



University of
Reading

WELCOME TO

THE SCHOOL OF POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SCHOOL OF POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

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.

Why study Politics and International Relations at Reading?

WHY STUDY POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AT READING?



Innovative teaching and learning

We aim to ensure that time in the classroom is quality time which will inspire and motivate you to enjoy your subject and succeed in your work. Our focus on small group teaching reflects a commitment to direct and sustained engagement between our talented students and our world-leading researchers. You will receive high quality tuition in a friendly and supportive environment where you can debate with your peers and challenge yourself.

In addition to traditional essays and exams we offer a variety of exciting and innovative study options. Our Middle East module includes a simulation day, while our Media and Politics module gives you the opportunity to contribute to our weekly Politics radio show. All our courses provide opportunities to undertake a work placement and study abroad.¹



Commitment to employability

Our dedicated Placement Officer is on hand to help you search for placement opportunities.²

Our degrees aim to equip you with a valuable range of transferable skills, including problem solving, data analysis, written and verbal communication, and time management.



A global outlook

Studying Politics and International Relations involves debating significant domestic and international issues and developments.

Our staff and student body is made up of people from all around the globe and our use of small, interactive seminar groups encourages dynamic discussion among them.

i 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. Placements and study abroad are subject to availability and eligibility criteria.
- ² Placements are subject to availability and eligibility criteria, and are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunities.



Undergraduate courses

We offer two single-honours courses and two joint honours courses with Economics. All courses can be extended to 4 years with the addition of a Placement Experience or Year Abroad

BA Politics and International Relations

This is our most popular and flexible course, allowing you to specialize in two of the three main branches of politics (Political Theory, Comparative Politics, and International Relations) or to continue with all three. You will also have the opportunity to take modules from other departments, to incorporate a work placement, and to take advantage of opportunities to study abroad. In the third year, all students write a dissertation and pursue a portfolio of specialist, optional modules, all of which draw on cutting-edge research conducted in the Department.

BA War, Peace and International Relations

This course focuses on the study of warfare and strategy within international politics, drawing on a longstanding area of research expertise at the University of Reading. This specialist focus can be complemented with modules in either political theory or comparative politics, while you also have the opportunity to take modules from other departments, to incorporate a work placement, and to study abroad. In the third year, you will write a dissertation and pursue a portfolio of specialist, optional modules, all of which draw on cutting-edge research conducted in the Department.

BA International Relations and Economics

This course enables you to combine the specialist study of international relations with a grounding in economics, producing an appreciation of the key forces driving today's globalized world order. The course provides a thorough introduction to both subjects alongside work placement and study abroad opportunities. In the third year, you can construct your own portfolio of specialist, research-led modules in both subjects and choose whether to write a dissertation in International Relations or Economics.

BA Politics and Economics

This course enables you to combine the specialist study of politics (including comparative politics and political theory) with a grounding in economics, producing an appreciation of the key forces driving contemporary democratic society. The course provides a thorough introduction to both subjects alongside work placement and study abroad opportunities. In the third year, you can construct your own portfolio of specialist, research-led modules in both subjects and choose whether to write a dissertation in Politics or Economics.

The standard offer for all our courses is ABB–BBB at A-level or equivalent.

Politics and International Relations can also be studied jointly with Philosophy, History, English Literature, and Modern Languages.



Course structure

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS¹

Year 1

COMPULSORY MODULES

ALL International Relations and Strategic Studies

ALL Introduction to Contemporary Democracy

ALL Introduction to Political Ideas

●● Introductory Macroeconomics

●● Introductory Mathematics for Economics

●● Introductory Microeconomics

●● Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business

OPTIONAL MODULES

●● +3 optional modules from across the University

British Society

Freedom

Inequality

● Politics & International Relations

● War, Peace & International Relations

● Politics & Economics

● International Relations & Economics

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

●● 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

 For more information:

www.reading.ac.uk/question



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Masters courses

We offer the following taught courses at postgraduate level:

MA Diplomacy

This programme introduces students to theoretical and practical approaches to the study of international diplomacy, through the study of a core module in Contemporary Diplomacy and to encourage interdisciplinary scholarship. The programme encourages the ability to delineate and evaluate issues, select relevant materials and produce arguments encompassing policy, existing practice and knowledge at an advanced level. It also seeks to develop vital practical, transferable skills necessary to conduct independent research.

MA International Relations

This programme aims to provide students with an advanced knowledge and theoretical understanding of the academic discipline of International Relations. It will acquaint you with current debates in the field and their relationship to contemporary problems of world politics. It also aims to cultivate critical analysis of International Relations. It offers the opportunity for specialisation in various aspects of international politics, strategic studies, international political economy, international law, international organisations, and area studies.

MA International Security Studies

This programme aims to equip students with a thorough understanding of key theories, concepts and scholarly debates related to international and global security, and their relationship to contemporary security problems.

Opportunities for specialisation are offered in various areas of strategic studies, diplomacy and conflict resolution, and the international relations and politics of particular regions.

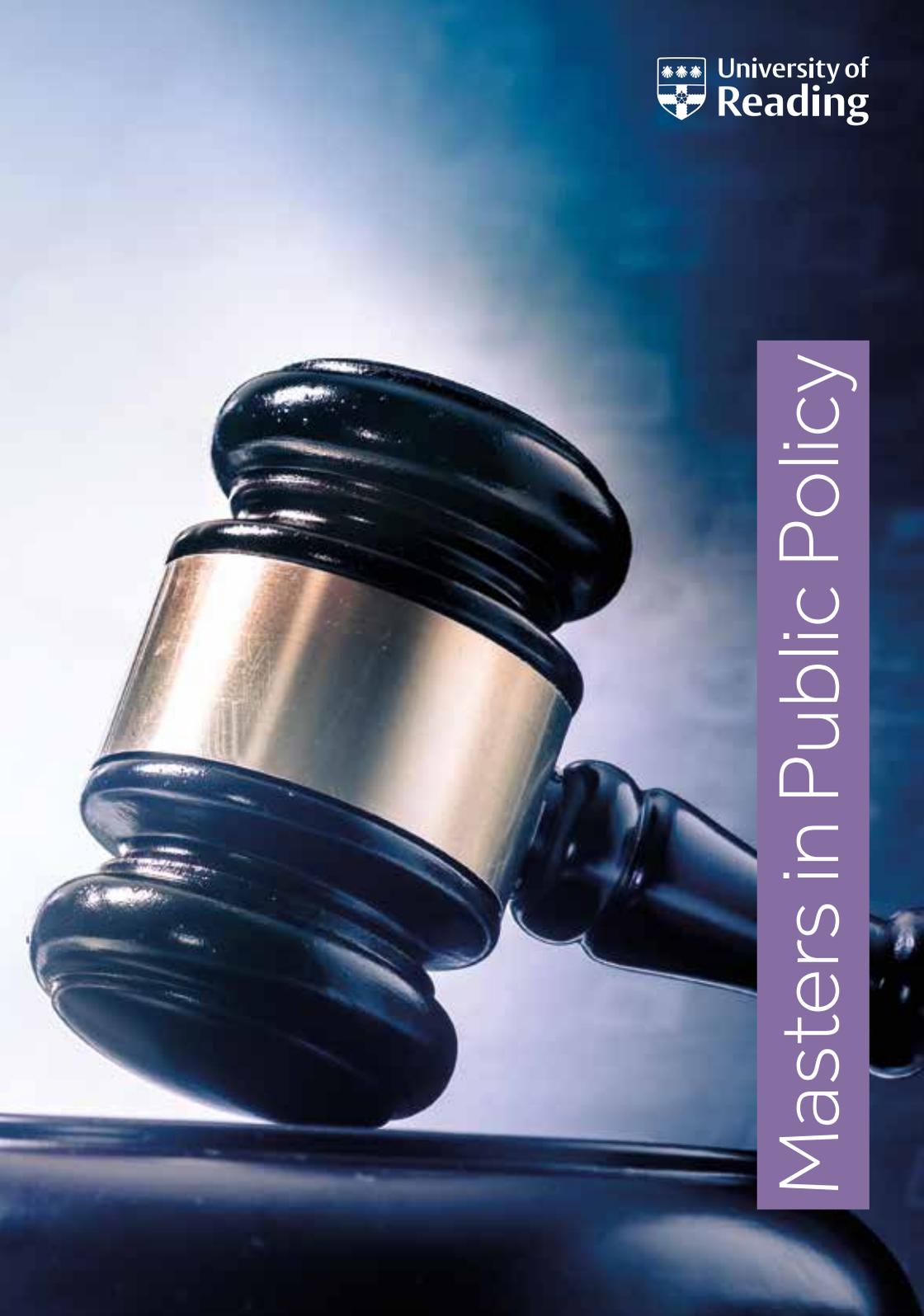
MA Strategic Studies

This programme offers a comprehensive education in both the theory and practice of strategy. In the current strategic environment, a dedicated study of this subject is required for all those who seek to understand modern warfare and how military force can be used in the pursuit of policy objectives. The programme also provides an invaluable education for those who are currently engaged, or seek a career in the defence profession.

Double MA Security Studies with MGIMO, Moscow

This two-year Master's degree is taught entirely in English. Students can elect to take a Russian course when in Moscow, which can be a beginner's course. The course consists of the larger British-style modules taught over 20 weeks and smaller modules as taught at MGIMO University. The subject area covers general topics in the area of international relations and contemporary international affairs, but allows students to specialise in subjects relating to Russia in an international context or else on more general sub-areas such as diplomacy, media, and business economics.

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Masters in Public Policy

MASTERS IN PUBLIC POLICY

SCHOOL OF POLITICS, ECONOMICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS' FLAGSHIP MASTERS DEGREE

Public Policy affects all areas of our lives, including decisions on health, welfare, housing, education, security, international development, energy and climate change, to name just a few. Our MA in Public Policy aims to give you the tools to understand and assess every public policy issue. Our programme is interdisciplinary: it uses traditional and modern insights from both economics and politics to develop essential skills needed in policy making. We are proud to have strong interactions with UK government analysts and policy makers. You can also focus on one of the specialist areas, including welfare policy, sustainable environments, global governance and international development.



LEARNING EXPERIENCE

Learning experience

Our programme gives you a good understanding of public policy in the UK, which can be applied in other countries.

Practical experience

Gain exposure to policy makers, with classes led by leading practitioners and seminars with politicians and government officials.

Placement option

The opportunity to undertake a professional work placement whilst you study. You will also receive tailored careers support from our School Placement Officer.¹

ACCREDITATION

This course has been labelled by Climate-KIC - a Knowledge and Innovation Community that works with existing and relevant masters courses to enhance them with complementary learning.

To learn more about this opportunity and to apply, please visit the Climate-KIC website directly.

 For more information:

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¹ Placements are subject to availability and eligibility criteria, and are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunities.



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Research in
the Department
of Politics and
International Relations

RESEARCH IN 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



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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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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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2 Placements are subject to availability and eligibility criteria, and are fully dependent on students securing their own placement opportunities.



International students

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

The School of Politics, Economics and International Relations thrives on the lively academic environment developed from cross cultural collaboration, and both our student and staff community is made up of people from all around the globe. If you're joining us from another country, we want to make your transition as easy as possible.

The International Foundation Programme (IFP)

The International Foundation Programme is an access course especially designed for students without British A-level qualifications or the equivalent. The IFP will provide you with the skills you need to start undergraduate studies in most degrees at Reading. If you're planning on studying one of our courses, you have the option to choose modules in Politics and Economics as part of the IFP.

The International Student Experience team

At Reading, a team of advisers are available to offer support to international students on issues such as; money matters, visa queries, accommodation, and even help with defining words which might be unfamiliar to you. You can also benefit from the Reading University International Mentoring Scheme, matching you with a current student mentor at the University.

'My interest in Politics and Social Science attracted me to my degree. We have really passionate lecturers and academics, who are really keen on helping us to expand our knowledge and give suggestions. As a student from China, I am far away from all my friends and family at home. But I stayed in halls in my first year, and that made me feel more comfortable. Also I tried to join many University societies, doing all different sort of activities with my new friends... Reading town provides us with a really peaceful, clean and sociable environment to live and study, with many options for shopping, food and communication.'

Wenni Gu, China, BA International Relations and Economics

i For more information:

The International Foundation Programme email:
ifpadmissions@reading.ac.uk

The International Student Experience team web:
student.reading.ac.uk/essentials/international



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What our students say



WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY



ABOUT UNIVERSITY AND CAMPUS

Upon reaching the Whiteknights campus for the open day, I instantly knew that this was where I wanted to study my degree. With its beautiful green campus, friendly student atmosphere, and the engaging, passionate staff in the Politics and IR department, something about Reading just felt right, and still feels the same today.

Richard Hydes

Studying at Reading is everything I had hoped for and more. I have made some amazing friends and the staff are simply excellent. There are unlimited opportunities to get involved and develop your skills – from careers workshops, guest lecturers and society events... the list is endless! To put it simply, I cannot wait for my next two years at Reading.

Helen Bonney

ABOUT OUR COURSES

I have the University of Reading to thank for so much: for giving me the opportunity to study my passion, providing me with endless opportunities to continually develop, and, most importantly, for providing me with a set of incredible and unforgettable friendships.

Adam Neville

Reading is one of the few universities in the country where I had the opportunity to study something that I have been passionate about since I was very young... The best part about a degree in politics is the skills you learn that can help you get into all kinds of sectors when looking for a job.

Ollie Johnson

I was attracted to the course because of the wide range of modules and the ability to select my own interests to study. The mixture of lectures and seminars has been great in helping form – and sometimes change! – my opinions, learn from my fellow students and have lively discussions. I have had wonderful support from all of my lecturers who have encouraged and inspired me to reach my full potential throughout my time here, improving my confidence in my academic abilities considerably.

Yasmin Levy-Miller

The teaching and content has been wonderful and I have no doubt that it will have a profound effect on the shaping of my future.

Esther Hughes

