

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

**UCAS code: LL12**

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	
Faculty:	Arts, Humanities and Social Science Faculty
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	19/May/2015
Programme Director:	Dr Emma Mayhew
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Politics and Economics
Accreditation:	

**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: comparative government and politics and either political philosophy or 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 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**

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 provided at 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 sub-disciplines and/or applications. In Politics Part 1 introduces students to the three main strands of study: comparative government, political thinking and international relations. Students will expand on their knowledge in Part 2 by taking either a compulsory government or political classics module, a compulsory Study of Politics module, and a module of their choice from those available. Part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules covering all aspects of politics and international relations.

**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
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

EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5

Core modules: choose one only:

PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

Options (one of)

Code	Title	Credits	Level
PO2AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2BGP	British Government and Politics (numbers capped at 40 - selection based on Part 1 results)	20	5
PO2EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2MUN	Model United Nations (numbers capped at 18 - students selected by Politics dept)	20	5
PO2THI	Political Thinking	20	5
PO2TMP	The Media and Politics (numbers capped at 30 - students selected by the Politics dept)	20	5

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 PO2WPP.

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

PO2WPP	Work Placement and project. Student has to do placement in the vacation before October of Part 2. Contact Vicki Wiles to register your interest now - v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk	20	5
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In Economics, one 20 credit option from the following:

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

The Economics option may be replaced by a 20 credit study abroad module (PO2SAA, PO2SAB or PO2SAC) to enable a study abroad term.

### Study abroad term

There are opportunities to study abroad during Part 2 - 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 Coordinator for Politics before the end of the Summer term of Part 1 and no later than the first week on the Autumn term of Part 2.

## Additional year (three terms)

Students also have the opportunity to extend their degree programme by one year when taking the Work Experience Year or Study Abroad Year between Part 2 and Part 3. The degree programme will become BA Politics and Economics with Work Placement Year or Year Abroad, stated on the degree certificate. Students who are interested in taking a placement year should contact Vicki Wiles (v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk) as soon as possible to find out more about opportunities and how to register interest.

PO2WEP/EC2WEP Work Experience Year	120	5
The placement should not normally be shorter than 9 months full-time and students will be assessed in the form of an end-of-year project.		
PO2SAY/EC2SAY Study Abroad Year	120	5
The study abroad year should not normally be shorter than 9 months full-time.		

### Part 3 (three terms)

#### *Compulsory modules*

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

#### In Economics

either

EC3DSI	Dissertation in Economics	40	6
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or

PO3DIS	Dissertation in Politics	40	6
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In Politics: Students must choose **at least one module from list A**. Choose two modules:

#### List A

PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence Policy since 1945	20	6
PO3CPE	Comparative Political Economy	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics & International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3NAT	Nationalism	20	6
PO3PAR	Parliamentary Studies (PO2CGP is a prerequisite for this module)	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3USF	United States Foreign Policy since 1950	20	6

#### List B

PO3CPP	Contemporary Power Politics	20	6
PO3CAP	Crime and Punishment : Theoretical Approaches	20	6
PO3CSS	Introduction to Critical Security Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and international Relations	20	6
PO3IPE	International Political Economy	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy of the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3TOL	Toleration : Theory and practise	20	6
PO3UNI	UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6

Students may choose to take a module outside the programme. One of the above modules may be replaced with a 20 credit module in another department - or with PO2WPP if not already taken.

**Please note: It is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.**

Code	Title	Credits	Level
PO2WPP (if not already taken.)	Work Placement and Project. Student has to do placement in the vacation before October of part 3. Contact Vicki Wiles	20	5
Students can only take 20 credits at Part 2 level) v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk. *			

\*This module requires at least 120 hours (3+ weeks) of placement learning. Students are encouraged to do this in the summer preceding the module, so that they can write the academic project in relation to their placement learning during the Autumn and Spring terms.

University checks also have to be made in order for a placement to be approved, which takes time and approval needs to be given prior to the placement beginning if it is to be recognised as part of this module.

In Economics, 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 & Management in Emerging Markets	20	6

Students may choose to take a module outside the programme. One of the optional Economics modules may be replaced with a 20-credit module in another department (provided the total amount of outside options does not exceed 20 credits at Part 3) - or with a work placement (PO2WPP) if not already taken previously.

### 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) 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>.

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is Part 2 one-third, Part 3 two-thirds.

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 ABB/BBB

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

International Baccalaureate: 32/30 points overall

Irish Leaving Certificate: Equivalent

**Admissions Tutor:** Dr Adam Humphreys

### **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)

Both departments provide handbooks that outline programme and module content. In addition to lecture and class time, each module lecturer has appointed office hours during which they may be consulted without prior appointment.

### **Career learning**

#### **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**

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 can undertake a study abroad placement at one of our partner universities in Europe, via the Erasmus scheme, in the USA, and in Australia.

See the link: <https://www.reading.ac.uk/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/vso-outgoingstudents.aspx>

Students need to register their interest with Dr Andreas Behnke, Study Abroad Coordinator for Politics, before the end of the summer term and no later than the first week of the Autumn term.

### **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 Economics 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, Vicky Wiles v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk 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.

### **Programme Outcomes**

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

##### **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 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.**