

**Programme Specification**  
**BA Politics and International Relations**  
**For students entering Part 1 in September 2016**

**UCAS Code: L258**  
**UFPOL**  
**UFPOLPE**  
**UFPOLSY**  
**UFPOLYIBA**

**This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Politics and International Relations (with Placement Experience) - 4 years BA Politics and International Relations (with Year Abroad) - 4 years BA Politics and International Relations with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only)

**Programme information and content**

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.

Part 1:	<b>Politics</b> Part 1 introduces you to core concepts in comparative government, political thought and international relations. You also have options to study introductory modules covering such concepts as the development of British Society, and how we view 'Freedom' around the world.  <b>International Relations</b> introduces you to the three strands of the discipline: comparative government, political theory and international relations.
Part 2:	<b>Politics</b> Part 2 you will have a compulsory research methods module and other core modules covering such areas as modern international relations, comparative government and political thought.  In <b>International Relations</b> Part 2 provides you with a more in depth knowledge of the issues of conflict and resolution in society; the research tools we use to investigate and analyse such issues and the strategies states and other actors develop and implement in global International Relations today.
Part 3:	<b>Politics</b> Part 3 gives you the opportunity to pursue your individual interests through

optional modules and guided research. You will learn to analyse decision-making processes under different political systems. You will explore the actions and interactions of citizens, organisations, parties and states, focusing not only on the domestic arena but also on international relations and the interaction between countries, multinational companies and governments.

In **International Relations**, Part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules covering all aspects of politics and international relations.

### Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

#### Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Politics and International Relations and modules from elsewhere in the University.

#### Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Politics and International Relations and modules from elsewhere in the University.

#### Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

#### Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
PO3DIS	Dissertation	40

At least one module must be taken in each of the following subject areas: Theory, International Relations and Government.

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Politics and International Relations and modules from elsewhere in the University.

### **Additional costs of the programme**

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £400 to £500 a year. The core textbook, which most students normally purchase, cost £300 new, and there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2016.

### **Optional modules:**

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

### **Placement opportunities**

#### **Placements:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

#### **Study Abroad:**

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

**Teaching and learning delivery:** You will be taught primarily through seminars and lectures.

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 lectures and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars. Part 1 modules introduce areas of study while Part 2 modules deepen and develop students understanding. Part 3 develops critical analysis skills and gives students the opportunity to research topics in greater depth.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 192 hours, Part 2 - 204 hours, Part 3 - 120 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

### **Assessment**

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations.

### **Progression**

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

#### *Part 1*

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory modules in Politics and International Relations at Part 1.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

#### *Part 2*

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules

owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

### **Classification**

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

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

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

*Three year programmes:*

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

*Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:*

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

**For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.**

BA Politics and International Relations for students entering Part 1 in session 2016/17  
27 October 2016

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