

School of Humanities

Title of Programme: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

Programme Code: LAPIR

## Programme Specification

This programme specification is relevant to students entering:  
27 September 2021

Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance):  
Marjolein Groefsema



Signature

A programme specification is a collection of key information about a programme of study (or course). It identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the programme, lists the modules that make up each stage (or year) of the programme, and the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff. It also describes the structure of the programme, its progression requirements and any programme-specific regulations. This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right programme of study, to current students on the programme, and to staff teaching and administering the programme.

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### Summary of amendments to the programme:

Section	Amendment
D + Table 2	<p>Changes to level 5 modules for all programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Removal of 5HUM1140 Comparative Political Systems</li><li>• Addition of 4HUM1178 Comparative Perspectives in Political Research as new compulsory module</li><li>• Addition of 4HUM1179 Westminster under Strain: Issues in Contemporary British Politics as new optional module</li></ul> <p>Changes to level 5 modules for BA in Politics and International Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Addition 5HUM1165 Postcards from the Empire: Experiences of British Imperialism and 5HUM0286 Propaganda in Twentieth Century War and Politics as optional modules</li></ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Removal of optional module 5HUM1160 Nation and Identity: Newly Independent States in Inter-War Europe</li> </ul> <p>Changes to level 6 modules for BA in Politics and International Relations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Addition of 6HUM2004 The Middle East in Turmoil: The Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1948 as optional module</li> </ul>
D	Number of weeks of full-time equivalent placement activity required for a Sandwich award updated to at least <b>30</b> weeks (UPR AS11, 2.4.1)

If you have any queries regarding the changes please email [AQO@herts.ac.uk](mailto:AQO@herts.ac.uk)

# Programme Specification

## BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

This programme specification (PS) is designed for prospective students, enrolled students, academic staff and potential employers. It provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the intended 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 teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes and content for each module can be found in Definitive Module Documents (DMDs) and Module Guides.

For the Joint degree titles, this Programme Specification should be read in conjunction with the Subject Programme Specification for History (Joint and Minor), Journalism (Joint and Minor) or Philosophy (Joint and Minor).

### Section 1

<b>Awarding Institution/Body</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	University of Hertfordshire
<b>University/partner campuses</b>	De Havilland Campus
<b>Programme accredited by</b>	N/A
<b>Final Qualification</b>	BA (Hons)
<b>All Final Award titles</b>	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations
<b>(Qualification and Subject)</b>	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with a Year Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Study Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (Sandwich)
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and History
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and History with a Year Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and History with Study Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and History (Sandwich)
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Philosophy
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Philosophy with a Year Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Philosophy with Study Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Philosophy (Sandwich)
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Journalism
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Journalism with a Year Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Journalism with Study Abroad
	BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Journalism (Sandwich)
<b>FHEQ level of award</b>	6
<b>UCAS code(s)</b>	L290 Politics and international Relations
	L2V1 Politics & International Relations and History
	L2P5 Politics & International Relations and Journalism
	L2V5 Politics & International Relations and Philosophy
<b>Language of Delivery</b>	English

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## A. Programme Rationale

The BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations has been designed to provide students with a solid and in-depth understanding of all areas of political research ranging from comparative political analysis to political philosophy and International Relations while offering specialised modules tackling topical political issues such as energy governance and terrorism. Through the broad foundational training it offers the degree builds specialised knowledge and academic confidence while providing students with a range of intellectual and practical transferable skills which allow them to succeed in a range of professional destinations from civil service to political advocacy, IGOs and NGOs, journalism and media as well as PR and business.

Featuring a wide range of modules in Politics and International Relations and History, the degree is designed to assist students in developing knowledge and understanding of the key dimensions of and skills in political research through compulsory core modules. Not only but especially located at level 4, these core modules build a solid foundation of conceptual understanding and theoretical and practical-empirical knowledge which students can build on to specialise their level 5 and level 6 studies flexibly in line with their interests and career aspirations. To add to this flexibility the programme includes optional modules from History and Law which students can take to strengthen their understanding of the interdisciplinary character of political concepts and issues and broaden their transferrable skills training.

Beyond this general foundational training, the Politics and International Relations modules offered as part of the degree specifically seek to unpack topical practical, theoretical and ethical questions which arise as a result of an increasing political focus on different dimensions of security and its governance for example as it relates to the study and governance of terrorism, endeavour of peacebuilding and statebuilding or internet governance. Advanced theoretical and methodological training such as the use of Non-Western political theory, discourse analysis or case studies is built into these specialised modules and ensures that academic and skills training in the degree always takes place in the context of learning processes that equip students to understand and critically analyse contemporary domestic and international political happenings.

Throughout the joint degree students develop and use a wide range of theoretical and analytical tools to give analysis and context to the themes explored in those modules. These include specific methodological training such as statistical analysis as well as a variety of transferrable skills built through the programme, such as critical reflection and analysis and strong oral and written argumentation. These are established through authentic experiences, such as assessment through a mock Cabinet crisis meeting as part of the “Contemporary British Politics” module or delivering a presentation at a student conference as part of the dissertation module.

The learning experience in the degree is enhanced through the option to undertake a placement or study abroad year, which allows students to gain professional experience or increase their global awareness to build skills relevant to their studies in Politics and International Relations and increase their future employment prospects. Students on this degree are further able to undertake a 30-week minimum work placement which enables them to consolidate their first two years of learning and gives them the chance to develop valuable professional experience and time- and self-management skills both for their final year of study and in preparation for employment. The successful completion of a placement entitles students to a “Sandwich” degree title.

In addition, students have the option to study Politics & International Relations as a joint degree together with History, Philosophy, or Journalism. The joint degrees seek to provide students with a deep intellectual understanding in foundational areas of political research and analysis in the areas of Philosophy, History or Journalism respectively. It allows them to draw out and unpack cross-disciplinary connections in the subject matter studied and make use of synergy effects in the conceptual underpinnings, theoretical approaches and methods of analysis in the respective disciplines. At the same time, the flexible structure of the joint degrees offers students the opportunity to choose modules from the full breadth of each subjects and thus experience its disciplinary diversity within the scope of the joint degree. Doing so the joint degree is designed to enhance students’ breadth and depth of knowledge, academic confidence as well as the range of transferrable and employability skills to allow them to excel in future employment.

## B. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme has been devised in accordance with the University's graduate attributes of programmes of study as set out in [UPR TL03](#).

### Additionally this programme aims to:

- Provide students with the knowledge and understanding to equip them for their future career, which could in a wide number of fields relating (but not constrained) to politics and political advocacy, international organisations and non-governmental organisations, business, teaching, public relations, civil service, journalism and media as well as for post-graduate study.
- Provide students with the support they require in order to enhance their eventual employability through taught skills, teaching methods and assessment within the programme.
- Provide the students with a sound educational experience that will enable them to acquire a solid grounding in political and international relations principles, which will embrace all the subject specific abilities, transferable intellectual skills and key skills set down in the current Politics and International Relations QAA Subject Benchmark for England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.
- Stimulate students into adopting an enquiring and critical appreciation of political systems and structures as well as developing an appreciation of the contexts of this field.

### In addition, the aims of a single honours in Politics & International Relations are to:

- Allow students to gain in-depth knowledge and understanding of a wide range of topics including elections, party and electoral systems, legislatures and executives, representation, accountability, equality, institutional design and globalisation in politics and international organisations, regimes, international political economy, conflict analysis, peace research, human rights, security studies and international relations theory in International Relations.
- Provide students with a balanced knowledge and critical understanding of a wide range of theoretical approaches and research method including behaviouralism, institutionalism and critical theory for politics, realism, liberalism, social constructivism, Marxism, post-structuralism, feminism, post-colonialism for International Relations and normative political theory, history of political thought, conceptual analysis, analytical political philosophy, Marxism, feminism, environmentalism, human rights, conservatism, post-colonialism and postmodernism in political thought.

## C. Intended Learning Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, skills and other attributes in the following areas. The programme outcomes are referenced to the QAA benchmark statements for Politics and International Relations (February 2015) and the Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (2014) and relate to the typical student. Additionally, the SEEC Credit Level Descriptors for Further and Higher Education (2016) have been used as a guiding framework for curriculum design.

Knowledge and Understanding	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p><b>For all levels:</b> A1 - Show the ability to apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices, relative to the historical and contemporary context.</p> <p>A2 - Show understanding of the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary</p>	<p><b>For all levels:</b> Acquisition of knowledge and understanding is through a combination of lectures and workshops with self-directed and online-directed study which allow the student to practice and consolidate knowledge-based learning in both subjects (A1-A7). Modules at level 4 focus on building knowledge on the important concepts, dimensions and issues in Politics and International Relations (A1-A3).</p>	<p><b>For all levels:</b> Knowledge and understanding are assessed through a flexible combination of coursework, unseen examinations and practical tasks such as presentations and simulations (A1-A8).</p> <p><b>For level 5:</b> Assessment tasks become more complex requiring students to do independent research, produce critical</p>

drawing and transforming practices.

A3 - Demonstrate current awareness of key areas in Politics and International Relations relating to the political systems within British, European and International Politics, political theory and International Relations theory.

**For level 5:**

A4 – Demonstrate a coherent and detailed knowledge of complex areas within this subject area.

A5 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems; the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate and the relationships between them.

**For level 6:**

A6 – Demonstrate a critical understanding of key aspects of Politics and International Relations, along with an appreciation of their inter-relationship with other fields of study.

A7 – Show an appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge in a constantly developing subject yet with an ability to devise and sustain arguments considering multiple perspectives.

**For level 5:**

Lectures and workshops at levels 5 and 6 introduce students to complex theoretical, empirical and methodological issues and underpinnings which allow them to understand and appreciate the nuances and complexities of political research, the inter-relatedness of different dimensions of the field as well as with other fields of study (A4-A7).

**For level 6:**

At level 6 A6 and A7 are deepened in the dissertation module.

Throughout, the learner is encouraged to undertake independent study both to supplement and consolidate what is being taught/learned and to broaden individual knowledge and understanding of the subject. Office hours provide specific opportunities to talk about assessments and provide specific feedback on a student's learning journey.

analyses and creative solutions to complex problem scenarios which reveal the breadth of the field (A4-A7).

**For level 6:**

A6 and A7 are specifically assessed through a 10,000-word dissertation on a specialised topic in Politics and International Relations (A7 and A8).

<u>Intellectual skills</u>	<u>Teaching and learning methods</u>	<u>Assessment strategy</u>
<p><b>For all levels:</b></p> <p>B1- Apply innovative solutions to political and International Relations problems through gathering, organising and deploying evidence and data from a variety of sources.</p> <p>B2 - Deploy the specialised vocabulary, concepts and approaches of the discipline of Politics and International</p>	<p><b>For all levels:</b></p> <p>Intellectual skills are developed through the strategies outlined in Section A above. Online activities will be provided for the students to complete outside of scheduled classes in subject specific areas to give additional support to developing specialised skills in those areas of study within the fields of Politics and International Relations.</p>	<p><b>For all levels:</b></p> <p>B1 and B2 are assessed through unseen examinations and written coursework with a focus on the critical and nuanced analysis of a defined problem requiring the student to find solutions using appropriate approaches and sources.</p> <p><b>For level 5:</b></p>

<p>Relations.</p> <p><b>For level 5:</b> B3 - Be able to gather, organise and deploy evidence from a range of primary and secondary sources to lead to the development of a reasoned, ethical and critically engaged argument.</p> <p><b>For level 6:</b> B4 - Autonomously analyse a range of data using established techniques specific to Politics and International Relations.</p>	<p>Intellectual skills are being incrementally developed from level 4 to 6. At level 4 materials will be delivered and direction given to specific sources to enable the learner to solve given problems using taught techniques, concept and approaches relevant to Politics and International Relations (B1, B2).</p> <p><b>For level 5:</b> At levels 5 and 6 the learner will receive direction but will be expected to find and use materials to perform a given task with background guidance and assistance (B3).</p> <p><b>For level 6:</b> The learner should be able to tackle the research of complex issues in both subjects and deliver solutions to given problems independently (B3, B4).</p> <p>Throughout, the learner is encouraged to develop intellectual skills further by independent study.</p>	<p>B3 is assessed by a variety of assessment methods which will require the analysis of complex current or historical scenarios using a range of developed techniques relevant to the subject matter.</p> <p><b>For level 6:</b> B4 is assessed by a variety of assignments requiring student to develop arguments derived from independently researched material.</p>
<p><b>Practical skills</b></p> <p><b>For all levels:</b> C1- Engage in academic debate while incorporating a professional approach to their work.</p> <p>C2 - Demonstrate an ability to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.</p> <p>C3 - Reference properly according to the style adopted by the subject.</p> <p><b>For level 5:</b> C4 - Demonstrate effective research skills and intellectual curiosity in assessing theories relevant to political systems, the social, economic, cultural and historical contexts of political behaviour and the</p>	<p><b>Teaching and learning methods</b></p> <p><b>For all levels:</b> Practical skills are developed through workshop discussions (C1, C2), directed independent study (C4, C5), and assessments (C3-C5). C3 is built into the programme as it is trained in and required for written assignments which form part of every module.</p> <p><b>For level 5 and level 6:</b> In Politics and International Relations, specific training for the use of statistical information will be provided in the module “Comparative Political Systems.” (C5) and training in other methods is built into level 6 modules such as “Peacebuilding and Statebuilding” or “International Political Economy”.</p>	<p><b>Assessment strategy</b></p> <p><b>For all levels:</b> Practical skills are assessed through a range of formats including oral presentations, simulation exercises, policy papers and traditional written coursework (C1-C5).</p> <p>Students will need to be aware of the cultural sensitivities in given contexts and ensure enhanced professionalism in their work and communication (C1).</p> <p><b>For level 5 and level 6:</b> At levels 5 and 6 coursework questions require students to evidence independent research in Politics and International Relations providing solutions to complex academic problems (C4, C5).</p>

factors accounting for political change.

**For level 5 and 6:**

C5 - Identify and analyse a range of primary sources using specialised methods used in Politics and International Relations such as statistical analysis or discourse analysis.

**For level 6:**

C6 - Demonstrate advanced research skills and intellectual curiosity in assessing theories relevant to political systems, the social, economic, cultural and historical contexts of political behaviour and the factors accounting for political change.

Transferable skills	Teaching and learning methods	Assessment strategy
<p><b>For all levels:</b> D1- Communicate research viewpoints confidently, professionally and effectively in a range of mediums, including an ability to listen and respond to written and oral stimuli.</p> <p>D2 - Work independently, demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time management.</p> <p>D3 – Work collaboratively and effectively in a group while showing a regard for the viewpoints of others.</p> <p>D4 – Use ICT software applications for word processing and electronic communications to access electronic information retrieval systems and the Internet.</p> <p><b>For level 5 and level 6:</b> D5 - Demonstrate an ability to excel in addressing a range of authentic scenarios through reflection on their own learning, feedback and</p>	<p><b>For all levels:</b> Transferable skills D1 and D3 are developed in workshops through guided and independent discussions. Students receive feedback not only on their knowledge and understanding but also on their ability to work and communicate their ideas effectively.</p> <p>D2 and D4 are built into the programme through the written assignments students have to submit for all modules. Students have to use software and learn to manage themselves and their time to meet assignment submission deadlines.</p> <p><b>For level 5 and level 6:</b> D5 is developed as workshop- as well as assignment tasks become more complex and require creative problem-solving both independently and in groups.</p>	<p><b>For all levels:</b> Transferable skills are assessed throughout levels 4-6 through written coursework in a variety of formats which requires students to demonstrate effective communication in writing using appropriate software to prepare submissions (D1, D4).</p> <p>Oral presentations are undertaken from level 4-6 in a variety of formats, in the form of individual presentations or group work which build skills in oral communication and independent as well as collaborative working (D1, D2, D3).</p> <p>D4 is built into the programme. All students are required to access StudyNet sites for module information and seminar tasks and to access electronic resources as appropriate in the completion of their coursework.</p>

implementation of improvement strategies.

**For level 5 and level 6:**  
At level 5 and level 6 students will be expected to be able to work independently with minimum guidance, seeking and making use of feedback (D2, D5).

## D. Programme Structures, Features, Levels, Modules, and Credits

The programme is offered in full-time (3 years), Sandwich (4 years) and part-time (6 years) modes, and leads to the awards of a BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations, a BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and History, a BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Philosophy or a BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Journalism respectively (where appropriate with (Sandwich) or 'with a Year Abroad' or 'with Study Abroad').

### Professional and Statutory Regulatory Bodies

N/A

### Work-Based Learning, including Sandwich Programmes

A sandwich award requires the successful completion of at least **30** weeks full-time equivalent placement activity from a maximum of two separate approved placements, neither of which will be normally less than **12** weeks in duration, in order for the award to be made. This is in addition to the period of academic study required for the full-time award. This optional placement year is undertaken after Level 5 and before Level 6 and meets the SEEC criteria for Level 6.

### Erasmus Exchange programme

Erasmus students are permitted to take any modules offered by the programme.

### Programme Structure

The programme structure and progression information below (Table 1a and 1b) is provided for the Honours award. Any interim awards are identified in Table 1b. The Programme Learning Outcomes detailed above are developed and assessed through the constituent modules. Table 2 (in section 2) identifies where each learning outcome is assessed. In addition, on the Joint pathways the Joint Subject/Programme Learning Outcomes are developed and assessed through the constituent modules, as identified within the relevant Subject /Programme Specification.

### Table 1a Outline Programme Structure

#### Mode of study Full-time

Students on a full-time mode of study must normally take the equivalent of eight 15 credit modules per year with the equivalent of four 15 credit modules undertaken per semester.

In addition, at level 5 students must study the module 5HUM1064 Graduate Skills. Failure in this module will not prevent progression, provided the normal progression rules had been met.

Compulsory Modules (full-time students only) Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Graduate Skills	5HUM1064	0	English	0	100	0	AB

#### Entry point Semester A

## BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

### Level 4

Students take the following modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Power, Citizens and the State	4HUM1154	30	English	0	70	30	AB
The Art of War: An Introduction to Strategic Studies	4HUM1155	30	English	0	60	40	AB
Comparing Political Systems	4HUM1153	30	English	0	100	0	AB
Anarchy, Order and Beyond: Studying International Relations	4HUM1156	30	English	0	100	0	AB

Progression to level 5 requires a minimum of 60 credits.

### Level 5

Students take 120 credits of the following modules:

Compulsory Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Comparative Perspectives in Political Research	5HUM1178	15	English	0	80	20	B
Modern Political Philosophy	5HUM1144	30	English	0	100	0	AB

### Optional Modules

Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% examination	% coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Security and Governance	5HUM1146	30	English	0	100	0	AB
Westminster under Strain: Issues in Contemporary British Politics	5HUM1179	15	English	0	70	30	A
We the People: Democratic Theory and Practice	5HUM1150	15	English	0	80	20	A
Postcards from the Empire: Experiences of British Imperialism	5HUM1165	15	English	0	100	0	A
Propaganda in Twentieth Century War and Politics	5HUM0268	15	English	0	100	0	A
The State in the 21st Century	5HUM1151	15	English	0	70	30	B
The Age of the Cold War: 1945-1991	5HUM1169	15	English	0	80	20	B
Global Energy Politics and Governance	5HUM1141	15	English	0	100	0	B

Progression to level 6 requires a minimum of 180 credits, including 60 credits at level 5.

### Level 6

Students take 120 credits of the following modules:

## Compulsory Modules

### Module Title

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Political Dissertation	6HUM1193	30	English	0	80	20	AB

## Optional Modules Module Titles

	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% examination	% coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Public International Law	6LAW1059	30	English	0	100	0	AB
International Political Economy	6HUM1196	15	English	0	100	0	A
Post-Colonial Theory and Non-Western Philosophy	6HUM1190	15	English	0	100	0	A
Terrorism and Security	6HUM1191	15	English	0	100	0	A
Politics of the European Union	6HUM1188	15	English	0	100	0	A
The Middle East in Turmoil: The Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1948	6HUM2004	15	English	0	100	0	A
Popular Protest: Riot and Reform in Britain, 1760-1848	6HUM1200	15	English	0	80	20	B
International Organisations	6HUM1187	15	English	0	70	30	B
Peacebuilding and Statebuilding	6HUM1189	15	English	0	100	0	B
The Politics of Gender	6HUM1192	15	English	0	100	0	B
Human Rights	6LAW1047	15	English	0	100	0	B

### Mode of study Part-time

Part-time students will typically study 60 credits per year. The basic programme is set out below (module codes and options are listed in Table 1a above):

<b>Year 1</b>	Power, Citizens and the State	Comparing Political Systems
<b>Year 2</b>	The Art of War	Anarchy, Order and Beyond
<b>Year 3</b>	Comparative Perspectives in Political Research + a 15 credits optional level 5 module	Modern Political Philosophy
<b>Year 4</b>	60 credits x optional level 5 modules	
<b>Year 5</b>	60 credits x optional level 6 modules	
<b>Year 6</b>	Political Dissertation	30 credits x optional level 6 modules

The award of an BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations requires 360 credit points with a minimum of 120 credits at level 6.

## BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and History BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Journalism BA (Hons) Politics & International Relations and Philosophy

### Level 4

Students take 60 credits of the following PIR modules:

### Compulsory Modules

#### Module Title

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Power, Citizens and the State	4HUM1154	30	English	0	70	30	AB

### Optional Modules

#### Module Title

Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
The Art of War: An Introduction to Strategic Studies	4HUM1155	30	English	0	60	40	AB
Comparing Political Systems	4HUM1153	30	English	0	100	0	AB
Anarchy, Order and Beyond: Studying International Relations	4HUM1156	30	English	0	100	0	AB

In addition, students study 60 credits of the Joint Subject, as specified in the Subject Programme Specifications (Joint and Minor) for History, Journalism and Philosophy.

Progression to level 5 requires a minimum of 60 credits at level 4, including 30 credits in each Subject.

### Level 5

Students take 60 credits of the following modules, including at least one of 5HUM1144 *Modern Political Philosophy* and 5HUM1178 *Comparative Perspectives in Political Research*:

### Optional Modules

#### Module Titles

Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% examination	% coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Security and Governance	5HUM1146	30	English	0	100	0	AB
Modern Political Philosophy*	5HUM1144	30	English	0	100	0	AB
We the People: Democratic Theory and Practice	5HUM1150	15	English	0	80	20	A
Westminster under Strain: Issues in Contemporary British Politics	5HUM1179	15	English	0	70	30	A
Global Energy Politics and Governance	5HUM1141	15	English	0	100	0	B
The State in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	5HUM1151	15	English	0	70	30	B
Comparative Perspectives in Political Research*	5HUM1178	15	English	0	80	20	B

\* Students can choose to study both 5HUM1144 *Modern Political Philosophy* and 5HUM1178 *Comparative Perspectives in Political Research*.

In addition, students study 60 credits of the Joint Subject, as specified in the Subject Programme Specifications (Joint and Minor) for History, Journalism and Philosophy.

Progression to level 6 requires a minimum of 180 credits with at least 60 credits at level 5, including 30 credits in each Subject.

## Level 6

Students take 60 credits of the following PIR modules:

Optional Modules Module Titles	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% examination	% coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Political Dissertation*	6HUM1193	30	English	0	80	20	AB
International Political Economy	6HUM1196	15	English	0	100	0	A
Post-Colonial Theory and Non-Western Philosophy	6HUM1190	15	English	0	100	0	A
Politics of the European Union	6HUM1188	15	English	0	100	0	A
Terrorism and Security	6HUM1191	15	English	0	100	0	A
International Organisations	6HUM1187	15	English	0	70	30	B
Peacebuilding and Statebuilding	6HUM1189	15	English	0	100	0	B
The Politics of Gender	6HUM1192	15	English	0	100	0	B

In addition, students study 60 credits of the Joint Subject, as specified in the Subject Programme Specifications (Joint and Minor) for History, Journalism and Philosophy.

\* At level 6 joint degree students must complete either a political dissertation or a dissertation in the respective joint subject. For Journalism this includes the module "Journalism Skills Portfolio".

The award of a BA Honours degree requires 360 credits passed with a minimum of at least 120 credits at Level 6.

### Mode of study Part-time

Part-time students will typically study 60 credits per year. The basic programme is set out below (module codes and options are listed in Table 1a above):

<b>Year 1</b>	Power, Citizens and the State	30 credits of core and/or optional level 4 joint subject modules
<b>Year 2</b>	30 credits of optional level 4 Politics and International Relations modules	30 credits of core and/or optional level 4 joint subject modules
<b>Year 3</b>	Comparative Perspectives in Political Research + a 15 credit level 5 optional Politics and International Relations module	30 credits of core and/or optional level 5 joint subject modules
<b>Year 4</b>	30 credits of optional level 5 Politics and International Relations Modules	30 credits of core and/or optional level 5 joint subject modules
<b>Year 5</b>	30 credits of optional level 6 Politics and International Relations Modules	30 credits of core and/or optional level 5 joint subject modules
<b>Year 6</b>	Political Dissertation <b>OR</b> dissertation or equivalent in joint subject if available	30 credits of optional Politics & International relations modules (if PIR is not dissertation subject) <b>OR</b> 30 credits of optional level 5 joint subject modules (if PIR is dissertation subject)

The award of a BA Honours degree requires 360 credits passed with a minimum of at least 120 credits at Level 6.

## Validated modules not offered in 2021-22

Optional Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Practical	Semesters
Political History: Milestones, Change and Continuity	5HUM1152	15	English	0	100	0	A
Internet Governance and Politics	5HUM1142	15	English	0	80	20	B
Brexit: Challenges and Opportunities	6HUM1185	15	English	0	100	0	B

### *Sandwich Year and Year Abroad*

Students may optionally undertake a placement year or a year abroad studying at a foreign university after successfully completing their level 5 studies at honours level. The placement year and year abroad offer an additional optional year (0 credited) which increases the length of the Honours degree award to a four year full-time degree. Successful completion of the placement year or year abroad is reflected in the degree title.

### *Sandwich Year*

The placement year comprises an agreed period of 30 weeks (including employers' and statutory holidays) of work based learning a maximum of two institutions or companies which has agreed to those terms and conditions regarded as essential by the University of Hertfordshire. Students will be supervised according to university regulations. The learning experience will be assessed with assessments set to enable students to demonstrate both their knowledge of the industry, their skills development and their professional attributes.

Placements are advertised through the Career and Placements Office. Students may also source their own placement, but it must be subsequently approved by the School in terms of health and safety, equality legislation and supervisory guidelines before a student can take it up.

All students on the Programme are eligible to proceed to a placement year provided they have achieved 120 credits at Level 4 and at least 90 credits at Level 5 and have completed the appropriate placement induction and documentation. Success in the placement will be recognised in the title of the award but does not carry additional credit towards the Honours programme.

### *Year Abroad*

The year abroad comprises an agreed programme of study in the third year of a partner institution in Europe (other than the UK), North or South America, Australia or Singapore with which the University of Hertfordshire has an institutional agreement.

A student's programme of study will be negotiated and approved by the Dean of School (or nominee) in consultation with appropriate others and the host University. The programme provided by the host institution may comprise taught modules, a research project, field studies, or a mixture of these components. The programme of study will require a minimum of 25% of studies to be undertaken in aspects of culture of the placement country. Prior to the commencement of the year abroad, the student and Study Abroad Tutors from UH and the host institution will agree a learning contract. The learning contract will specify the assessment requirements to be met for successful completion of the programme of study. A Module Board of Examiners will consider the results for the year abroad during the first semester of the following academic year. All assessments must be completed by the end of the year abroad, and no subsequent referrals will be permitted. Students who have varied their programme of study without agreement from UH or have failed to meet the requirements of the learning contract will not have their year abroad studies included in the degree title.

A student must confirm the intention to study abroad during the first ten weeks of study at Level 5. This will enable a place to be negotiated at a host institution and the Study Programme and learning contract to be arranged and agreed. Only a limited number of places exist. These will be awarded on the basis of the suitability of students and guided by choice on the most appropriate programme and host institution.

To be eligible to proceed to a year abroad, a student must, by the time of the Semester B Module Boards of Examiners, have achieved at least 210 credits overall, including at least 90 credits at Level 5. Success in the year abroad will be recognised in the title of the award but does not carry additional credit towards the Honours programme.

### Combined Placement and Study Abroad Year

Students who are eligible for the Year Abroad or Placement Year will also be eligible for the combined Placement and Study Abroad Year. This will involve a semester spent in a partner university abroad that is willing to provide a study abroad semester, combined with an appropriate placement of a minimum of 12 weeks which can be taken either abroad or in the UK.

Optional Modules Module Title	Module Code	Credit Points	Language of Delivery	% Examination	% Coursework	% Percentage Practical	Semesters
The Humanities Placement Year	6HUM1123	0	English	0	100	0	AB
Study Abroad	6HUM1049	0	English	0	0	0	AB
Placement with Study Abroad	6HUM1210	0	English	0	100	0	AB

### Honours classification

The University has approved structure and assessment regulations common to all programmes. Full details are provided in [UPR AS14](#), Section D.

Table 1b Final and interim awards available

The programme provides the following final and interim awards:

Final Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
BA (Hons)	See section (1)	360 credit points including 240 at level 6/5 of which 120 must be at level 6	6	All programme learning outcomes (see Table 2)

  

Interim Award	Award Title	Minimum requirements	Available at end of Level	Programme Learning Outcomes developed (see above)
University Certificate		45 credit points at level 4	4	See UPR AS11, section 13: <a href="http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm">http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm</a>
Certificate of Higher Education		120 credit points at level 4	4, 5	See UPR AS11, section 13: <a href="http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm">http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm</a>
Diploma of Higher Education		240 credit points including at least 120 at level 5	5, 6	See UPR AS11, section 13: <a href="http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm">http://sitem.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/AS11.htm</a>
BA	See section (1)	300 credit points including 180 at level 6/5 of which 60 must be at level 6	6	A subset of the programme learning outcomes (see table 2) depending on the student's individual module choices.

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## Programme-specific assessment regulations

The programme complies with the University's academic regulations (in particular, [UPR AS11](#), [UPR AS12](#) and [UPR AS14](#)) with the exception of those listed below, which have been approved by the University:

None

Further points of clarification and interpretation relevant to this specific Programme are given below:

- Progression from one Level to the next depends on meeting the pre-requisite requirements: students must normally have 30 credits in a subject area at the lower Level before progressing to study of that subject at the higher Level.
- At level 6 students may take a maximum of 30 credits of a project or dissertation, provided they fulfil the prerequisites.
- Students who have a disability which might impact on their attendance should consult with their disability advisor.

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## E. Management of Programme & Support for student learning.

### Management

The programme is managed by:

- A Dean of School who has overall responsibility for all programmes in the School
- An Associate Dean of School (Academic Quality Assurance) who has overall responsibility for academic quality, assurance and enhancement with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School Education (Learning and Teaching) who has overall responsibility for learning and teaching with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- An Associate Dean of School Education (Student Experience) who has specific responsibility for induction with and on behalf of the Dean of School
- A Head of Politics and International Relations
- A Programme Leader
- An Admissions Tutor, with specific responsibility for selection
- A Programme Committee which has a membership which includes all of the above plus student representatives
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the courses and modules within the Programme
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules

### Support

At university Level, students are supported by:

- Attractive modern study environments in two Learning Resource Centres, incorporating libraries and computer centres
- StudyNet, a versatile on-line interactive intranet and learning environment
- Guided student centred learning through the use of StudyNet.
- Access to extensive digital and print collections of information resources
- A substantial Student Centre which provides advice on issues such as Finance, University regulations, visa applications, legal matters, accommodation, international student support etc.
- The Office of Dean of Students, incorporating Chaplaincy, Counselling and nursery
- Overseas Orientation

- A Medical Centre
- Student Wellbeing: Disability Services
- Student Wellbeing: Counselling Centre
- An Equal Opportunities Officer
- The Students' Union
- A Careers and Placement Service for all current students and graduates

At School Level, students are further supported by:

- A Head of Politics & International Relations
- A Student Support Team
- Scheduled weekly Student Support and Advice ('Drop-in') hours for all academic staff for student support and guidance
- A designated administrative team to deal with day-to-day administration associated with the modules within the Programme
- Module Leaders who are responsible for individual modules
- A School Community Organiser (SCO)
- A Study Abroad Tutor
- An Academic Skills Tutor
- A Tutor for Employability

On the Programme students are further supported by:

- A Programme Leader to help students understand the programme structure, and provide confidential academic advice
- An induction session at the beginning of each new academic session
- Personal tutors to provide further academic and pastoral support, with scheduled meetings each semester to advise on academic performance, feedback, module choices, and long term plans
- Student Representatives on the Programme Committee

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## F. Other sources of information

For the joint titles, this Programme Specification should be read in conjunction with the Subject Programme Specification for History (Joint and Minor), Journalism (Joint and Minor), and Philosophy (Joint and Minor), as applicable.

In addition to this Programme Specification, the University publishes guidance to registered students on the programme and its constituent modules:

- A Programme (or Student) Handbook;
- A Definitive Module Document (DMD) for each constituent module;
- A Module Guide for each constituent module.

The [Ask Herts](#) website provides information on a wide range of resources and services available at the University of Hertfordshire including academic support, accommodation, fees, funding, visas, wellbeing services and student societies.

As a condition of registration, all students of the University of Hertfordshire are required to comply with the University's rules, regulations and procedures. These are published in a series of documents called 'University Policies and Regulations' (UPRs). The University requires that all students consult these documents which are available on-line, on the UPR web site, at: <http://www.herts.ac.uk/secreg/upr/>. In particular, [UPR SA07](#) 'Regulations and Advice for Students' Particular Attention - Index' provides information on the UPRs that contain the academic regulations of particular relevance for undergraduate and taught postgraduate students.

In accordance with section 4(5) of the Higher Education and Research Act 2017 (HERA), the UK Office for Students (OfS) has registered the University of Hertfordshire in the register of English higher education providers. The Register can be viewed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/the-register/the-ofs-register/>. Furthermore, the OfS has judged that the University of Hertfordshire delivers consistently outstanding teaching, learning and outcomes for its students. It is of the highest quality found in

the UK. Consequently, the University received a Gold award in the 2018 Teaching Excellence and Student Outcomes (TEF) exercise. This award was made in June 2018 and is valid for up to 3 years. The TEF panel's report and conclusions can be accessed at: <https://www.officeforstudents.org.uk/advice-and-guidance/teaching/tef-outcomes/#/provider/10007147>

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## G. Entry requirements

For current entry tariff point requirements, please refer to the relevant page for the Course on the University website or on the online prospectus.

All students from non-majority English speaking countries require proof of English language proficiency, equivalent to an overall IELTS score of 6.5 with a minimum of 5.5 in each band.

The programme is subject to the University's Principles, Policies and Regulations for the Admission of Students to Undergraduate and Taught Postgraduate Programmes (in [UPR SA03](#)), along with associated procedures. These will take account of University policy and guidelines for assessing accredited prior certificated learning (APCL) and accredited prior experiential learning (APEL).

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If you would like this information in an alternative format please contact [ask@herts.ac.uk](mailto:ask@herts.ac.uk)

If you wish to receive a copy of the latest Programme Annual Monitoring and Evaluation Report (AMER) and/or the External Examiner's Report for the programme, please email a request to [aqo@herts.ac.uk](mailto:aqo@herts.ac.uk)

## BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

Table 2: Development of Intended Programme Learning Outcomes in the Constituent Modules

This map identifies where the programme learning outcomes are assessed in the constituent modules. It provides (i) an aid to academic staff in understanding how individual modules contribute to the programme aims (ii) a checklist for quality control purposes and (iii) a means to help students monitor their own learning, personal and professional development as the programme progresses.

Module Title		Module Code	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	B1	B2	B3	B4	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5
Level 4	Power, Citizens and the State	4HUM1154	x		x					x	x			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
	The Art of War: An Introduction to Strategic Studies	4HUM1155	x	x	x					x	x			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
	Comparing Political Systems	4HUM1153	x	x	x					x	x			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
	Anarchy, Order and Beyond: Studying International Relations	4HUM1156	x	x	x					x	x			x	x	x				x	x	x	x	
Level 5	Comparative Perspectives in Political Research	5HUM1178	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Modern Political Philosophy	5HUM1144	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Security and Governance	5HUM1146	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Political History: Milestones, Change, Continuity	5HUM1152	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	The State in the 21 <sup>st</sup> Century	5HUM1151	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
	We the People: Democratic Theory and Practice	5HUM1150	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Global Energy Politics and Governance	5HUM1141	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Internet Governance and Politics	5HUM1142	x		x	x	x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
	The Age of the Cold War: 1945-1991	5HUM1169	x	x			x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
	Postcards from the Empire: Experiences of British Imperialism	5HUM1165	x	x			x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
Propaganda in Twentieth Century War and Politics	5HUM0268	x	x			x			x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	

Level 6	Westminster under Strain: Issues in Contemporary British Politics	5HUM1179	x		x	x					x	x	x		x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x
	Political Dissertation	6HUM1193	x	x			x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Public International Law	6LAW1059			x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Human Rights	6LAW1047	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	Brexit: Challenges and Opportunities	6HUM1185	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x			x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x
	International Political Economy	6HUM1196	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x		x	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	International Organisations	6HUM1187	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	X	x	x			X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	Politics of the European Union	6HUM1188	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x			X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	Peacebuilding and Statebuilding	6HUM1189	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x		x	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	Post-Colonial Theory and Non-Western Philosophy	6HUM1190	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x		x	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	Terrorism and Security	6HUM1191	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	x	X	x	x		x	X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	The Politics of Gender	6HUM1192	x		x	x	x	x	x	x	X		X	x	x			X	x	X	X	x	x	x	X
	Popular Protest, Riot and Reform in Britain, 1760-1848	6HUM1200	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		X	x	x			x	x	X	X	x	x	X
	The Middle East in Turmoil: The Arab-Israeli Conflict since 1948	6HUM2004	x		x	x	x		x	x	x	x		X	x	x			x	x	X	X	x	x	X

## KEY TO PROGRAMME LEARNING OUTCOMES

### Knowledge and Understanding

A1 – Show the ability to apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices, relative to the historical and contemporary context.

A2 - Show understanding of the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices.

A3 – Demonstrate current awareness of key areas in this field relating to the political systems within British, European and International Politics, political theory and International Relations theory.

A4 – Demonstrate a coherent and detailed knowledge of complex areas within this subject area.

A5 - Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems; the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate and the relationships between them.

A6 - Demonstrate a critical understanding of key aspects of Politics and International Relations, along with an appreciation of their inter-relationship with other fields of study.

A7 - An appreciation of the uncertainty, ambiguity and limits of knowledge in a constantly developing subject yet with an ability to devise and sustain arguments considering multiple perspectives.

### Intellectual Skills

B1 - Apply innovative solutions to complex political and international relations problems through gathering, organising and deploying evidence and data from a variety of sources.

B2 - Deploy the specialised vocabulary, concepts and approaches of the discipline of Politics and International Relations.

B3 - Be able to gather, organise and deploy evidence from a range of primary and secondary sources to lead to the development of a reasoned, ethical and critically engaged argument.

B4 - Autonomously analyse a range of data using established subject-specific techniques.

### Practical Skills

C1- Engage in academic debate while incorporating a professional approach to their work.

C2 - Demonstrate an ability to communicate information, ideas, problems and solutions to both specialist and non-specialist audiences.

C3 – Reference properly according to the style adopted by the subject.

C4 - Demonstrate effective research skills and intellectual curiosity in assessing theories relevant to political systems, the social, economic, cultural and historical contexts of political behaviour and the factors accounting for political change.

C5 - Identify and analyse a range of primary sources using specialised methods used in Politics and International Relations such as statistical analysis or discourse analysis.

C6 - Demonstrate advanced research skills and intellectual curiosity in assessing theories relevant to political systems, the social, economic, cultural and historical contexts of political behaviour and the factors accounting for political changes

**Transferable Skills**

D1- Communicate research viewpoints confidently, professionally and effectively in a range of mediums, including an ability to listen and respond to written and oral stimuli.

D2 - Work independently, demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time management.

D3 - Work collaboratively and effectively in a group while showing a regard for the viewpoints of others.

D4 - Use ICT software applications for word processing and electronic communications to access electronic information retrieval systems and the Internet.

D5 - Demonstrate an ability to excel in addressing a range of authentic scenarios through reflection on their own learning, feedback and implementation of improvement strategies.

## Section 2

### Programme management

<b>Relevant QAA subject benchmarking statements</b>	Politics and International Relations
<b>Type of programme</b>	Undergraduate
<b>Date of validation/last periodic review</b>	November 2018
<b>Date of production/ last revision of PS</b>	March 2021
<b>Relevant to level/cohort</b>	Level 4 entering September 2021
<b>Administrative School</b>	School of Humanities

Table 3 Course structure

Course details		
Course code	Course description	HECoS
LAPIR	BA Politics and International Relations	100491