

**BA Politics and International Relations**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2013/4**

**UCAS code: L258**

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/Jul/2013
Programme Director:	Dr Emma Mayhew
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 politics in relation to the three main sub fields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. 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 society can 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.

**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.

**Programme content**

Each part comprises 120 credits. In Part 1 the three compulsory modules must be taken. The remaining 60 credits must be taken from modules elsewhere in the University. In Part 2, students must choose at least 2 of the 3 compulsory modules. In both Part 2 and 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>
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4

*Optional modules*

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
PO1FRE	Freedom	20	4

**Part 2 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5

**At least two out of three:**

PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

60 credits 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
PO2MUN	Model United Nations	20	5

**A further third module from the compulsory module list can be chosen.**

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.**

Specify the code	A 20 credit module in another department	20	5
PO2WPP	Work Placement and project. For more details see Dr Jonathan Boyd	20	5

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### Compulsory modules

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

Choose four 20 credit optional modules: At least one, but not more than two from each section:

#### Theory

PO3CAP	Crime and Punishment: Theoretical approaches (Spring term only)	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3TOL	Toleration: Theory and Practise (Spring only)	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6

#### International Relations

PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations (Autumn term only)	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
PO3RAM	Reason and Madness in International Politics	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

#### Government

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3NAT	Nationalism (Autumn term only)	20	6
PO3PES	(The) Politics of Electoral Systems	20	6
PO3UKP	UK Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	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.**

Specify the code	A 20 credit module in another	20	6
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PO2WPP	department Work Placement and project. For more details see Dr Jonathan Boyd.	20	6
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### **Progression requirements**

**In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2 a student must achieve:**

- (i) a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1, where all the credits are at level 4 or above; and**
- (ii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 100 credits taken in Part 1; and**
- (iii) at least 40% in all compulsory Part 1 modules.**

**In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 a student must achieve the University-wide threshold performance. To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to 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; and**
- (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>.

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%). The weightings of coursework and exams in Part 2 and 3 may vary from module to module. 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 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](http://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 PO2SOP in Part 2. There is also written feedback on essay work. The School has a photocopier which is available for student use. At Part 1, as well as meeting with personal tutors, support for students in their studies is provided on Blackboard. .

### **Career learning**

Politics and International Relations 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.

### **Career prospects**

A single-subject degree in Politics and International Relations 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.

### **Opportunities for study abroad**

As part of the degree programme students have the opportunity to study abroad at an institution with which the University has a valid agreement.

Students may choose to spend part of their second year studying at a University in another European country, . 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.

See this link for more details : <https://www.reading.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/vso-outgoingstudents.aspx>

Students need to register their interest with Dr Andreas behnke, Study Abroad Co-ordinator for Politics, before the end of the summer term and no later than the first week of the Autumn term of Part 2.

### **Placement opportunities**

**Placement Opportunities** Maxi Placement Students have the opportunity to extend their degree programme by one year when taking the PO2WEP-Work Experience Year module. Their degree programme will become BA Politics and International Relations with work placement year, stated on the degree certificate. The aims of the work placement are to: 1. provide the student with the opportunity to apply the knowledge and skills gained in the first two years of their undergraduate studies; 2. extend knowledge and learning in their chosen degree discipline; 3. gain knowledge, understanding and skills of working in a relevant work environment. Students who are interested in taking a sandwich year should contact the School Placement Officer as soon as possible to find out more about opportunities and how to register interest. Mini Placement Students have the opportunity to complete a stand alone placement module PO2WPP-Work Placement and Project during any term of part 2. Students will receive 20 credits for 120 hours of work experience. The placement must be approved by the module convenor, in terms of academic suitability and the School Placement Officer, in terms of health and safety. Students can only pick this module once and the placement must be secured before they can register for the module. Students should contact the School Placement Officer to find out more about the module, collect a placement pack and to register interest. Micro Placement 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. Please check with your tutor who your placement officer is.

## 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:

1. The fundamental concepts of Political Theory and major texts from the Greeks to the present time.
2. The comparative analysis of government institutions, political movement and the social bases of politics.
3. The various approaches and the study of Modern International Relations.
4. A range of selected specialised subjects within the fields of Political Theory, Comparative Government and International Relations.

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Knowledge and understanding are gained through 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 which 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*:

1. think logically on Political matters
2. analyse issues in Political life
3. organise tasks into a structured form
4. understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of Politics and IR
5. transfer appropriate knowledge from an area within the discipline to another
6. 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*:

1. gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.
2. identify, investigate, analyses, formulate and advocate solutions and problems
3. construct reasonable argument and exercise critical judgement
4. reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of feedback
5. 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*:

1. communicate effectively in speech and writing
2. use communication and I.T. for the retrieval and

#### Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is embedded in all modules.  
2 is demonstrated by the use of I.T. based exercises.

presentation of information, including statistical or numerical information

3. work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management

4. collaborate with others to achieve common goals

5. plan their career.

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 CMS 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.**