

BA War Peace and International Relations
For students entering Part 1 in 2010/1

UCAS code: L252

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Politics and International Relations
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	26/Mar/2012
Programme Director:	Oisín Tansey
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Politics
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of international relations and strategic and conflict studies. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods as they progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

Programme content

Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 all three compulsory modules must be chosen (60 credits). The remaining 60 credits must be taken from elsewhere in the University. In either Part 2 or Part 3, 20 credits may be taken from elsewhere in the University.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4

Optional module:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
--------	-----------------	----	---

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5
PO2WAP	War and Peace Since 1800	20	5
PO2COS	Contemporary Strategy	20	5

Either			
PO2CGP	Comparative Government	20	5
or			

PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5
Optional modules (1 from):			
PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
PO2RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	5

Students may replace one of the above optional modules with a 20 credit module in another department.

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO3DIS	Dissertation	40	6

Optional modules: 4 of the following, at least two must be from list A and one must be from list B.

List A

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3EUS	European Security	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy in the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3UNI	UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6
PO3GST	Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China	20	6

List B

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3PES	(The) Politics of Electoral System	20	6
PO3UKP	UK Politics since 1960	20	6
POP3USF	US Foreign and Defence Policy since 1950	20	6

Students who have not taken a module outside the Department in Part 2 may replace one of the above modules with a 20 credits module in another department

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must

- obtain at least 40% in each of the Politics modules taken;
- achieve an overall average of 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;
- achieve not less than 30% in any non-Politics module except that a mark of less than 30% in a total of 20 credits may be condoned, provided that the candidate has pursued the course for the module(s) with reasonable diligence and has not been absent from the examination without reasonable cause.

To proceed to Part 3 students must:

- achieve an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in part 2
- achieve a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 2.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

Part 1 modules and the compulsory Part 2 modules involve both lectures and seminars. Part 2 and 3 optional modules typically place greater emphasis on seminars. Part 1 modules are assessed by a mixture of coursework (40%) and examination (60%). There is a greater diversity of assessment at Part 2. Students should consult each individual module description form for the full details. Apart from the Dissertation, Part 3 is assessed by a mixture of coursework (25%) and examination (75%). The conventions for classification are included in the

Department Handbook, but you should note that weighting between Part 2 and Part 3 for classification purposes is 33% and 67%.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in Maths in GCSE; and achieved

UCAS Tariff: 300 points from three subjects, or 320 points from 3 A levels and 1 AS level.

International Baccalaureate: 6, 5, 5

Irish Leaving Certificate: Equivalent

Admissions Tutor: Dr O Tansey

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support is provided by a wide array of services across the University, including: the University Library, the Student Employment, Experience and Careers Centre (SEEC), In-session English Support Programme, the Study Advice and Mathematics Support Centre teams, IT Services and the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and advisers in the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and offers advice on accommodation, careers, disability, finance, and wellbeing. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions and runs workshops and seminars on a range of topics. For more information see www.reading.ac.uk/student

Students are provided with Handbooks which outline the programme, provide guidance on study skills, and contain information on staff, facilities and specialised sources of help within the University. Additional support is given in the Study of Politics module in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay work. The School has a photocopier for student use. In Part 1, support for students in their studies is provided by personal tutors and through ilearn on Blackboard.

Career prospects

A degree in War, Peace and International Relations may be advantageous for students intending a career in the armed forces or the foreign services. It can lead to a wide range of jobs, such as the public services (civil service, local government, public corporations, hospital management, etc), the social services (child care, youth employment, probation, etc), advertising, journalism, radio and television, management traineeships in industry, professions such as accountancy and law (barristers and solicitors alike), banking and insurance, and various research agencies. Students are given specific vocational training and orientation by means of Career Management Skills which are embedded within the part 2 module Study of Politics (PO2SOP).

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

There is an optional module for work placement and project work which allows students to do a placement and obtain the full 20 credits for this.

Students may choose to spend part of their second year studying at a University in another European country, via the Erasmus programme, or in the United States, via the American Studies exchange programme, or in Australia. While such exchanges may involve some additional financial expenditures and some adjustments to coursework at Reading, the School believes these exchanges offer an excellent opportunity to broaden educational and life experience. In the first instance interested students see their personal tutor

Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and other attributes in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

The various approaches to the study

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through

of Modern International Relations.
2. Approaches to strategic and conflict studies.
3. Approaches to issues of conflict, prevention and resolution.
A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of International Relations, Strategic and Conflict Studies.

formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lecturers and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce 1, 2 and 3 while Part 2 modules (deepen) and (develop) students understanding. The optional modules in 4 build on the agree modules in 1,2 and 3.

Assessment

Most knowledge is tested through a combination of coursework and formal examination. Dissertations and oral contributions also contribute

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

think logically on International and Strategic matters
analyse issues in International and Strategic Affairs
organise tasks into a structured form
understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of International and Strategic Studies
transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the discipline to another
plan, conduct and write an independent study on an aspect of the discipline

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The ability to think logically is essential to the understanding and analysis of the discipline. Analysis requires an appreciation of the issues and results in organisation of written work and oral presentations. Students are encouraged to link core and optional modules and also to use experience from modules in the dissertation

Assessment

1-3 are assessed throughout the programme, while 5 contributes to the more successful work, 6 is assessed in the dissertation.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.
identify, investigate, analyses, formulate and advocate solutions and problems
construct reasonable argument and exercise critical judgement
reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of feedback
manage their own learning self-critically.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is taught through lectures and seminars;
2 and 3 are acquired through written work and oral presentations;
3 and 4 are developed through more independent learning, especially the dissertation.

Assessment

1,2 and 3 are tested formatively and summatively in examinations. 4 is assessed through examination of student progress. 5 is assessed particularly through the dissertation.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

communicate effectively in speech and writing
use communication and I.T. for the retrieval and presentation of information, including statistical or numerical information
work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management
collaborate with others to achieve common goals
plan their career.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is embedded in all modules;
2 is demonstrated by the use of I.T. based exercises;
3 is an essential requirement for the timely and effective completion of the programme;
4 is developed through active participation in seminars;
5 is delivered through the Career Management Skills module.

Assessment

1,2,3 and 5 are assessed through coursework and

examinations.

4 is assessed through seminar participation.

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 he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.