

Programme Specification

**BA Politics and International Relations with International
Foundation Year**
For students entering Foundation year in September 2023

UCAS Code:
L256 L257
UFPOLFF

This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	4 years
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The programme aims to give students an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to the three main sub fields of the discipline: political philosophy, comparative government and international relations. 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 society can 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.

This programme comprises of a foundation year (Part 0) provided through the International Foundation Programme (IFP) which provides access to higher education in Britain to international students who do not possess the normal entry requirements of GCE Advanced level qualifications or the equivalent. Through the part 0 you will be equipped with subject specific and general study skills which will enable you to cope with the demands of undergraduate study. This is achieved through the provision of high quality teaching which is sympathetic to the needs of students from a wide range of educational backgrounds.

Foundation year: In the Foundation year you will have the opportunity to develop transferable skills through the provision of a compulsory credit-bearing Academic Skills module. The key skills relate to Critical Thinking, Essay Writing, Research, Referencing and avoiding plagiarism, Group Work and Projects, Presentations, and Assessment and Examination techniques. You will also take three 40-credit modules as specified in the module information aligned to the 'A Level' entry requirements for the degree. If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, one of these 40 credit modules must be International English.

Students starting Part 0 in January will join Part 1 in September of the same year.

Part 1:	Part 1 introduces you to core concepts in comparative government, political and international relations. You also have options to study introductory modules covering topics like inequality, the politics of climate change, war and british society.
Part 2:	Part 2 continues to develop your understanding of politics and international relations through core modules in international relations, comparative government and political theory. You will also take a compulsory module in methods and approaches used to conduct research in all three of these parts of the academic discipline of politics and international relations, while taking optional modules which allow you to focus further in your areas of interest within it.
Part 3:	Part 3 gives you the opportunity to pursue your individual interests through optional modules and guided research. You will be supervised to write a dissertation on a topic of your choice and pick four modules from a wide range offered by the Department and reflecting the research of its staff. These will range from across topics like international organisations like the UN, the impact of gender in politics, foreign policy in the UK and the US, and the work of Karl Marx.

Module information

Part 0 comprises 140 credits and Parts 1, 2 and 3 each comprise 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Foundation modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
IF0ACA	Academic Skills	20	0

Students entering in the January cohort will take the compulsory module IF0ACJ Academic Skills instead of IF0ACA Academic Skills.

The remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available from a list provided by the International Foundation Programme.

If your level of English is below the standard specified for undergraduate study, one of these 40 credit modules must be IF0IE1 (or IF0IEJ) International English.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20	4
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20	4
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20	4

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Politics and International Relations and modules from elsewhere in the University.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20	5

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Politics and International Relations and modules from elsewhere in the University.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits	Level
PO3DIS	Dissertation	40	6

Remaining credits will be made up of optional modules available in the Department of Politics and International Relations and modules from elsewhere in the University.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs. For textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £400 to £500 a year. The core textbook, which most students normally purchase, cost £300 new, and there may

be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy. Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions. Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page. Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

You will be taught: primarily through seminars and lectures.

Knowledge and understanding are gained through formal teaching (lectures, seminar discussions, and individual essay feedback), prescribed and recommended reading, and the writing of essays and a dissertation. In Part 1 and Part 2 students attend both lectures and seminars, which in Part 3 most teaching is through seminars.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 192 hours, Part 2 - 204 hours, Part 3 - 120 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations.

Progression Requirements

Progression Part 0 Foundation Year

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

- i. an overall average of at least 40% over all modules taken in Part 0;
- ii. no more than 40 credits of these modules with a mark below 35%
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module

To progress to Part 1, students must satisfy the following progression and English language requirements:

- i. at least 55% in each of two 40 credit modules, including any specified modules.
- ii. an average of at least 40% in the remaining two modules
- iii. at least 40% in the Academic Skills module
- iv. no module mark below 35%

In addition, students taking module International English (IFOIE1 or IFOIEJ) must obtain 55% in that module.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 0 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Completion if he or she leaves the University before completing the subsequent Part.

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory modules in Politics and International Relations at Part 1 (PO1ICD, PO1IPI, PO1IRS).

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits; and
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Politics and International Relations with International Foundation Year for students
entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

16 June 2022

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