

BA Politics and International Relations
For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6

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:	23/Aug/2016
Programme Director:	Dr Emma Mayhew
Programme Advisor:	
Board of Studies:	Politics
Accreditation:	

Summary of programme aims

The programme can be studied full time or part time. The programme content is identical, but the versions have different progression requirements and differ in their opportunities for study abroad and yearlong work placements. See section on 'Progression requirements' for details.

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

The BA Politics and IR degree programmes entail the study of modules totalling 360 credits across three levels: Certificate (4), Intermediate (5) and Honours (6).

Each part consists of 120 credits that must be completed in order to qualify for the degree (see 'Progression requirements' section for the specific conditions for moving through the degree).

Full time students would normally take three terms to complete each part. Part time students enjoy a degree of flexibility. Part time students should take a minimum of 60 credits per year and normally up to 80 credits. Under some circumstances it is possible to complete the part-time degree within 48 months. The normal completion period is 72 months. The maximum registration period is 84 months.

Full time and part time students study all three compulsory modules. Where compulsory modules amount to less than 120 credits, students choose remaining credits from a range of politics and international relations optional modules or from modules outside the Department. Not all modules will necessarily be available every year. Admission to modules will be at the discretion of the Programme Director. Students must choose such additional modules as they wish, in consultation with their programme adviser(s).

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

The remaining 60 credits may be chosen from the below options or from available Level 4 modules within the University.

Optional modules:

PO1BRI	British Society	20	4
PO1FRE	Freedom	20	4

Progression requirements are detailed in the 'Progression requirements' section. Part time students must complete at least 80 credits at level 4 before they can proceed to study any level 5 modules.

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 from:

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2CGP	Comparative Government and Politics	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2PHC	Political Classics	20	5

Students also choose 40 credits from a range of optional modules available in the department. One of the modules maybe replaced with a 20 credit module in another department - or with a work placement if not taken previously. **Please note it is the student's responsibility to seek approval from the department concerned.**

Progression requirements are detailed in the 'progression requirement' section. Part time students must complete at least 80 credits at level 5 before they can proceed to study any level 6 modules.

Study abroad term (full time students only)

There are opportunities to study abroad during Part 2 for full time students - 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 and no later than the first week on the autumn term of Part 2.

Additional year (three terms) (full time students only)

Full time students also have the opportunity to extend their degree programme by one year when taking the PO2WEP-Work Experience Year or PO2SAY - Study Abroad Year between Part 2 and Part 3. Their degree programme will become BA Politics and International Relations with Work Placement Year or Year Abroad, stated on the degree certificate. Students who are interested in taking a sandwich year should contact Vicky Wiles (v.l.wiles@reading.ac.uk) as soon as possible to find out more about opportunities and how to register interest.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2WEP	Work Experience Year	120	5

The placement should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time and students will be assessed in the form of an end-of-year project. Assessment of the WEP year is on a pass/fail basis and does not contribute to the final degree classification. Degree titles are, as per above, amended to reflect additional learning and employability.

<i>Code</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5

The Study Abroad Year should not normally be shorter than 9 months.

Year abroad/Year away/Additional year (three terms)

Compulsory modules

PO2WEP	Work Experience Year	120	5
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The placement should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time and students will be assessed in the form of an end-of-year project

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

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

Students choose 80 credits from a range of optional modules available in the department. One of the modules maybe replaced with a 20 credit module in another department - or with a work placement if not taken previously.

Please note it is the responsibility of the student to seek approval and suitability from the department delivering optional modules outside the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Progression requirements

Full time students:

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.

Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules. Re-examination for 4, 5, and 6 level modules is held annually in August/September.

Part time students:

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

- (i) a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module
- (ii) at least 40% in all compulsory Part 1 modules.

Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 1 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules. Re-examination for 4, 5, and 6 level modules is held annually in August/September.

Full time students:

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; and
- (iii) marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to not less than 120 credits.

Part time students;

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

- (i) a minimum average of 40% in at least 80 credits and not less than 30% in any individual module before they can proceed to any module at level 6

Students who do not qualify to proceed from Part 2 at the first attempt may re-sit the required modules.

Students who do not qualify for a degree will be entitled to the following qualification provided they have obtained the minimum number of credits indicated:

Certificate of Higher Education 100 credits at Level 4 and 20 credits at any level

Diploma of Higher Education 240 credits, with at least 100 credits at level 5 or above.

Summary of Teaching and Assessment

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 ABB/BBB

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

In addition within the department students have access to a suite of short video screencasts made specifically for our students on a range of issues from sources of pastoral support to essay writing skills. 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 and weekly drop in sessions run by a PhD student within the department who acts as our 'ASK advisor'. Students are able to make use of staff office hours during the week and termly individual meetings with their personal tutors.

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

Part time students do not have the opportunity to study abroad.

As part of the full time 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 or all of their second year studying at a University in another European country, via the Erasmus programme, in the USA, and 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.

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

Maxi Placement (not available to part time students)

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, Vicki Wiles 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 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

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

- 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.

a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures 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:

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

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, analyse, 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.

D. Transferable skills - able to:

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

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.

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.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

1 is embedded in all modules.
2 is demonstrated by the use of IT 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 PO2SOP.

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.