

Programme Specification

BA History and Politics

For students entering Part 1 in September 2021

UCAS Code: VLD2

UFHSXPO

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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 History and Politics with Placement Experience - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA History and Politics with Year Abroad - 4 years (internal transfer only)

Programme information and content

The **History** element of this joint-disciplinary programme offers insights into the richness and variety of human experience. Throughout this process of discovery, students encounter a wide range of subjects and approaches, while having the opportunity to pursue their own enthusiasms, and to benefit from the research expertise and activities of staff.

We aim to familiarise students with a broad chronological range, whilst allowing them to specialise in particular periods and areas of British, European, African, Atlantic, US American, Russian, Middle Eastern and South Asian history, and to pursue their own interests further through independent study and a Dissertation.

The programme develops subject-based and transferable skills, while encouraging a scholarly, committed and enthusiastic engagement with the study of the past.

In **Politics** the programme aims provide you with 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.

Part 1:	In History introduces you to the discipline through study of long-term historical change across the medieval, early modern and modern periods, also familiarising you with the sub-fields of political, intellectual and cultural history. It aims to develop the research, presentational, organisational and essay-writing skills required for the successful study of history at undergraduate level, while
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	<p>highlighting contrasts between academic and popular history, and the importance of strategic career planning.</p> <p>In Politics: Part 1 introduces students to the three main strands of study: comparative government, political thinking and international relations.</p>
Part 2:	<p>In History: provides you with the opportunity to develop more specialised historical knowledge of historical periods and geographical areas. You also have the opportunity to select modules encouraging you to engage with public history beyond academia, identify the wide range of transferable skills arising from the study of history at BA level, and develop additional skills directly relevant to successful job applications. If you intend to base your final-year dissertation on research in history, we strongly recommended that your choices at Part 2 include a module introducing you to a variety of primary sources and research approaches.</p> <p>In Politics: Part 2 students will be introduced to research methods and expand on their political knowledge of the main strands of study during Part 2 through a combination of compulsory and optional modules.</p>
Part 3:	<p>History gives you the opportunity for more in-depth study through a further range of Options, and, if you choose to base this in History, supervised, independent research for your dissertation. To enhance personal career-development, we give you the opportunity to apply at Part 2 to replace one of your Part 3 Options with a selective module based on a professional work placement.</p> <p>In Politics: Part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules covering all aspects of politics and international relations.</p>

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
HS1JH1	Journeys through History 1: Power and People	20
HS1JH2	Journeys through History 2: Culture and Concept	20
HS1RSO	Research Skills and Opportunities in History	20
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20

All modules at Part 1 of the programme are compulsory.

Part 2 Modules:

Students must select 60 credits of optional modules in History.

Students must select 20 credits from a specified list in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

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

Up to 20 credits may be replaced by a Work Placement and Project or by modules from elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

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:

Students must select a 40 credit dissertation in History or Politics.

Students must select 40 credits from optional modules from the list available the Department of History.

Students must select 40 credits from optional modules from the list available in the Department of Politics & International Relations.

Up to 20 credits may be replaced by a Work Placement and Project, if not taken previously, or by modules from elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

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.

Additional costs of the programme

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

In **History** where applicable, core textbooks recommended for student purchase may cost around £15 to £25 per module; there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy.

A few optional modules may include study trips of up to 3 to 9 days. For each participating student, the cost of the study trip is not expected to exceed £350.

In **Politics** 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 2020.

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:

In **History** You will be taught mainly through lectures and seminars. Some History modules include group and one-to-one supervisions and/or study trips. History is a subject which frequently requires preparation for classes through reading and independent study. Formal classes, of whatever kind, are there to give you guidance over content and approaches, and to offer opportunities for different kinds of learning (listening/note-taking; discussions; formal and informal presentations; essay-writing; other kinds of writing) but the responsibility for study lies with you.

In **Politics** you will be taught through a mixture of seminars and lectures. Lectures are favoured at Part 1, with an increasing number of small-group seminars in Parts

2 and 3. At Part 3, your dissertation will provide an extensive opportunity for independent research and learning.

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 - 156 hours, Part 2 - 336 hours, Part 3 - 312 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.

Accreditation details

DBS checks may be required for students taking a professional placement module.

Assessment

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

In History, besides formal essays, shorter written exercises such as book reviews and source analyses, the programme includes an innovative range of coursework assignments such as reflective reports, placement logs, wikis, blogs, vlogs and online galleries. Some modules may be partly assessed by oral presentation, visual presentation and/or online exercises. In the case of placement modules, a placement provider's report on the student's performance on placement may form part of the assessment process.

Progression

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

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% in 120 credits
- (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 at least 40% in all compulsory modules at Part 1 (HS1JH1, HS1JH2, HS1RSO, PO1ICD, PO1IPI, PO1IRS).

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 History and Politics for students entering Part 1 in session 2021/22

30 July 2020

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