

International Relations

UCAS Code: Combined Honours only (please see website for details)

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2024/2025

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

Every day, international issues are in the news headlines – this is your chance to become an expert on relations between states, economies, ideas and societies. In a world where global pandemics threaten our very existence, nuclear weapons remain primed for use, the world economy teeters on the brink of collapse and delicate ecosystems are under threat, it is little wonder that our International Relations degree is proving a popular choice among students who wish to better understand the world's most challenging problems.

International Relations is a multidisciplinary subject, which draws in contributions from politics, history, media, sociology, law, economics and religion. Global issues dominate the news headlines on a daily basis and International Relations will allow you to focus on this dimension of politics. This is an opportunity to become an expert in international issues in a historical, political and cultural context.

All our academics are conducting internationally published research. Our key strengths are in Theories of International Relations; Peace and Conflict; British and US foreign policy and EU and UN politics. Our subject deals squarely with some of the most daunting, intractable but important challenges of today.

Entry Requirements

This course follows the standard University entry requirements. Please see the website for further information.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2024/2025 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

On top of tuition fees, you also need to consider the cost of core textbooks at approximately £100. There are optional national and international fieldtrips and the cost of these vary, but these costs will be set out clearly with plenty of notice.

You will also need to consider the cost of your accommodation each year whilst you study at university.

Visit our accommodation webpages for further details about our Halls of Residence: www.hope.ac.uk/halls

Applicants will need access to a computer if course delivery is switched to online. The University has a laptop lending service if remote study is necessary.



**LIVERPOOL
HOPE
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International Relations Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to International Relations

Your first year provides you with the knowledge of the key sub disciplines that underpin International Relations (IR).

Year one consists of five dimensions of learning, these consist of:

Foundational Concepts

Students are introduced to the formative terms and concepts used by IR scholars in their everyday analysis of world politics.

Theories of IR

Theory is a social scientist's tool for understanding the world around us and for developing research. Students will be introduced to the formative theories of IR.

Global institutions and structures

In order to understand world politics, students will expect to be introduced to global institutions that govern world affairs daily and manage the global balance of power in an ever uncertain and volatile world.

Regional events and developments

Coming toward the end of their first year, and equipped with the basic conceptual, theoretical and institutional knowledge central to IR scholarship, students will be introduced to recent and current events across the globe.

Research development

In addition to discipline focused lessons, students will have a one-hour lecture per week dedicated to academic skills developments.

Year Two

Explorations in International Relations

This course aims to provide students with a strong understanding of the theory and practice of key aspects of international relations. It considers the role of the state and the attributes of those who help to shape international relations on an individual, institutional and systemic basis.

Theories and analysis of International Relations

This component builds and expands on the theoretical ideas you will have studied in first year and which goes on to examine a range of key issues and problems.

Global Issues in International Relations

This component offers a contextualisation on the main global issues and debates in international politics today including environmental issues, food security, poverty, migration, conflict and intervention, terrorism, and transnational organized crime.

The challenges and structures of Foreign Policy

The practical side of the programme is focused particularly on the challenges and structures of foreign policy, and there is a supporting seminar series focused on foreign policy.

EU Foreign Policy

This seminar series explores the origins and developments of EU Foreign Policy and assesses its strengths and challenges.

UK Foreign Policy

This seminar series explores UKs international identity and foreign policy in relation to key regions/countries in the world.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in International Relations

The course builds upon the theoretical foundation that students would have had from their first and second years. It also incorporates and develops on the nuanced and critical understanding of 'real world' dynamics. In terms of teaching, contact hours are separated into lecture, seminars and research classes.

The seminars are divided into two core areas throughout the year and help students deepen knowledge in issues relating to:

Security, Peace and Conflict:

Diverse questions such as the climate and global conflicts, humanitarian intervention, terrorism are key components of this strand.

Political theory:

In the political theory strand, we are concerned with questions such as just war theory, what does justice mean for environmentalism.

Research element:

The research classes prepare students for their final year long essay. We use this contact hour to provide skills, knowledge and support to the students, equipping them with the fundamental skills necessary for a long essay research.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, seminars, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10-12 students in the first year. You also have the opportunity to have a one-to-one meeting with your tutor each week.

For the International Relations part of your Combined Honours degree, there are approximately 6 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 5 teaching hours in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend approximately 35 hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessments are varied and consist of formal exams and a range of written coursework assignments. In your final year, you will complete a special study or dissertation.

For each assessment, you receive constructive written feedback to you that not only explains the strengths and weaknesses of the particular piece of work but which also makes clear what must be improved in future work. Feedback is provided verbally to the whole year group where possible, to emphasise points of general relevance, and you will have the opportunity either in class time or in 'drop in' office hours to discuss your work privately with the tutor.



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