

**BA War Peace and International Relations**  
**For students entering Part 1 in 2015/6**

**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:                      | 23/Aug/2016                                 |
| 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 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 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 both Part 2 and Part 3, 20 credits may be taken from elsewhere in the University.

**Part 1 (three terms)**

*Compulsory modules*

|        |   |    |   |
|--------|---|----|---|
| PO1IRS | Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies | 20 | 4 |
| PO1PI  | Introduction to Political Ideas                         | 20 | 4 |
| PO1ICD | Introduction to Contemporary Democracy                  | 20 | 4 |

*Optional module:*

|        |                 |    |   |
|--------|-----------------|----|---|
| 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> |
|-----------------|--------------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| 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            |

| <i>Code</i>          | <i>Title</i>           | <i>Credits</i> | <i>Level</i> |
|----------------------|------------------------|----------------|--------------|
| And Either<br>PO2CGP | Comparative Government | 20             | 5            |
| or<br>PO2PHC         | Political Classics     | 20             | 5            |

Students also choose 20 credits from a range of optional modules available in the department. The module may be 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.**

### **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 may be 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**

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.

### **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 weighting of coursework and exams in Parts 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](http://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**

War, Peace 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 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**

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 or all of their second year studying at a University in another European country, via the Erasmus programme, in the United States, and in Australia. While such exchanges may involve some additional financial expenditures and some adjustments to coursework at Reading, the Department 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>

## **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 War Peace 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.

## **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 of Modern International Relations.

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

#### **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 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:*

1. think logically on International and Strategic matters
2. analyse issues in International and Strategic Affairs
3. organise tasks into a structured form
4. understand the evolving state of knowledge in the rapidly developing discipline of International and Strategic Studies
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, 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.

### D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. communicate effectively in speech and writing
2. use communication and I.T. 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 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.**