

BA International Relations and Economics
For students entering Part 1 in 2009/0

UCAS code: LL21

Awarding Institution:	University of Reading
Teaching Institution:	University of Reading
Relevant QAA subject Benchmarking group(s):	Politics
Faculty:	Faculty of Social Sciences
Programme length:	3 years
Date of specification:	09/Sep/2009
Programme Director:	Dr Philip Giddings
Programme Advisor:	Dr Simon Burke
Board of Studies:	Politics and Economics
Accreditation:	University of Reading

Summary of programme aims

The curriculum gives students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main sub fields of the discipline: international relations and either comparative government and politics or political philosophy. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of domestic and international politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

The programme establishes key economic principles and tools of analysis at Parts 1 and 2. At Part 2 this begins to broaden out to a consideration of policy issues, and a further choice of applied or statistical study. Part 3 provides a wide range of options. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the fundamental elements of economic theory and its applications, and the ability to apply their skills beyond the areas of specific study.

Transferable skills

During the course of their studies at Reading, all students will be expected to enhance their academic and personal transferable skills in line with the University's Strategy for Learning and Teaching. In following this programme, students will have had the opportunity to develop such skills, in particular relating to communication, interpersonal skills, learning skills, numeracy, self-management, use of IT and problem-solving, and will have been encouraged to further develop and enhance the full set of skills through a variety of opportunities available outside their curriculum.

In addition, the programme encourages business awareness, and an understanding of important features of decision making, such as uncertainty, constraints and opportunity cost.

Programme content

The following profile lists the compulsory modules, together with their credit size, for each Part. Students are required to take a total of 120 credits in each Part. Where the compulsory modules in a Part total less than 120 credits, students are required to select options containing sufficient credits to make up the shortfall. Any such options selected must be drawn from the options listed below for Parts 2 and 3.

In Economics Part 1 deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject and some basic techniques underpinning mathematical analysis in economics. Economic principles are developed further at Part 2, enhanced by a compulsory module related to policy and institutions. Optional modules can be taken exploring further specific applications or analytical techniques. In Part 3, choice from a range of options is available to explore specific sub disciplines and/or applications.

In International Relations Part 1 introduces students to the three strands of the discipline: comparative government, political theory and international relations. Part 2 builds on this knowledge with two compulsory modules (Modern International Relations and Study of Politics) and an optional module from those available at the time. Part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules.

Part 1 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod Code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4
PO1MOG	Modern Government	20	4

PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
EC101	Principles of Microeconomics	20	4
EC102	Principles of Macroeconomics	20	4
EC107	Introduction to Economic Institutions and Policy	10	4
EC108	Mathematics for Economics: Introductory Techniques for BA	10	4

Part 2 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

<i>Mod code</i>	<i>Module Title</i>	<i>Credits</i>	<i>Level</i>
EC219	Economic Analysis	20	5
EC238	Economics of Social Policy	20	5
PO2MIR	Modern International Relations	20	5
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5
PO2CMS	Career Management Skills	20	5

Options (one of):

Government

PO2 AMG	American Government and Politics	20	5
PO2 BGP	British Government and Politics	20	5
PO2 EPI	European Political Integration	20	5
PO2 RGP	Russian Government and Politics	20	5

Theory

PO2 THI	Political Thinking	20	5
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In Economics 20 credits from:

EC203	Introductory Econometrics 20 (BA)	5
EC242	Economics of the Environment and Energy	20
EC243	Economic History	20

Part 3 (three terms)

Compulsory modules

A dissertation of 40 credits is compulsory and may be taken in either Economics or International Relations. In addition students must choose modules totalling 40 credits in both Economics and International Relations.

either

EC3DSI	Dissertation in Economics	40	6
or			
PO3DIS	Dissertation in International Relations	40	6

In International Relations:

Students choose two 20 credit modules from the following lists. At least one must be chosen from List A. The other must be from list B unless a government or theory option has been taken in Part 2.

List A

PO3CSS	An Introduction to Critical Strategic Studies	20	6
PO3DDP	Democracy and Democracy Promotion	20	6
PO3EUS	European Security	20	6
PO3INT	Intelligence, War and International Relations	20	6
PO3ITE	International Terrorism	20	6
PO3MEA	Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	20	6
PO3PIE	Politics of the International Economy	20	6
PO3STH	Strategic Theory	20	6
PO3SWW	Strategy of the Two World Wars	20	6
PO3UNI	UN and International Order	20	6
PO3WPE	War, Peace and International Ethics	20	6

List B

PO3AFG	African Government and Politics	20	6
PO3BFD	British Foreign and Defence policy since 1945	20	6
PO3FPT	Feminism and Political Theory	20	6
PO3MID	Modern Ideologies	20	6
PO3PES	(The) Politics of Electoral Systems	20	6
PO3UKP	United Kingdom Politics since 1960	20	6
PO3USF	U.S. Foreign Policy since 1950	20	6

In Economics: Students choose two 20 credit options from the following:

EC308	Business Economics	20	6
EC311	International Economics	20	6
EC312	Economics of Development	20	6
EC314	Public Economics	20	6
EC315	History of Economic Thought	20	6
EC316	European Economic Integration	20	6
EC320	Money and Banking	20	6
EC322	Economics of Labour	20	6
EC324	European Urban and Regional Economics	20	6
EC328	Economics of Land, Development and Planning	20	6
EC334	Environmental Economics	20	6
EC337	Processes of Long Term Political and Economic Change	20	6

Progression requirements

To proceed to Part 2 students must:

- obtain at least 40% in each of the compulsory modules taken;
- obtain an overall average of at least 40% in 120 credits taken in the examination;

To proceed to part 3 students must:

- obtain an overall average of at least 40% across all Part 2 modules totally 120 credits
- obtain at least 40% in each of the Politics and International Relations modules taken
- obtain an overall average of at least 40% across all Economics modules;
- obtain not less than 35% in any Economics module at Part 2 (i.e. no marks of less than 35% will be condoned. A mark (or marks) of 35-39% will be permitted in Economics modules totalling a maximum of 20 credits.

Summary of teaching and assessment

Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars. All modules involve coursework, which takes a variety of forms. Final assessment normally involves a written examination, and may also incorporate coursework marks; the maximum proportion of a final module mark allocated to coursework is 25%, other than in special cases.

Admission requirements

Entrants to this programme are normally required to have obtained:

Grade C or better in English in GCSE; and achieved:

UCAS Tariff: 280 points from 3 A Levels or 300 points from 3 A Levels and 1 AS Level

International Baccalaureate: 31 points

Irish Leaving Certificate: BBBB

Two AS grades are accepted in place of one A Level.

Mature applicants Applications from mature candidates are welcomed. A mature applicant is more likely to receive an offer of a place if he or she has undertaken recent study, for example 2 or more A levels or an Access course, but each case is assessed on its individual merits.

International applicants Applications from international candidates are welcomed. If you are not offering A levels we advise you to contact either the EU or international admissions tutor before applying in order to discuss the acceptability of your qualifications.

Admissions Tutor: Dr JP Lester

Support for students and their learning

University support for students and their learning falls into two categories. Learning support includes IT Services, which has several hundred computers, and the University Library, which across its three sites holds over a million volumes, subscribes to around 4,000 current periodicals, has a range of electronic sources of information and houses the Student Access to Independent Learning (S@il) computer-based teaching and learning facilities. There are language laboratory facilities both for those students studying on a language degree and for those taking modules offered by the Institution-wide Language Programme. Student guidance and welfare support is provided by Personal Tutors, School Senior Tutors, the Students' Union, the Medical Practice and the Student Services Centre. The Student Services Centre is housed in the Carrington Building and includes the Careers Advisory Service, the Disability Advisory Service, Accommodation Advisory Team, Student Financial Support, Counselling and Study Advisors. Student Services has a Helpdesk available for enquiries made in person or online, or by calling the central enquiry number on (0118) 378 5555. Students can get key information and guidance from the team of Helpdesk Advisers, or make an appointment with a specialist adviser; Student Services also offer drop-in sessions on everything from accommodation to finance. The Carrington Building is open between 8:30 and 17:30 Monday to Thursday (17:00 Friday and during vacation periods). Further information can be found in the Student Diary (given to students at enrolment) or on the Student website.

Career prospects

Certain combined-subject courses, eg Politics/Economics, might be useful for people interested in market research or the finance divisions of major firms or social science research units such as the Institute for Public-Policy Research, Policy Studies Institute or Chatham House. A combined degree with a national curriculum subject is useful for students wishing to teach in schools and colleges or extra-mural departments and the WEA. In recent years graduates from this programme have entered a variety of careers in both the private and the public sectors. Examples include jobs in banking and finance, accountancy, the civil service, and universities. Students are given specific vocational training and orientation through a second year Career Management Skills module run in conjunction with the Careers Advisory Service.

Opportunities for study abroad or for placements

There are no formal arrangements, but opportunities are available at institutes of higher education with which the University of Reading has a Socrates agreement.

Programme Outcomes

By the end of the economics part of the programme students are expected to have acquired a knowledge of basic economic analysis and its relevant application. They are expected to be competent to apply economic analysis to practical problems and, with further training at postgraduate level (if suitably qualified) to be able to work as professional economists in government, academics, or private sector, especially in contexts relevant to the other part of their degree. Students are expected to have acquired an ability to think analytically, to develop frameworks for considering and resolving complex problems, and to discriminate between good and bad arguments. Students are expected to have developed the ability to express themselves clearly and concisely in both written and spoken contexts.

The International Relations component aims to provide a thorough degree level education in international relations. It aims to produce graduates who have experience of the sub-fields of the discipline and have acquired appropriate study skills.

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills, qualities and abilities in the following areas:

Knowledge and Understanding

A. Knowledge and understanding of:

1. The fundamental concepts at the core of economic knowledge comprising microeconomics and macroeconomics.
2. Empirical studies in economics, using statistical and other methods.
3. How to integrate and apply economic concepts to real world problems and issues.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Formal lectures, classes and practical sessions, supported by directed and assessed self-study. Feedback and guidance are an important part of the process for all three years of study. Students undertake project work and write essays, in which they learn to apply economic concepts to relevant real world issues.

Assessment

Courses are assessed through a combination of coursework and unseen examinations. Feedback is provided on assessed work.

Skills and other attributes

B. Intellectual skills - *able to:*

1. Structure, analyse and solve problems.
2. Think laterally and explore alternative solutions.
3. Comprehend the evolving state of knowledge in the degree subject areas.
4. Suggest, organise, collect relevant data and compile a report on an economic issue.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Substantive problems are illustrated in lectures and smaller groups. Essays, project work and problem sets provide related opportunities for problem solving. Lectures supported by essays and discussions provide the basis of ensuring the accumulating knowledge base becomes comprehensible.

Assessment

Skills are assessed through examination questions, essays, project work and problem sets.

C. Practical skills - *able to:*

1. Collect and critically evaluate the major literature on a topic.
2. Obtain data, to use them, and to assess the empirical work of others that use economic data.
3. Use computerised tools for the purposes of research and learning.
4. Draw on the knowledge base in economics and economic research methods to suggest ways to solve problems.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

Practical issues are illustrated in lectures and classes, reinforced by problem sets, essays and project work. The tasks required of students involve library and computerised searches to collect references and data, and to use them to complete practical tasks within set deadlines.

Assessment

Assessment is through essays and project work.

D. Transferable skills - *able to:*

1. Use IT, including word processing, data exchange, graphics, spreadsheets and other such software, and the conduct of web site searches.
2. Communicate orally and in writing.
3. Work as part of a team.
4. Use library and web-based resources.
5. Organise project work from beginning to completion.
6. Manage time to achieve goals.

Teaching/learning methods and strategies

The learning of IT is encouraged through web site searches, use of library resources, and the presentation of word processed documents including graphics displays. Oral presentations are required at several points in the programme. Preparation for these presentations require working as part of a team at several points in the second and third years. Good time management is essential to organising a timetable to complete essays and project work.

Assessment

Assessment is through the production of essays and project work, and through the critical evaluation of presentation performances.

Please note - This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the module description and in the programme handbook. The University reserves the right to modify this specification in unforeseen circumstances, or where the process of academic development and feedback from students, quality assurance process or external sources, such as professional bodies, requires a change to be made. In such circumstances, a revised specification will be issued.