

## Minor Specification

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### International Relations

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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
Name of minor	International Relations
FHEQ level of final award	As for the Major programme
QAA Subject Benchmark or other external reference	Politics & International Relations
Faculty that owns the minor	Social Sciences
Minor Leader	Ana Margheritis - Head of Teaching Programmes, Politics and International Relations
Date specification was written	18-10-2013

### Overview of Minor

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#### 1 Brief outline of the minor

This minor provides a basic grounding in the theories, issues, and methodologies of International Relations, with a specific focus on understanding International Relations as an aspect of a wider phenomenon best thought of as global politics. This includes analysis of both state and non-state actors, international institutions, global economic systems, and other issues that complicate the actions of state actors and challenge the notion of the nation-state as the primary unit of analysis.

This minor is not available to students on BSc Politics or BSc Politics and International Relations.

#### 2 Learning and teaching

The learning and teaching methods concentrate on relating theory to practice, developing analytical abilities and skills, and examining the impact of actions in historical and contemporary contexts. Lectures are complemented by seminars and group activities, some employing simulation exercises and case study analysis.

#### 3 Assessment

Assessment methods allow students to demonstrate achievement of the learning outcomes by prioritising analysis of complex material that is subject to multiple reasonable interpretations. Essays and group projects allow students to develop and present cases and arguments, focusing on the ultimately contested nature of explanations in International Relations.

### Educational Aims of the Minor

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

- Knowledge of central theoretical and methodological issues in the study of global/international politics.
- Knowledge of selected issues and events within global/international politics.
- Capacity for the critical evaluation of theoretical perspectives and empirical evidence in the field of global/international politics, and for the application of such perspectives in your own work.
- Capacity to undertake independent enquiry into global/international 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.

## **Learning Outcomes for the Minor**

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

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

- The nature and significance of international relations and politics.
- International institutions, the organization and exercise of power and governance in global politics.
- The application of concepts, theories and methods relevant to the understanding of the dynamics of global politics.
- Different interpretations of global political issues and events.

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

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

### ***Assessment methods***

Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, assessed classroom activities

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

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

- Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems
- Developed reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
- Reflect on your own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback
- Manage your own learning self-critically

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

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

**Assessment methods**

Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, and assessed classroom activities.

**Transferable and Generic Skills**

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

- Communicate ideas and arguments in a variety of written formats
- Communicate ideas and arguments orally and in the context of formal presentations
- Work independently demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management
- Collaborate with others and contribute effectively to the achievement of common goals
- 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 work, etc.

**Assessment methods**

Written unseen examinations, essays and other forms of assessed coursework, individual and group presentations, and assessed classroom activities.

**Subject Specific Practical Skills**

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

- Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches involved in collecting, analysing and presenting political information.
- Identify issues for political inquiry.
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources.
- Present scholarly work using appropriate formats and conventions.

# Structure of Minor

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## 1 Typical content

The minor in International Relations introduces and develops your understanding of global political events, as well as the competing traditions of enquiry and analysis that help scholars explore the field of study. The effort to explain global political phenomena has to accept at the outset that cultural, historical, and practical circumstances will strongly influence not only interpretations of events, but also ideas about the kinds of reasons and evidence that will support any given conclusion. Politics broadly concerns those things about which people disagree and in the study of International Relations, the disagreement is complicated by those issues of history and culture. In addition, within this kind of analysis is the unavoidable presence of power – which stretches from the ‘soft’ power diplomacy to the ‘hard’ power of military force. Along the way, economic power, the power to influence or even set the agenda for debate, the power to control resources will also play a part in how we analyse what is happening in global politics. Indeed, these issues will challenge what we think needs to be analysed, not merely how analysis is conducted.

## 2 Special Features of the programme

None.

## 3 Details of the minor

The minor consists of the following, although not all modules may be available in any given year:

### **Part 1: 1 module (7.5 ECTS/15 CATS)**

PAIR1001 Introduction to International Relations  
PAIR1007 Crises of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century

### **Part 2: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

PAIR2001 Theorizing International Politics  
PAIR2002 Political Thinkers  
PAIR2004 Research Skills in Politics & International Relations  
PAIR2005 Development and International Relations  
PAIR2017 European Security Governance  
PAIR2019 Diaspora Politics  
PAIR2020 Realism and Idealism in International Relations  
PAIR2021 The Politics and Governance of the EU  
PAIR2024 Chinese Politics  
PAIR2031 Comparative Party Politics  
PAIR2032 Democratisation in Global Politics: why do some regimes thrive and others flounder?  
PAIR2044 Imagining European Futures  
PAIR2046 Critics of Empire: Radical and Revolutionary Political Thinkers of Global South  
PAIR2047 Politics and Protest  
PAIR2049 Children and Human Rights  
PAIR2053 Globalisation and World Politics  
UOSM2004 Global Health  
UOSM2010 Global Challenges

UOSM2017 Intercultural Communication in Global World  
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China  
UOSM2024 The Arab World In and Beyond the Headlines

**Part 3: 2 modules (15 ECTS/30 CATS)**

**Please note: Students cannot take a year 3 versions of a module they have previously taken.**

PAIR3005 Development and International Relations  
PAIR3014 Globalisation and World Politics  
PAIR3021 Chinese Politics  
PAIR3026 European Security Governance  
PAIR3028 Diaspora Politics in Transnational Space  
PAIR3030 The Politics and Governance of the EU  
PAIR3040 Democratisation in Global Politics: why do some regimes thrive and others flounder?  
PAIR3039 Comparative Party Politics  
PAIR3056 Imagining European Futures  
PAIR3060 Politics and Protest  
PAIR3062 Children and Human Rights  
UOSM2004 Global Health  
UOSM2010 Global Challenges  
UOSM2017 Intercultural Communication in Global World  
UOSM2018 Understanding Modern China  
UOSM2024 The Arab World In and Beyond the Headlines

**4 Progression Requirements**

The programme, of which this minor comprises a part, follows the University's regulations for Progression, Determination and Classification of Results: Undergraduate and Integrated Masters Programmes as set out in the University Calendar:

<http://www.calendar.soton.ac.uk/sectionIV/progression-regs.html>

In order to qualify for the minor, students must pass all modules that make up the minor. There is no provision for students to be referred in a minor module solely for the purpose of qualifying for the minor.

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the minor 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 on the minor website at <https://www.southampton.ac.uk/uni-life/learning-teaching/customise-your-degree/minors.page>.

**Revision History**

1. R.K. Bentley, 18 October 2013
2. CQA team 28<sup>th</sup> April 2014
3. CQA team July 2015
4. CQA team July 2016
5. S. Casey 18/19 revisions as approved by QAM on 26/03/18
6. H. Lintott revisions approved by J. Havercroft

