

Programme Specification

BA International Relations and Economics

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: LL21

UFIRXEC

UFIRXECSY

UFIRXECWY

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

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| Awarding Institution | University of Reading |
| Teaching Institution | University of Reading |
| Length of Programme | 3 years |
| Length of Programme with placement/year abroad | BA International Relations and Economics (with Year Abroad) - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA International Relations and Economics with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: LL22) |
| Accreditation | N/A |

Programme information and content

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: international relations and either comparative government and politics or political philosophy. 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.

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| Part 1: | International Relations introduces you to the three strands of the discipline: comparative government, political theory and international relations. Economics deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject and some basic techniques underpinning mathematical analysis in economics. |
| Part 2: | In International Relations 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 |

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| | investigate and analyse such issues and the strategies states and other actors develop and implement in global International Relations today. In Economics principles are developed further at Part 2. |
| Part 3: | International Relations , Part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules covering all aspects of politics and international relations. Economics gives you the opportunity to apply knowledge and principles learned during the first two parts. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the basic elements of economic theory and of relevant uses and applications. |

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 |
|--------|---|---------|
| EC113 | Introductory Microeconomics | 20 |
| EC114 | Introductory Macroeconomics | 20 |
| EC115 | Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1 | 10 |
| EC116 | Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1 | 10 |
| 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:

| Module | Name | Credits |
|--------|--------------------------------|---------|
| EC201 | Intermediate Microeconomics | 20 |
| EC202 | Intermediate Macroeconomics | 20 |
| PO2MIR | Modern International Relations | 20 |
| PO2SOP | The Study of Politics | 20 |

Students must select 20 credits of optional modules from the list available in Department of Economics.

Students must select 20 credits of optional modules from the list available in Department of Politics & 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 either Economics or in Politics and International Relations.

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

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 **Economics** for textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £400 per year. This figure is approximate. Actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements.

In **International Relations** 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 2022.

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 **Economics** you will be taught through lectures, tutorials and computer classes.

In **International Relations** you will be taught through seminars and lectures. 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.

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 - 228 hours, Part 2 - 192 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.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework (including class tests), and oral 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 (PO1ICD, PO1IPI, PO1IRS); and
- (iii) obtain a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics at Part 1 (EC113, EC114, EC115, EC116); and
- (iv) obtain marks below 40%, but at least 30%, in compulsory modules in Economics amounting to not more than 20 credits.

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 International Relations and Economics for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24
16 June 2022

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