pursue it in politics or economics, depending on your own interests.

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

Part 3.

Students pick 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.

Programme details

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 (30 ECTS/60 CATS) each semester (i.e. 8 modules (60 ECTS/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 7.5 ECTS/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 15ECTS/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
ECON1016	Economics Skills and Employability 1	0	Compulsory

Part I Core

Students WITHOUT A-Level Maths grade B or above will be registered on: ECON1005 - Introduction to Maths For Economics

Students WITH A-Level Maths grade B or above will be registered on: ECON1008 Mathematics For Economics

Students WITHOUT A-Level Economics, or equivalent level will be registered on: ECON1001 Foundations of Microeconomics

Students WITH A-Level Economics, or equivalent level will be registered on: ECON1003 Principles of Microeconomics

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON1001	Foundations of Microeconomics	7.5	Core
ECON1005	Intro to Maths for Economics	7.5	Core

PAIR1001	Introduction to International Relations	7.5	Core
PAIR1005	Introduction to Political Inquiry	7.5	Core
ECON1008	Mathematics for Economics	7.5	Core
PAIR1004	Political Ideas	7.5	Core
PAIR1002	Political Systems	7.5	Core
ECON1002	Principles of Macroeconomics	7.5	Core
ECON1003	Principles of Microeconomics	7.5	Core
ECON1007	Statistics for Economics	7.5	Core

Part II

Part II Compulsory

Students should select either: PAIR2001 Theories of International Relations OR PAIR2002 Political Thinkers.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON2001	Applied Microeconomics 2	7.5	Compulsory
PAIR2010	Democracy & the Modern State	5	Compulsory
ECON2002	Macroeconomic Policy 2	7.5	Compulsory
PAIR2004	Research Skills in Politics & International Relations	7.5	Compulsory

Part II Optional

You should select PAIR2004 if you intend to write your dissertation in Politics.

You should select ECON2036 if you intend to write your dissertation in Economics.

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR2001	Theories of International Relations	7.5	Optional

UOSM2001	Business Skills for Employability	7.5	Optional
ECON2013	Development Economics	7.5	Optional
UOSM2004	Global Health	7.5	Optional
ECON2005	Industrial Economics 2	7.5	Optional
PHYS2015	Introduction to Energy in The Environment	7.5	Optional
UOSM2008	Living and Working on the Web	7.5	Optional
LAWS3098	Violence and Sex in Law, Literature and Culture	7.5	Optional

Part III

Part III Compulsory

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
ECON3007	Applied Microeconomics 3	7.5	Compulsory
ECON3033	Economics Skills and Employability 3	0	Compulsory
ECON3008	Macroeconomic Policy 3	7.5	Compulsory

Part III Core

Students must select either:

ECON3023 Dissertation/Project

OR

PAIR3003 Dissertation in Politics and International Relations

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR3003	Dissertation in Politics & International Relations	15	Core
ECON3023	Dissertation/Project	15	Core

Part III Optional

Code	Module Title	ECTS	Type
PAIR3021	Chinese Politics	7.5	Optional
PAIR3005	Development and International Relations	7.5	Optional
PAIR3038	Innovations in Democratic Governance	7.5	Optional
ECON3027	Labour Economics	7.5	Optional
ECON3004	Public Economics	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 co-ordinators support. Module co-ordinators 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:

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

- Completing mid-term surveys for each module
- Completing student 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](#).

Criteria for admission

The University's Admissions Policy applies equally to all programmes of study. The following are the typical entry criteria to be used for selecting candidates for admission. The University's approved equivalencies for the requirements listed below will also be acceptable.

Additional University's approved equivalencies for the requirements:

- BTEC subsidiary diploma: Distinction + BB + AS level Maths B or A level Physics/Stats grade B
- BTEC Extended Diploma: Distinction, Distinction, Merit + Maths B or A level Physics/Stats grade B
- European Baccalaureate: 80% overall
- Irish Leaving Certificate: H1, H1, H1, H1, H2, H2
- Scottish Advanced Highers: ABBB (AB)

International applications

Each international application will be assessed on a case by case basis

Qualification	Grades	Subjects required	Subjects not accepted	EPQ Alternative offer (if applicable)	Contextual Alternative offer (if applicable)
International Baccalaureate	32 points overall, 16 at higher level				
GCSE	All applicants must have GCSE Mathematics and English at grade 4 or above.				
BTEC	Distinction, Distinction + B + Maths B or A level Physics/Stats grade B				
A Level	3 A level subjects: ABB or BBB if studying A-level Politics.	plus AS level Mathematics at grade B or above (if not taken to A level), or A level Physics/Stats grade B	General Studies is not accepted.	Or BBB with grade A in the Extended Project Qualification, plus AS level Mathematics at grade B or above (if not taken to A level).	

Mature applicants

Studying for a degree later in life can be extremely rewarding and mature students are often among our most successful.

If you will be over 21 at the start of your proposed degree programme, you are eligible for exemption from our normal entry requirements. However, you will be required to provide evidence of having completed recent serious and successful study (for example, Access, Return to Study, Open University foundation courses) and

of your capacity to pursue the programme.

Any specific subject requirements must be met. All students are required to have the appropriate qualification in mathematics (GCSE grade C for BSc Politics, BSc Politics and International Relations, BSc International Relations; AS level grade B for BSc Politics and Economics) and English (GCSE grade C or equivalent for all programmes).

Where feasible, you will be called for an interview. You may find it helpful to discuss your plans with us before applying through UCAS. This will allow you to make sure your chosen programme is right for you and give you time to pursue additional academic qualifications if required.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL)

The University has a [Recognition of Prior Learning Policy](#)

Students are accepted under the University's recognition of prior learning policy; however, each case will be reviewed on an individual basis.

English Language Proficiency

The table below sets out the English proficiency requirements for this programme in terms of the IELTS test. We accept a range of other English proficiency tests including TOEFL and Cambridge Advanced/Proficiency. For full details of the recognised tests and the equivalent requirements in those tests please see www.southampton.ac.uk/admissions-language.

Overall	Reading	Writing	Speaking	Listening
6.5	5.5	5.5	5.5	5.5

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 student 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 parliament, banking, media, the public sector, private firms, the armed forces and international organisations. Many also progress to higher degrees and then to lectureships and professorships in universities in the UK and overseas.

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: Richard Beardsworth - University of Aberystwyth

Name: Rosie Campbell - Birkbeck College University of London

Name: 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	<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>
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.