Programme Specification

BA War, Peace and International Relations **UCAS Code: L252**

For students entering Part 1 in September 2027 **UFWPIR**

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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 War, Peace and International Relations (with Year Abroad) - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA War, Peace and International Relations with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: L253)
Accreditation	N/A
QAA Subject Benchmarking Group	Politics and International Relations

Programme information and content	
This programme will provide you with a comprehensive toolkit for understanding war, peace and international relations from a wide range of intellectual perspectives. You will learn to appreciate the diversity of war as a form of political violence, to recognize its causes and consequences, and to think critically about how it relates to an ever-expanding spectrum of security threats – from terrorism to climate change and beyond. You will also develop a broad understanding of the political institutions, both national and international, through which challenges to global order are addressed. Interactive small group teaching is central to the programme. This is designed to give you the opportunity to think imaginatively and creatively about world politics today. Through discussion and debate, you will strengthen your understanding of contemporary international relations and gain an appreciation of the complex and contested nature of war and peace. You will also benefit from the expertise of visiting researchers and guest practitioners. As you move through the programme, you will become an increasingly confident and independent learner, acquiring the tools you need to analyse the evolution and development of war, peace and international relations. The programme will equip you with a broad set of transferable skills. You will learn to interpret data and evidence from diverse sources, to develop persuasive arguments, and to communicate them effectively. The knowledge and skills you acquire will prepare you for a wide range of careers within the commercial and charitable sectors, as well as roles in international organisations, government and the civil service.	
Part 1:	At Part 1, you will study central concepts and theories in the broad discipline of politics and international relations. You will also begin to

	develop specialist expertise in war and peace and to appreciate the political challenges posed by climate change.
Part 2:	At Part 2, you will embark on more advanced study of the evolution of war and peace and challenges to global order. You will develop an understanding of the changing character of war and warfare and explore contemporary issues such as counterinsurgency, peacekeeping missions, and great power competition. You will also receive skills-based training to enable you to evaluate existing research in politics and international relations, and to conduct original research. You will have the opportunity to select optional modules reflecting your own interests.
Placement/Study abroad year:	Students on a four-year programme will undertake a professional placement or study abroad year between Parts 2 and 3. Study abroad students will follow several courses at one of our partner institutions. You may take courses that deepen your understanding of subjects you have already studied, or extend your knowledge into new areas that are relevant to your personal or career goals. Placement students will undertake an approved role related to their programme of study. A placement will provide you with the opportunity to apply the knowledge gained in your first two years of study, as well as to develop your skills in a professional context.
Part 3:	At Part 3, you will tailor the degree to your own interests: choosing from a wide range of research-led modules that reflect the expertise of our members of staff. You will also complete an independent research project under the guidance of a dedicated individual supervisor.

Programme Learning Outcomes - BA War, Peace and International Relations

During the course of the Programme, you will have the opportunity to develop a range of skills, knowledge and attributes (known as learning outcomes) For this programme, these are:

	Learning outcomes
1	Describe and compare key forms of political violence and traditions of strategic thinking.
2	Draw on established theoretical frameworks to analyse the causes and consequences of war, as well as the conditions for peace.
3	Think critically and independently about historical and contemporary challenges in international relations and identify potential solutions.
4	Interpret and evaluate current research across the broad discipline of international relations and international security.
5	Understand and apply qualitative and quantitative data relating to war and peace in global politics.
6	Independently formulate a research question related to war, peace, and international relations and, under supervision, use appropriate methods to address it.

7	Gather and synthesize complex information from a wide range of primary and secondary data sources.
8	Effectively communicate their knowledge to a range of audiences and in a variety of formats, including in writing and orally.
9	Articulate reasoned and persuasive arguments in support of their views.
10	Productively collaborate with others to achieve defined goals.
11	Effectively plan and manage their own time to prioritise and complete a series of tasks.
12	Analyse and present data and evidence using a range of information and communication technologies.

You will be expected to engage in learning activities to achieve these Programme learning outcomes. Assessment of your modules will reflect these learning outcomes and test how far you have met the requirements for your degree.

To pass the Programme, you will be required to meet the progression or accreditation and award criteria set out below.

In addition to the learning outcomes stated above if you are on a placement or study abroad programme you will have the opportunity to develop the following learning outcome:

Additional Learning outcomes
Study Abroad By the end of the Study Abroad Programme, students will have adapted to international study contexts in order to achieve the required academic outcomes determined by the host institution. **Placement** By the end of the Placement Year Programme, students will have explored and developed their professional experience, skills and knowledge, contributing significantly towards their continuous learning and career prospects as graduates.

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	Level
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4
PO1IRE	International Relations	20	4
PO1PCC	Politics of Climate Change	20	4
PO1POP	The Politics of Peace	20	4
PO1WAR	War and Warfare	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of an optional module available in the Politics and International Relations Department or from an approved list of modules.

All students will take a preparatory module in core skills required for transition to undergraduate study.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PO2CCW	The Changing Character of War	20	5
PO2GLO	Global Order	20	5
PO2NEP	Negotiating Peace	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Politics and International Relations Department. You may choose to replace 20 optional credits with a module from an approved list of modules.

All students will take a further preparatory core skills module. This module is designed to support your successful transition to more advanced study at Part 2 and beyond.

In addition, students on the 4 year with placement year programme will take a preparatory module providing placement training.

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

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PO2PPY	Professional Placement Year	120	5
PO2SAY	Study Abroad Year	120	5

Students who enrol on or transfer to a 4-year programme will take one 120 credit module: Professional Placement Year (PO2PPY) or Study Abroad Year (PO2SAY). 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	Level
PO3DIP	Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Politics and International Relations Department. You may choose to replace 20 optional credits with a module from an approved list of modules.

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.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your programme can be found online in the Course Catalogue. 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.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught primarily through a combination of lectures and seminars. Small-group teaching is central to each stage of the programme, and all modules will include some seminar sessions in which you develop your knowledge through discussion and group exercises. At Part 1, this small-group teaching is supported by larger lectures. Lectures will introduce you to a topic and provide a framework to enable you to engage successfully with seminar activities. At Parts 2 and 3, there is less reliance on large lectures, with modules typically including more and longer seminars. Students are also introduced to other forms of teaching such as PC labs, simulation exercises and practical activities.

Elements of your programme will be delivered via digital technology.

The scheduled teaching and learning activity hours and amount of technology enhanced learning activity for your programme will depend upon your module combination. In addition, you will undertake some self-scheduled teaching and learning activities, designed by and/or involving staff, which give some flexibility for you to choose when to complete them. You will also be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module study hours including 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 presentations. Assessments are designed to develop your transferable skills, as well as to test subject knowledge. Further information is contained in the individual module descriptions.

Progression

Part 1
To achieve a threshold performance at Part 1, a student will normally be required to:
(i) Obtain an overall weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
(ii) Obtain a mark of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to not less than 80 credits taken in Part 1; and
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in modules amounting to 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

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

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.

Students considering transferring to another programme should seek guidance from their designated Support Centre in the first instance.

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

(i) Obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 2; and
(ii) Obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits taken in Part 2; and
(iii) Obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits. (A Fail in a Pass/Fail module will be treated as not meeting the minimum threshold requirement for progression or classification. Pass/fail modules are excluded from weighted average calculations but must be passed to avoid failure of the Part or degree.)

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3, a student must achieve a threshold performance.

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.

Professional/placement year

Students are required to pass the professional placement year/study abroad year in order to progress on the programme which incorporates the professional placement year/study abroad year. Students who fail the professional placement year/study abroad year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

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 study abroad / placement year:
Part 2: one-third
Study abroad/Placement year: not included in the classification
Part 3: two-thirds

Details of the classification method is given in detail in the Assessment Handbook under:

- Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's), or
- Section 18: Awards (Integrated Master's programmes). Students who do not progress to Part 4 of the Integrated Master's will normally be subject to the method detailed under Section 17: Awards (Bachelor's)

Please note that there may be a specific version of the above for your year of entry.

Additional costs of the programme

You will incur some additional costs during your programme of study. A wide range of resources to support your learning, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. For some modules, we will recommend that you purchase a copy of the textbook, and there may be other books/resources which it would be convenient for you to buy. We recommend that you budget £300 per year for purchasing books.

Some optional modules may involve additional costs for fieldtrips or travel to work placements. You will be advised of these costs before you enrol on the module.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations. Estimates were calculated in 2026.

Students may consider purchasing a laptop to help support their learning. Information on recommended device specifications can be found on the DTS Student Hub.

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 War, Peace and International Relations for students entering Part 1 in session 2027/28
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