

# International Relations

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

**Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2025/2026**

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 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 2025/2026 are £9,535 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](http://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  
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UNIVERSITY**

1844

## CONTACT

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[www.hope.ac.uk](http://www.hope.ac.uk)

# 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 three dimensions of learning, these consist of:

#### Foundational Concepts

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

#### Key developments and actors

Students will be introduced to recent and current events across the globe. Students will expect to touch on political, economic social, cultural and diplomatic issues as well as key actors and institutions involved.

#### Global issues in international relations

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

## 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 studied in the first year and which goes on to examine a range of key issues and problems.

#### The challenges and structures of Foreign Policy

This component focuses on the challenges and structures of foreign policy, and looks at theoretical

approaches foreign policy analysis, and then develops a series of in-depth case study evaluations.

#### 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:

#### Bottom-up international Politics

This questions the role of non-state actors and civil society in international politics.

#### Dynamics of conflict and peace

This reflects on theoretical underpinnings and developments around contemporary conflicts and notions of peacemaking, peacekeeping and peacebuilding.

#### U.S.-led order and post-hegemony

This component reflects on the historical role of the US in shaping the global order and focuses on post-hegemony developments, challenges and scenarios.

#### Research element

Students will do either a 10,000-word dissertation in conjunction with your other subject, or a 5,000 words special study.

#### 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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