Why study Politics and International Relations at Reading?
Our School is an exciting and dynamic place to learn. We help you to explore contemporary world issues and understand the forces shaping our world today. We aim to equip you with knowledge of developments in the global economy and how these are linked with political changes at the national and international level.

Innovative teaching
From our exciting Model United Nations module to our weekly informal economics discussion meetings.¹

Enriching learning environment
Our learning methods combine traditional lectures and seminars, simulation activities and online tutorials.

Staff expertise
Our staff are approachable, helpful and passionate about their research. As leading experts in their research, they often feature in the local and international media for their insights into global affairs. We have achieved excellent results in the most recent Research Excellence Framework (REF).²

Commitment to student employability
We have a dedicated placement officer on hand to help you apply for placements, as well as an award-winning careers centre to support you before and beyond graduation.

An international perspective
We typically teach you in small, interactive groups with students from around the world.

A strong community
Built from student societies, regular department socials and strong pastoral care.

For more information
www.reading.ac.uk/question

¹ These modules are provided as a sample of some of the modules that may be available on these courses.
² Overall, 80% of our research impact was judged to be world leading or internationally excellent in the REF 2014 - Politics and International Relations.
# DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

## Year 1

**COMPULSORY MODULES**

- All: International Relations and Strategic Studies
- All: Introduction to Contemporary Democracy
- All: Introduction to Political Ideas
- All: Introductory Macroeconomics
- All: Introductory Mathematics for Economics
- All: Introductory Microeconomics
- All: Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

- All: +3 optional modules from across the University
- All: British Society
- All: Freedom
- All: Inequality

## Year 2

**COMPULSORY MODULES**

- All: Study of Politics
  - 2 or 3 of: Modern IR/Political Classics/Comparative Politics
  - +2 or 3 optional modules
  - Modern International Relations
  - Contemporary Strategy
  - War and Peace since 1800
  - Political Classics or Comparative Government & Politics
  - +1 optional module
  - Intermediate Microeconomics
  - Intermediate Macroeconomics
  - Political Classics or Comparative Government & Politics
  - +1 optional module in each subject
  - Modern International Relations
  - Intermediate Microeconomics
  - Intermediate Macroeconomics
  - +1 optional module in each subject

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

- American Government and Politics
- British Government and Politics
- European Political Integration
- Insurgency and Counterinsurgency
- Karl Marx
- The Media and Politics
- Model United Nations
- Political Thinking
- Politics of the Welfare State

You can also choose optional modules from:
- Module from another department
- Study Abroad
- Work Placement Project

## Year 3

**COMPULSORY MODULES**

- All: Dissertation
  - +4 optional modules
  - Dissertation in either subject
  - +2 optional modules in each subject

**OPTIONAL MODULES**

- British Foreign & Defence Policy Since 1945
- Democracy & Democracy Promotion
- Feminism & Political Theory
- Intelligence, War & IR
- International Organizations in Global Politics
- International Political Economy
- International Terrorism
- Intro to Critical Security Studies
- Parliamentary Studies
- Politics in the United Kingdom since 1945
- Politics & IR of the Middle East
- Responsibility for Injustice
- Strategic Theory
- US Foreign & Defence Policy Since 1950
- War, Peace & International Ethics

You can also choose optional modules from:
- Module from another department
- Work Placement Project

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Research in the Department of Politics and International Relations
Research in the Department of Politics and International Relations is integral to what we do. Our teaching is research-led and directly related to the wider world, giving you the opportunity to explore cutting-edge issues.

Opposite are just a few areas for which we have recently received national and international recognition.

We strengthen and explore our research through an active and exciting programme of regular events and seminars giving you the opportunity to discuss research with leading academics and external experts.

**Leverhulme Climate Justice Project**

This study aims to bridge the gap between the scientific and ethical issues behind climate change. Having received a £1m grant from the Leverhulme Trust, the Climate Justice Project aims to reach the forefront of research into this topical issue, with a research centre which was opened in 2017.

**Dr Halikiopoulou on Greek politics**

Recent political and economic instability in Greece has contributed to the rise of the neo-Nazi Golden Dawn Party. Our resident expert, Dr Halikiopoulou, has received international media recognition for her insights on far right parties, getting involved in campaigns in Greece as well as giving numerous television and radio interviews.

**Research in Politics and International Relations**

Our research employs a wide range of approaches, including cutting-edge empirical methods as well as normative, theoretical, historical and critical approaches. Many of our staff are also specialists in specific regions of the world. We are home to the Leverhulme Programme in Climate Justice, we do groundbreaking work on international organisations such as the UN, and we are leading the field with our work on far right parties in Europe.

We organise our research into three overlapping clusters. In the **International Relations** cluster we do empirical and theoretical research on war and conflict, international institutions, and international political economy. The **Political Theory** cluster uses broadly analytical methods and is focused on normative and applied questions, such as intergenerational justice, equality, and climate change. In the **Comparative Politics** cluster research concentrates on party politics and political economy.

*For more information:*

[www.reading.ac.uk/question](http://www.reading.ac.uk/question)
Placement opportunities
Placements are a great way to put your academic skills into practice, gain valuable work experience, and develop personally and professionally.

In Politics and International Relations, there are a variety of placement options to choose from. Whether you want to take a year in industry, complete a placement over the summer or integrate it into your studies as a two week ‘taster’, there are plenty of ways to enrich your learning.

During your studies, we also provide support from our dedicated Placement Officer, who can offer you advice and support in looking for a position. The University Careers Centre is also available for one to one and group support, to help you take the next step in your career.²

**Students in our Department have worked in a variety of organisations, including:**
- Houses of Parliament
- Local councils
- Lloyd’s Bank

**STUDY ABROAD¹**

The international nature of our courses means that spending time abroad perfectly complements your studies. It’s also a great opportunity to:
- Enhance your employability
- Expand your academic knowledge
- Experience a different culture
- Make new friends from around the world
- Develop life skills

**When can I go?**

1. During your second year, as part of our Model United Nations module
2. For a term, in the spring or summer of your second year
3. For a year, between your second and third years

**Where can I go?**

Each year we offer a range of exciting and rewarding international destinations. Below is a list of destinations previous students have visited:
- Australia
- Canada
- Denmark
- France
- Germany
- Japan
- Romania
- Sweden
- USA

‘Everybody I met at Ole Miss were absolutely lovely! So hospitable and extremely helpful. I really felt at home! Studying abroad was the best choice I made at University.’

Tobi Martins-Ojo
(BA Politics and International Relations)
Studied abroad at University of Mississippi

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¹ Subject to availability and eligibility guidelines.
² Placements are subject to availability and eligibility criteria, and are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunities.
DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

A degree in Politics and International Relations offers you outstanding prospects, aiming to equip you for a rewarding career in government, the public sector, political and security consultancies, NGOs and not-for-profit organisations.

It is also a fantastic choice if you want to keep your options open, as it provides you with a range of transferable skills valued by business.

How our courses are tailored to developing your future career prospects:

• Develop a range of transferable skills, including problem solving, data analysis, written and verbal communication, and time management.

• Our Model United Nations module offers you the chance to take part in an annual conference and our Middle East module involves a crisis simulation. Both give you the opportunity to put your academic skills to the test in the political arena.¹

• Our innovative Politics Radio show provides an opportunity to practise your journalistic and political skills while gaining hands on experience outside the classroom.

Opportunities we offer:

• Our regular series of events includes a range of visiting speakers from the political sphere, giving you a taste of the different opportunities available to you after graduation.

• We have a dedicated Placement Officer to advise you on work placements which offer you vital experience and the opportunity to develop employability skills.²

• Our experienced careers advisers are on hand from week 1 to offer you guidance on careers, job applications, CVs, mock interviews and more. Our RED award helps to develop employability skills and includes training and development sessions, volunteering, and part time work.

Destinations of some previous graduates:

• Business Development Manager, Clarify
• Forecasting Analyst, EDF
• Corporate Affairs, BskyB
• Campaign Manager, Bromsgrove Conservative Association
• Trainee Librarian, The Guardian
• Consultant, JP Morgan
• Royal Marines Officer
• Conference Producer, Civil Service.

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