

Overview

Programme Code	36202
Programme Title	International Relations and Politics
Awarding Institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Programme Type	Degree
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Programme Leader	Matthew Hill
Link Tutor(s)	

Awards

Award Type	Award Description	Award Learning Outcomes
Target Award	Bachelor of Arts with Honours - BAH	See Learning Outcomes Below
Recruitable Target	Bachelor of Arts Honours (SW) - SBAH	See Learning Outcomes Below
Alternative Exit	Bachelor of Arts (SW) - SBA	Students who obtain this award will have achieved most but not all of the programme learning outcomes of the equivalent Bachelors award with honours.
Alternative Exit	Certificate of Higher Education - CHE	Have developed an understanding of key concepts, theories and methods used in the field of International Relations and Politics. Have acquired enhanced competence in writing and presentation skills that allow for the interrogation of the international system, the challenges to it and the different political systems that inhabit it. Have acquired competence in referencing and bibliographical techniques. Interrogate relevant documents in a critical way and gather sources. Participate in group work and discussion. Have acquired habits of professionalism, time-management, self-awareness and personal responsibility. Have acquired competence in using communication and information technologies.
Alternative Exit	Bachelor of Arts - BA	Demonstrate a broad and comparative knowledge of the general scope of the subject, its different areas and applications, and its interactions with related subjects. A detailed knowledge of a defined subject or a more limited coverage of a specialist area balanced by a wider range of study. In each case, specialised study will be informed by current developments in the subject. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the essential theories, principles and concepts of the subject(s) and of the ways in which these are developed through the main methods of enquiry in the subject.
Alternative Exit	Diploma of Higher Education - DHE	Have become more independent in their approach to study. Identify and apply some key concepts, theories and methods used in the field of International Relations and Politics, and make informed judgements about them. Identify what is the international system, the challenges to it, and the different political systems that inhabit it. Identify, correlate and critically examine a range of relevant documents pertinent to an area of study in International Relations and Politics. Write extensive pieces of work of a discursive and critical nature. Plan for future career development. Work constructively towards set goals as part of a team. Productively use communication and information technologies.

Alternate Award Names

External Benchmarks

Subject Benchmark Statement

UG-Politics and International Relations (2019)

Programme Offering(s)

Mode of Study, Mode of Delivery	Intake Month	Teaching Institution	Programme Length
Full-Time, Face to Face	September	LJMU Taught	3 Years

Aims and Outcomes

Educational Aims of the Programme

To understand the world we live in today, and to develop opinions and determine how we want to engage with the world, this programme provides students with a thorough understanding of international relations. Alongside this knowledge of the world, this programme develops the necessary transferable skills essential to succeeding in the work place. The programme supports these aims through a grounding of the subject alongside an in-depth research project, engagement with practitioners, and an optional study abroad, or work placement in an international relations-related organisation. The distinctive features of the programme are: Its core emphasis on the ability to reflect critically on the international system, the methods used by International Relations scholars and the subject's function in society. The close relationship between research and teaching. Staff research outputs and analysis employed for learning and teaching, and students have direct experience of the work conducted at the frontiers of International Relations. Its commitment to internationalisation, in terms of the broad geographical and thematic range of modules but also the opportunity to engage in a year-long work placement or study abroad with partner institutions for one to two semesters, alongside field trips to relevant places. Within this context the aims of the programme are: To offer a balanced and coherent programme of study to students from varied backgrounds choosing International Relations and Politics. To provide students with a range of concepts, theories and methods used in the field of International Relations and Politics. To encourage critical engagement with the concepts, theories and methods in order to support the student's own political development. To provide an intellectually challenging programme that develops knowledge and critical insight into the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system, and the challenges to it. To support the student's development of subject-specific and transferable skills within a practical and critical environment that progressively encourages increased responsibility for autonomous learning. To encourage students to engage with the development of employability skills by completing a self-awareness statement.

Learning Outcomes

Code	Description
PLO1	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of a range of concepts, theories and methods used in the field of International Relations and Politics.
PLO2	Reflect on their own learning and make constructive use of feedback
PLO3	Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems in the field of International Relations and Politics.
PLO4	Effectively and fluently communicate information in written and oral forms.
PLO5	Work independently and as part of a team, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation, collaboration, and time management.

Code	Description
PLO6	Use communication and information technologies for the retrieval, analysis and presentation of information.
PLO7	Work in a flexible and independent way, showing self-discipline and reflexivity.
PLO8	Plan and implement tasks in a professional manner.
PLO9	Develop independent judgements on issues and topics examined
PLO10	Retrieve and generate information, and critically evaluate sources, in carrying out independent research.
PLO11	Communicate ideas clearly, deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and adapting a problem-solving approach.
PLO12	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it.
PLO13	Critically analyse issues and topics using appropriate methodological methods.
PLO14	Present material with fluency, clarity and reasoned argument.
PLO15	Competently use communication and information technologies.
PLO16	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of world political events and issues.
PLO17	Demonstrate a 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 in order to better understand the relations between multiple polities in the international system.
PLO18	Critically reflect on the nature and significance of politics as a human activity, and the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices.
PLO19	Describe, evaluate and apply, as well as engage critically with a range of concepts, theories and methods relating to the field of International Relations and Politics, including the analysis of political ideas, institutions, practices and issues regarding the international system.
PLO20	In employing the different concepts, theories and methods learned, examine and evaluate different interpretations of world political events and issues.
PLO21	Locate, gather and critically analyse evidence from relevant sources.
PLO22	Conduct detailed research, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement in order to develop reasoned arguments in written and oral forms.

Programme Structure

Programme Structure Description

Students must take 120 credits of International Relations and Politics modules at each level of the programme (Levels, 4, 5 and 6). Each level of programme will normally be completed in one academic year. There are two module types: core and optional. Modules are all of 20 credits, apart from the 60 or 120 credit study abroad module (L5) and the 40 credit dissertation (L6). Students, as can be seen below, will be offered a range of options but it should be noted that not all of these will run every year and those listed are an indication of the type of modules offered in any given year. The sandwich placement year (5108IRP) will follow Level 5 and students will be enrolled on a 480 credit honours sandwich programme. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated upon the 240 credits at Level 5. Students will be offered the opportunity of study abroad at Level 5. The programme will offer the opportunity of 60 credits of study at Level 5. Students will be enrolled on a 360 credit honours with study abroad programme. A 60 credit Level 5 study semester abroad module 5106IRP will normally replace the semester 2 modules on the standard programme. This study abroad should cover the same learning outcomes as the modules being replaced. The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 120 credits at Level 5. Students not undertaking a sandwich placement year will have the opportunity of an additional study year abroad following Level 5. Students will be enrolled on a 480 credit honours with study abroad programme. Of those 480 credits, 120 will be taken via a Level 5 study year abroad module 5107IRP. The modules to be studied in the host institution must be agreed in advance. The Level 5 mean for the final award mark will be calculated based upon the 240 credits at Level 5.

Programme Structure - 120 credit points	
Level 4 - 120 credit points	
Level 4 Core - 120 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 4100IRP Introduction to International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4101IRP Understanding the theories behind politics Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4102IRP Comparative Politics Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4103IRP Researching International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4105IRP International History and State Formation Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 4106MEDCUL Communicating Politics and Protest Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
Level 5 - 120 credit points	
Level 5 Core - 40 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 5100IRP Debating International Relations Theories Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5101IRP Research Paper in International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.03 - 20 credit points	
Level 5 Optional - 80 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5105IRP International Politics at the Regional Level Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5106HIST Colonial Africa, 1880-1994 Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5109IRP Politics and Popular Culture Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5110IRP International Organisations Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5112IRP British Politics: Continuity, Change and Crisis Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 5123HIST A Bitter Resurgence: China into the Modern World (1894-1992) Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	

Optional placement - 120 credit points	OPTIONAL
Placement Year - 120 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5108IRP Sandwich Year - International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.01 - 120 credit points	
OR Study Abroad - 120 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5107IRP Study Year Abroad International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.02 - 120 credit points	
Optional Study Semester - 60 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 5106IRP Study Semester Abroad International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.02 - 60 credit points	
Level 6 - 120 credit points	
Level 6 Core - 40 credit points	CORE
[MODULE] 6100IRP Research Project in International Relations and Politics Approved 2022.03 - 40 credit points	
Level 6 Optional - 80 credit points	OPTIONAL
[MODULE] 6101IRP Non-western Political Theories Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6102IRP Aesthetics and Politics Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6106IRP US Democracy Promotion in the Contemporary Era Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6106SOC Sport, Crime and Politics: Critical Sociological Analyses Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6108IRP The Politics of War and Organised Violence Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6108SOC Body Politics: Gender, Sexuality and Society Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6110IRP Securing Spaces: Security and Places in the Modern World Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6111IRP Comparative Nationalism, Secession and the Politics of Territory Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6115SOC Fear and Loathing: the politics and aesthetics of aversive emotion Approved 2022.01 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6118MEDCUL Britain, Brexit, Europe and the Media Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	
[MODULE] 6303LAWPL International Law, Peace and Security Approved 2022.02 - 20 credit points	

Module specifications may be accessed at <https://proformas.ljmu.ac.uk/Default.aspx>

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The programme follows a three-stage progression through L4, L5 and L6. Via core modules at L4, students will be introduced to a variety of conceptual, theoretical, and methodological issues. They aim, through a varied assessment matrix, to develop the key skills and practices necessary for them to advance at Levels 5 and 6. Including, for example, developing the ability to understand a range of appropriate concepts, theories and methods used in the field of International Relations and Politics, work independently and in a group, understand how to use sources and critically analyse them and be able to understand relevant texts. Level 5 is a bridge between Level 4 and Level 6 as it builds on the subject-specific intellectual and transferable skills developed in the first year and prepares students for their final year. In line with the QAA subject benchmark statement for Politics and International Relations (February 2015), students will further develop understanding of the various concepts, theories and methods used alongside real world events and issues by offering a broad range of modules. Level 6 is the culmination of the International Relations and Politics degree at which point students, building upon their independent learning and research skills developed at Levels 4 and 5 take increasingly more responsibility for their learning. Driven by the research knowledge and output of the academics, the optional modules in Level 6 enable students to develop a high degree of specialisation in their chosen topics. Students at Level 6 also utilise the research and independent learner skills developed in Levels 4 and 5 to pursue an original and independent research project in International Relations and Politics in a yearlong module. The assessment strategy is underpinned by appropriate learning and teaching strategies which are relevant and provide a structured set of learning opportunities enabling achievement of individual and programme level learning outcomes. Please see Curriculum Map for details. Critical awareness is achieved through interactive lectures, workshops, case studies, presentations by experts, student presentations, fieldtrips, seminar and group discussions, internships (where available), and study abroad (where applicable), and individual reading and research. A blended learning approach will be adopted on the programme with resources to support learning provided via Canvas (VLE). The development of transferable skills is a core aim of the programme, with the study of International Relations and Politics enabling students to apply their knowledge and aptitude in a variety of employability settings. The relationship between formative and summative assessment enables tutors to provide feedback which will support students in their development and enable them to make the most of their academic potential. Students are required to consider different means of communicating their research findings, formulate their response to critical issues and contemporary and past debates, and evaluate contemporary trends across a range of different types of assessment. Attention is paid to those students with needs (SENDA compliant) and alternative assignments will be given if required. Students will be allocated a personal tutor in L4 and will normally remain their personal tutor throughout their time at LJMU. All assessments encourage students to develop their communication skills and to present arguments and ideas with precision and clarity. The extent to which students have developed these skills will be assessed through a variety of formative and summative assessment including. Specific details of these can be found in the module guides. Achievement of good time management and organisational skills is demonstrated by students completing work on time to a satisfactory standard. The programme and individual modules will utilise Canvas, the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and students will need to use it.

Opportunities for work related learning

All LJMU undergraduate programs are required to incorporate into a L4 module an assessment item of the submission of a personal Self Awareness Statement; this is administered through the Being Politically Active module. Students have the opportunity to choose from work-based/related/transferrable skills modules at L5 and L6, while the programme's PDP system provides opportunities for students to reflect on and document their achievements inside and outside of university and think about future career paths.

Entry Requirements

Type	Description
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IELTS	6.0 (minimum of 5.5 in each component) or equivalent English language proficiency test .
Irish awards	Irish Leaving Certificate: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications Grades / subjects required: 112 UCAS Tariff points with maximum 20 points from Ordinary Level
Welsh awards	Welsh Baccalaureate: Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications
NVQ	Are Level 3 NVQs acceptable? Acceptable when combined with other qualifications
GCSEs and equivalents	Prior to starting the programme applicants must have obtained Grade C or Grade 4 or above in English Language and Mathematics GCSE or an approved alternative qualification below: Key Skills Level 2 in English/Maths NVQ Level 2 Functional skills in Maths and English Writing and or Reading Skills for Life Level 2 in Numeracy/English Higher Diploma in Maths/English Functional Skills Level 2 in Maths/English Northern Ireland Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number Welsh GCSE in Maths or Numeracy Wales Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number
Access awards	Access to Higher Education Diploma acceptability: Yes Further information: At least 15 Distinctions and 30 Merits, or any other combination that equates to 112 UCAS Tariff points

BTECs	<p>National Certificate (RQF): Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Extended Certificate: Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Diploma (RQF): Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Diploma subjects / grades required: D*D* required or 112 UCAS Tariff points if studied in combination with other Level 3 qualifications</p> <p>National Extended Diploma (RQF): Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>National Extended Diploma subjects / grades required: DMM required or 112 UCAS Tariff points if studied in combination with other Level 3 qualifications</p>
UCAS points	112
International Baccalaureate	<p>International Baccalaureate: Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications</p> <p>Additional information: 112 UCAS Tariff points from Composite Parts and in combination with other Level 3 qualifications</p>
A levels	<p>Minimum number of A Levels required: 2</p> <p>Is general studies acceptable? Yes</p> <p>Average A Level offer: BBC</p> <p>Are AS level awards acceptable? Acceptable only when combined with other qualifications</p> <p>Maximum AS Level points accepted: 20</p>
Reduced offer scheme	<p>As part of LJMU's commitment to widening access we offer eligible students entry to their chosen course at a reduced threshold of up to 16/8 UCAS points. This applies if you are a student who has been in local authority care or if you have participated in one of LJMU's sustained outreach initiatives, e.g. Summer University. Please contact the admission office for further details.</p>

Alternative qualifications considered	<p>Mature applicants will be considered on an individual basis. These applicants may be required to submit an essay and/or attend an interview, and should demonstrate potential and motivation and/or have relevant experience.</p> <p>International applicants will be considered in line with UK qualifications. Any applicant whose first language is not English will be required to have IELTS 6.0 (minimum 5.5 in each component) or acceptable equivalent. If a prospective student does not have the required English language scores then LJMU has 6, 12 and 20 week of English training programmes (https://www.ljmuisc.com/programmes/preessional-english) that students can enrol on in order to improve their language skills to a sufficient level to enable them to enrol on the BA. The programme takes place in the summer before the BA starts.</p>
T levels	T Level requirements: 112 UCAS Tariff points from a related subject

Extra Entry Requirements

<p>Is a DBS check required?</p> <p>No</p>
