

# Politics & International Relations BA (Hons)

UCAS Code: L201 | Duration: 3 years | Full-time | Hope Park | 2024/2025

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

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.

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](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.



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## CONTACT

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

# Politics & International Relations BA (Hons) Curriculum

## Year One

### Introduction to Politics

Five key themes are addressed:

**Political Institutions:** How are constitutions, legislatures and executives organised?

### Political Organisation and Participation:

What are the functions of parties, party systems and elections?

**The International System:** What is the importance of international political economy and the role of international organisations?

**Political Ideologies:** What are they, how important are they, and what are the differences between them?

**Political Communication:** How are communications, technology and the changing media landscape impacting on how we do politics?

### Introduction to International Relations

Five dimensions of learning, helping you master the basics of the discipline:

**Foundational Concepts:** Understanding the formative terms and concepts of IR scholarship including power, State and Nation, and security.

**Theories of IR:** Mastering key theories in IR scholarship and applying them to real international events.

**Global Institutions and Structures:** Understanding the major institutions that govern world affairs and manage the global balance of power.

**Regional Events and Developments:** Analysing trends in political, economic, social, cultural and diplomatic issues in key world regions.

**Research Development:** A course dedicated to academic skill development.

## Year Two

**British Politics and Democracy:** analysing and evaluating key institutions and organisations of the British political system and how they function.

**Comparative European Democracy:** examining the differences and similarities between different European political systems.

**Theories and Analysis of International Relations:** builds and expands on the first year.

**Global Issues in International Relations:** contextualization of the main global issues and debates in international politics today.

**EU Foreign Policy:** explores the origins and developments of EU Foreign Policy.

**UK Foreign Policy:** explores UK's international identity and foreign policy in relation to key regions/countries in the world.

## Year Three

### Advanced Studies in Politics and International Relations

**Politics in the United States:** examines the evolution of American politics through key issues and major policy challenges.

**The Imperial Presidency:** the development of the presidency as a central institution in American politics and foreign policy.

**Modern European Political Theory:** explores key thinkers in the political theory canon from the fifteenth century to today and the shifting boundaries of this sub-discipline.

**Power and Politics:** through discussion and case studies explores the changing political landscape using the concept of power.

**Security, Peace and Conflict:** addressing diverse questions such as the climate and global conflicts, humanitarian intervention, terrorism.

**Political theory in International Relations:** concerned with questions such as just war theory and what justice means for environmentalism.

**Research element (International Relations):** research classes prepare students for their final year long essay in International Relations.

**Dissertation:** 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 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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