

**BA International Relations and Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2012/3**

UCAS code: LL21

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|---|---|
| Awarding Institution: | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution: | University of Reading |
| Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s): | Politics |
| Faculty: | Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty |
| Programme length: | 3 years |
| Date of specification: | 24/Jul/2014 |
| Programme Director: | Dr Emma Mayhew |
| Programme Advisor: | Dr Simon Burke |
| Board of Studies: | Politics and Economics |
| Accreditation: | University of Reading |

Summary of programme aims

The curriculum gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main sub fields of the discipline: international relations and either comparative government and politics or political philosophy. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of domestic and international politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. 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.

The programme establishes key economic principles and tools of analysis at Parts 1 and 2. At Part 2 this begins to broaden out to a consideration of policy issues, and a further choice of applied or statistical study. Part 3 provides a wide range of options. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the fundamental elements of economic theory and its applications, and the ability to apply their skills beyond the areas of specific study.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills. 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.

In addition, the programme encourages business awareness, and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Students are required to take a total of 120 credits in each Part. Where the compulsory modules in a Part total less than 120 credits, students are required to select options containing sufficient credits to make up the shortfall. Any such options selected must be drawn from the options listed below for Parts 2 and 3.

In Economics Part 1 deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject and some basic techniques underpinning mathematical analysis in economics. Economic principles are developed further at Part 2, enhanced by a compulsory module related to policy and institutions. Optional modules can be taken exploring further specific applications or analytical techniques. In Part 3, choice from a range of options is available to explore specific sub disciplines and/or applications.

In International Relations Part 1 introduces students to the three strands of the discipline: comparative government, political theory and international relations. Part 2 builds on this knowledge with two compulsory modules (Modern International Relations and Study of Politics) and an optional module from those available at the time. Part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| <i>Mod code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|---------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| PO11PI | Introduction to Political Ideas | 20 | 4 |

| | | | |
|------------|--|----|---|
| PO1IRS | Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies | 20 | 4 |
| PO1MOG | Modern Government | 20 | 4 |
| EC101 | Principles of Microeconomics | 20 | 4 |
| EC102 | Principles of Macroeconomics | 20 | 4 |
| EC107 | Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy | 10 | 4 |
| and either | | | |
| EC108 | Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BA | 10 | 4 |
| or | | | |
| EC109 | Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BSc | 10 | 4 |

Students who have Mathematics AS level with at least Grade C (or equivalent) may choose to take EC109 Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BSc in place of EC108, subject to the approval of the Director of Undergraduate Studies in Economics.

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

| <i>Mod code</i> | <i>Module Title</i> | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| EC219 | Economic Analysis | 20 | 5 |
| EC238 | Economics of Social Policy | 20 | 5 |
| PO2MIR | Modern International Relations | 20 | 5 |
| PO2SOP | The Study of Politics | 20 | 5 |

Options (one of):

Government

| | | | |
|--------|----------------------------------|----|---|
| PO2AMG | American Government and Politics | 20 | 5 |
| PO2BGP | British Government and Politics | 20 | 5 |
| PO2EPI | European Political Integration | 20 | 5 |
| PO2MUN | Model United Nations | 20 | 5 |

Theory

| | | | |
|--------|--------------------|----|---|
| PO2THI | Political Thinking | 20 | 5 |
|--------|--------------------|----|---|

Students can choose to take a module outside their programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department or with a work placement .

Please note it is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.

| | | | |
|--------------|--|----|---|
| Specify code | A 20 credit module in another department | 20 | 5 |
| PO2WPP | Work Placement and project. For more details see Dr Daphne Halikiopoulou | 20 | 5 |

In Economics 20 credits from:

| | | | |
|-------|---|----|---|
| EC242 | Economics of the Environment and Energy | 20 | 5 |
| EC243 | Economic History | 20 | 5 |

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

A dissertation of 40 credits is compulsory and may be taken in either Economics or International Relations.; In addition students must choose modules totalling 40 credits in both Economics and International Relations.

either

| | | | |
|--------|---------------------------|----|---|
| EC3DSI | Dissertation in Economics | 40 | 6 |
|--------|---------------------------|----|---|

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| or | | | |
| PO3DIS | Dissertation in International Relations | 40 | 6 |

In International Relations:

Students choose two 20 credit modules from the following lists. At least one must be chosen from List A. The other must be from list B unless a government or theory option has been taken in Part 2.

List A

| | | | |
|--------|---|----|---|
| PO3CPP | Contemporary Power Politics | 20 | 6 |
| PO3CSS | An Introduction to Critical Strategic Studies | 20 | 6 |
| PO3DDP | Democracy and Democracy Promotion | 20 | 6 |
| PO3GST | Grand Strategy from Classical Rome to Modern China | 20 | 6 |
| PO3INT | Intelligence, War and International Relations | 20 | 6 |
| PO3ITE | International Terrorism | 20 | 6 |
| PO3MEA | Politics and International Relations of the Middle East | 20 | 6 |
| PO3PIE | Politics of the International Economy | 20 | 6 |
| PO3STH | Strategic Theory | 20 | 6 |
| PO3SWW | Strategy of the Two World Wars | 20 | 6 |
| PO3UNI | UN and International Order | 20 | 6 |

List B

| Code | Title | Credits | Level |
|--------|---|---------|-------|
| PO3BFD | British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945 | 20 | 6 |
| PO3CAP | Crime and Punishment : Theoretical Approaches | 20 | 6 |
| PO3MEA | Politics and International Relations of the Middle East | 20 | 6 |
| PO3NAT | Nationalism | 20 | 6 |
| PO3TOL | Toleration:Theory and Practise | 20 | 6 |
| PO3UKP | United Kingdom Politics since 1960 | 20 | 6 |
| PO3USF | US Foreign Policy since 1950 | 20 | 6 |
| PO3WPE | War, Peace and International Relations | 20 | 6 |

Students may take a module outside the programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department - or with a work placement if not previously taken.

Please note it is the responsibility of the student to seek approval from the department concerned.

| Code | Title | Credits | Level |
|------------------|---|---------|-------|
| Specify the code | A 20 credit module in another department | 20 | 6 |
| PO2WPP | Work Placement and project. Student has to do a placement in the (student can only take 20 credits at your interest now - v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk Part 2 level) | 20 | 6 |

Must Total 120 credits

In Economics: Students choose two 20 credit options from the following:

| | | | |
|-------|--|----|---|
| EC308 | Business Economics | 20 | 6 |
| EC311 | International Economics | 20 | 6 |
| EC314 | Public Economics | 20 | 6 |
| EC315 | History of Economic Thought | 20 | 6 |
| EC316 | European Economic Integration | 20 | 6 |
| EC320 | Money and Banking | 20 | 6 |
| EC324 | European Urban and Regional Economics | 20 | 6 |
| EC328 | Economics of Land, Development and Planning | 20 | 6 |
| EC337 | Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change | 20 | 6 |
| EC339 | Microeconomics for Developing Countries | 20 | 6 |
| EC342 | Macroeconomics for Developing Countries | 20 | 6 |
| EC344 | Banking in Emerging Economies | 20 | 6 |
| EC345 | Business and Management in Emerging Markets | 20 | 6 |

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must:

- a) achieve an overall average of at least 40% in 120 credits taken in Part 1;
- b) achieve at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules taken.
- c) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken at Part 1

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must achieve:

- i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2;
- ii) marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits;
- iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits

Assessment and classification

The University's honours classification scheme is:

| Mark | interpretation |
|------------|------------------------|
| 70% - 100% | First class |
| 60% - 69% | Upper Second class |
| 50% - 59% | Lower Second class |
| 40% - 49% | Third class |
| 35% - 39% | Below Honours Standard |
| 0% - 34% | Fail |

For the University-wide framework for classification, which includes details of the classification method, please see: <http://www.reading.ac.uk/internal/exams/Policies/exa-class.aspx>.

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks.

Admission requirements

Entrants to our courses are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved

A-Level results of AAC/ABB

Entrance into the joint degrees with Economics also requires at least a B grade in GCSE Maths

International Baccalaureate:

32 points overall

Irish Leaving Certificate: Equivalent

Admissions Tutor: Dr Christina Hellmich

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 Careers, Placement and Experience Centre (CPEC), 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, academic issues (eg problems with module selection) and exam related queries. 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

Career prospects

Certain combined-subject courses, eg Politics/Economics, might be useful for people interested in market research or the finance divisions of major firms or social science research units such as the Institute for Public-Policy Research, Policy Studies Institute or Chatham House. A combined degree with a national curriculum subject is useful for students wishing to teach in schools and colleges or extra-mural departments and the WEA. In recent years graduates from this programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Examples include jobs in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities. Students are given specific vocational training and orientation by means of Career Management Skills which are embedded within the Part 2 module PO2SOP.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

Students can undertake a study abroad placement at one of our partner universities in Europe, USA, Canada and Australia.

Between Part 2 and 3 there is an option to take PO2WEP Work Experience Year which is worth 120 credits. This will be reflected to the final degree certificate which will state BA International Relations and Economics with Work Experience Year. Please contact Vicky Wiles, School Placement Officer to register your interest v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk

The Part 2 optional module British Government and Politics includes an academic placement, taking place over two weeks during the Easter vacation, through which students will be able to explore some aspect of British government and politics in detail.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the economics part of the programme students are expected to have acquired a knowledge of basic economic analysis and its relevant application. They are expected to be competent to apply economic analysis to practical problems and, with further training at postgraduate level (if suitably qualified) to be able to work as professional economists in government, academics, or private sector, especially in contexts relevant to the other part of their degree. Students are expected to have acquired an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts.

The International Relations component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in international relations. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

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

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.
3. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Formal lectures, classes and practical sessions, supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students undertake project work and write essays, in which they learn to apply economic concepts to relevant real world issues.

Assessment

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Feedback is provided on assessed work.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - able to:

1. Structure, analyse and solve problems.
2. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions.
3. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and

4. Suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report on an economic issue.

discussions provide the basis of ensuring the accumulating knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

Assessment

Skills are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets.

C. Practical skills - able to:

1. Collect and critically evaluate the major literature on a topic.
2. Obtain data, to use them, and to assess the empirical work of others that use economic data.
3. Use computerised tools for the purposes of research and learning.
4. Draw on the knowledge base in economics and economic research methods to suggest ways to solve problems.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical issues are illustrated in lectures and classes, reinforced by problem sets, essays and project work. The tasks required of students involve library and computerised searches to collect references and data, and to use them to complete practical tasks within set deadlines.

Assessment

Assessment is through essays and project work.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, spreadsheets and other such software, and the conduct of web site searches.
2. Communicate orally and in writing.
3. Work as part of a team.
4. Use library and web-based resources.
5. Organise project work from beginning to completion.
6. Manage time to achieve goals.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The learning of IT is encouraged through web site searches, use of library resources, and the presentation of word processed documents including graphics displays. Oral presentations are required at several points in the programme. Preparation for these presentations requires working as part of a team at several points in the second and third years. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete essays and project work.

Assessment

Assessment is through the production of essays and project work, and through the critical evaluation of presentation performances.

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.