

Politics & International Relations BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: L201 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2021/2022

Placement year opportunities available



Course Overview

The Politics and International Relations degree brings together the broader study of politics and political ideas with the question of how states interact with each other on the global stage. It evaluates the key questions related to transnational issues such as globalization and the environment and the actors engaged in them.

Politics and International Relations is a very dynamic subject, which places a special emphasis on the international and global dimension of politics. In an ever changing world, new challenges are constantly arising – from climate change and pandemics, to terrorism and security – and we therefore seek to engage with live issues in the world as they evolve and change over time. We actively encourage debate and discussion amongst our students, encouraging a stronger awareness and appreciation of different points of view.

In doing so, we explore the key ideas, institutions and issues that can help us to understand politics in an international, national and local context. You will be taught by staff who are experts in their field, who will teach you to engage with political research and develop the capacity to be an independent, critically-minded scholar and equip you with transferable skills to take into the world of work.

We also organise fieldtrips to relevant local, regional and national institutions as well as organising events with guest speakers and practitioners. Recent visits have included trips to the UK Parliament, Brussels and Berlin, along with visits and talks from key experts, academics and campaigners.

Entry Requirements

The standard offer level is 112 UCAS tariff points.

Fees and Additional Costs

The tuition fees for 2021/2022 are £9,250 for full-time undergraduate courses.

As well as tuition fees, you also need to purchase core textbooks, which we estimate to be around £200. There are also a number of optional national and international fieldtrips throughout your studies, you will be told about the cost of these trips 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



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Politics & International Relations BA (Hons) Curriculum

Year One

Introduction to Politics International Relations

Your first year of study introduces you to the key concepts in the study of international relations. You also look at the key concepts, debates and institutions in politics and political analysis.

You will explore the implications and application of political ideas and ideologies, evaluating political institutions and political actors. During your first year, you will also develop the skills and techniques needed for successful undergraduate study, including essay writing, research, and presentation skills. As part of your first year course you are expected to attend a two-day team-building exercise at our Welsh campus, Plas Caerdeon.

Year Two

Explorations in Politics and International Relations

In your second year, you look at foreign policy and the developments and challenges of British international relations and the politics of emerging powers and non-powerful states. You also study debating theories and global issues in international relations, exploring global challenges such as climate change and terrorism.

With your tutor's guidance, you develop your knowledge of the theories and ideas underpinning modern democracy in Europe and the Americas, its historical development, and the challenges it faces. You will explore the philosophy and methods of international relations, studying the advantages and pitfalls in selected methodological approaches.

You will develop an understanding of democratic development in Europe and

the European Union and the challenges posed by contemporary developments, including economic crisis, migration, and the rise of populism.

Finally, you will look at key institutions, organisations and issues in British politics today.

Year Three

Advanced Studies in Politics and International Relations

Your final year has a particular focus on security, peace and conflict studies. You will analyse theories and unsettling assumptions, revisiting knowledge and understanding in international relations. You also explore in-depth core institutions and contemporary issues in US politics, for example changing demographics, gun control and the death penalty. Keeping with the US, you also study the development of the Imperial Presidency as a central institution in American politics and foreign policy from Roosevelt to the present day.

Your third year also provides you with the opportunity to explore the major works of key thinkers in the political theory canon, and engage in-depth with the concept of power and its application to political phenomena, which provides you with the intellectual tools to conduct your own analysis of power through reading, discussion and case studies.

In your final year you will complete a dissertation in the Politics and International Relations area. This is a 10,000 word project. You will receive support from a tutor and have meetings on a 1-2-1 basis. In the main, this is an autonomous project, but you will receive guidance and feedback about its evolution as the academic year progresses.

COURSE STRUCTURE

Teaching on this degree is structured into lectures, interactive and student-led seminars and tutorials which in your first year typically have no more than 10 students. Regular study skills classes are also provided in the first year to support you in your transition into Higher Education.

In your first year of study, there are approximately 12 teaching hours each week, which reduces to approximately 10 teaching hours each week in your second and third years. On top of teaching hours, you are also expected to spend a number of hours studying independently each week, as well as studying in groups to prepare for any group assessments you may have. Overall, you should expect to spend an average of 40 hours per week devoted to your studies, including taught hours, independent work and group work where relevant.

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.

You will be given constructive written feedback 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.



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