

International Relations

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

Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2026/2027

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

International Relations is a part of Political Science. It looks at the global system and its effects on politics. Students learn about nation-states, cooperation, conflict, the causes of war, and the rules that keep order and peace. This International Relations course combines history, sociology, anthropology, media, law, and economics.

Our academic team includes internationally recognised experts. They publish in top peer-reviewed journals and with prestigious academic presses. Their research looks at state behavior and foreign policies. They study the UK, US, EU, and Latin America. They also explore conflict resolution, international law, and regional integration. This course tackles urgent global issues.

Students receive strong career support and practical experience. With help from civil servants and diplomats, they represent the University in model CoP and NATO negotiations. These events, organised by the British International Studies Association in London, help develop diplomatic skills and expand networks.

The "Practitioners in Politics and International Relations" series teams up with the Careers Office and Student Futures. It brings in leaders, like Members of Parliament and the Mayor of Liverpool, to help students explore political careers. Our team supports student engagement with the 'Civil Service Masterclass.' This programme, run by 'Unique and Special Projects,' is backed by the Department of Education, the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and the Metro Mayor.

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 2026/2027 are £9,790 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
UNIVERSITY**

1844

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International Relations Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to International Relations

In your first year, you will study the key sub-disciplines that underpin International Relations.

Foundational Concepts

This module introduces the key terms, concepts, and theories used by International Relations scholars in the study of world politics. You will explore the origins of power and diplomacy, the concepts of the State and Nation, the differences between power and influence, and the dimensions of security.

Global Issues in International Relations

This module focuses on the global institutional order, diplomatic practice, and the actors shaping today's international system. You will examine pressing global challenges such as environmental change, food security, poverty, migration, conflict, intervention, terrorism, and transnational organised crime.

Year Two

Theories and Analysis of International Relations

This module builds on the theoretical foundations introduced in the first year, examining key approaches to International Relations. You will study mainstream perspectives such as Liberalism and Realism, middle-ground approaches including Constructivism and the English School, and critical perspectives such as Marxism, Dependency Theory, Post-Structuralism, Post-Colonialism, Critical Theory, Feminism, Green Theory, and Post-Developmentalism.

The Challenges and Structures of Foreign Policy

This module focuses on the challenges, structures, and practices of foreign policy. It introduces theoretical approaches to foreign policy analysis and develops these through detailed case studies, including:

EU Foreign Policy

Explore the origins and evolution of EU foreign policy, with attention to its strengths and challenges in areas such as security, trade, environmental policy, normative power, and integration.

UK Foreign Policy

Examine the UK's international identity and foreign policy in relation to key global regions.

Year Three

In the final year, students build on the theoretical foundations of the first and second years, developing a nuanced and critical understanding of real-world dynamics.

Core topics include:

Bottom-Up International Politics

Examine the role of non-state actors and civil society in shaping international politics

Dynamics of Conflict and Peace

Study the theories and practices of conflict, peacemaking, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding

U.S.-Led Order and Post-Hegemony

Analyse the historical role of the United States in shaping the global order and consider post-hegemonic developments and challenges

Research Element

Develop research skills and knowledge to support your final-year project, with guidance and academic support throughout

For the research component, you will complete either a 10,000-word dissertation (in conjunction with your other subject) or a 5,000-word special study.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, seminars, and tutorials which typically have no more than 10 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 40 hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have.

ASSESSMENT AND FEEDBACK

Assessment is varied and tailored to each stage of study. In the first year, you will complete continuous assessments such as essays, briefing papers, presentations, and take-home tests. Formal exams are not part of first-year study.

In the second and third years, assessment includes essays, written policy reports, and formal exams where appropriate. In the final year, you will complete either a 5,000-word International Relations research project or a 10,000-word integrated dissertation that combines International Relations with your other subject.

Assessment is designed to support learning, with timely, constructive written feedback highlighting strengths and areas for improvement.



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