

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Bachelor of Arts with Honours in International Relations and Politics

Awarding institution	Liverpool John Moores University
Teaching institution	LJMU
UCAS Code	A006
JACS Code	L250
Programme Duration	Full-Time: 3 Years, Sandwich Thick: 4 Years
Language of Programme	All LJMU programmes are delivered and assessed in English
Subject benchmark statement	The subject benchmark statement employed is the Honours undergraduate degree one for Politics and International Relations (February 2015)
Programme accredited by	
Description of accreditation	
Validated target and alternative exit awards	Bachelor of Arts with Honours in International Relations and Politics Bachelor of Arts Honours (SW) in International Relations and Politics Diploma of Higher Education in International Relations and Politics Certificate of Higher Education in International Relations and Politics
Programme Leader	Matthew Hill

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.

Alternative Exit/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Certificate of Higher Education

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

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/ Interim Award Learning Outcomes - Diploma of Higher Education

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

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.

Target award Learning Outcomes - Bachelor of Arts with Honours

A student successfully completing the programme of study will have acquired the following subject knowledge and understanding as well as skills and other attributes.

A student who is eligible for this award will be able to:

1. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of a range of concepts, theories and methods used in the field of International Relations and Politics.

2. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it.

3. Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of world political events and issues.

4. 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.

5. 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.

6. 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.

7. In employing the different concepts, theories and methods learned, examine and evaluate different interpretations of world political events and issues.

8. Locate, gather and critically analyse evidence from relevant sources.

9. Conduct detailed research, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement in order to develop reasoned arguments in written and oral forms.
10. Reflect on their own learning and make constructive use of feedback
11. Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to problems in the field of International Relations and Politics.
12. Effectively and fluently communicate information in written and oral forms.
13. Work independently and as part of a team, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation, collaboration, and time management.
14. Use communication and information technologies for the retrieval, analysis and presentation of information.
15. Work in a flexible and independent way, showing self-discipline and reflexivity.
16. Plan and implement tasks in a professional manner.
17. Develop independent judgements on issues and topics examined
18. Retrieve and generate information, and critically evaluate sources, in carrying out independent research.
19. Communicate ideas clearly, deliver work to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and adapting a problem-solving approach.
20. Critically analyse issues and topics using appropriate methodological methods.
21. Present material with fluency, clarity and reasoned argument.
22. Competently use communication and information technologies.

Alternative target awards

A student who is eligible for the following awards will be able to:

Bachelor of Arts Honours (SW) in International Relations and Politics -

In addition to the programme learning outcomes listed above students will also be able to demonstrate the professional and personal skills necessary for effective employment within a professional environment.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment

The methods used to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated are as follows:

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.

In acknowledging that Politics and International Relations 'reach[es] out to other subjects such as anthropology, cultural studies, economics, sociology, geography, history, languages, law, literature, international development, philosophy, marketing and media', this undergraduate programme has co-validated a number of modules from other disciplines, in particular History, Sociology, Law and Criminology (QAA Politics and International Relations benchmark statement 2015, p. 7).

The programme has an integrated teaching, learning and assessment strategy. 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 module, and programme level, learning outcomes. Please see Curriculum Map for specific details. Critical awareness is achieved through interactive lectures, workshops, case studies, presentations by experts, student presentations, fieldtrips, seminar and group discussions, internships 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 (Virtual Learning Environment).

International Relations and Politics students will be encouraged to engage in both primary and secondary research, and through the networking events and field trips talk to practitioners and experts about their experiences and research. Active learning in a constantly changing world provides an opportunity for reflection and critical literacy. Lectures will act as a guide to the area of study and will focus on conceptual frameworks, areas or case studies. In workshops and seminars students will be expected to work both collegially and independently. These small group settings are intended to be interactive and group activities will be a significant part of student-led and defined discussion. Students will be provided with opportunities to strengthen their presentation skills and communicate within an academic community in a professional manner. They will be supported throughout the programme to formulate ideas and responses to past and current debates and research so that they can develop an advanced understanding of the field and apply these ideas appropriately.

The assessment strategy provides a structure of assessment through which students can meet the intended learning outcomes of the programme. Students' knowledge and skills are assessed through the self-direction, innovation and judgement required to complete exams, research essays, presentations and the dissertation. 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 particular needs (SENDA compliant) and alternative assignments will be given if required.

All teaching and learning activities, including lectures, workshops, seminars, independent study and research, presenting work and the production of assessments all contribute to the development of professional practical skills. Students will develop an awareness of professional skills in discussion with practitioners in the expert workshops. Preparation and independent study, as with other related subjects, outweighs contact time and students are supported to work independently (guided by tutors and Canvas technology) in developing their own ideas and understanding of International Relations and Politics.

Students will be allocated a personal tutor in L4 who will teach them at this level and normally remain their personal tutor throughout their time at LJMU.

All assessment in the programme 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: exams, assessed presentations, essays, research based exercises, critical reviews, research plan, and a dissertation. 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 progression moves students steadily towards accepting more responsibility for independent learning and the various assessments alongside the engagement in activities in the classroom, internship and work experience during the sandwich year (if applicable), and in the interaction with practitioners are the vehicles for learning these skills. The programme and individual modules will utilise Canvas, the Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and students will need to use it. The skills outlined above are central to every activity that is undertaken as part of the degree.

Programme structure - programme rules and modules

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.

Students in L5 must take a minimum of two optional modules that have the IRP code. Students in L6 must take a minimum of three optional modules that have the IRP code.

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.

Level 6	Potential Awards on completion	Bachelor of Arts with Honours
Core	Option	Award Requirements
6100IRP Research Project in International Relations and Politics (40 credits)	6101IRP Non-western Political Theories (20 credits) 6101LAWPL Public International Law (20 credits) 6102IRP Aesthetics and Politics (20 credits) 6103IRP The International Politics of Development (20 credits) 6104IRP Ten Great Books in International Politics (20 credits) 6105IRP Politically Engaging with the State (20 credits) 6106IRP US Democracy Promotion in the Contemporary Era (20 credits) 6106SOC Sport, Crime and Politics: Critical Sociological Analyses (20 credits) 6107HIST Laws of War (20 credits) 6108LAWPL The United Nations and International Security (20 credits) 6108SOC Body Politics: Gender, Sexuality and Society (20 credits) 6114HIST Interpreting conflict in post-colonial Africa (20 credits)	40 core credits at level 6 80 option credits at level 6
Level 5	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
5100IRP Debating International Relations Theories (20 credits) 5101IRP Research Paper in International Relations and Politics (20 credits)	5104SOC Globalisation, Culture and Society (20 credits) 5105HIST The Soviet Experiment, 1917-1991 (20 credits) 5105IRP International Politics at the Regional Level (20 credits) 5106HIST Colonial Africa, 1880-1994 (20 credits) 5109IRP Politics and Popular Culture (20 credits) 5110IRP International Organisations (20 credits) 5123HIST A Bitter Resurgence: China into the Modern World (1894-1992) (20 credits)	40 core credits at level 5 80 option credits at level 5
Level 4	Potential Awards on completion	
Core	Option	Award Requirements
4100IRP Introduction to International Relations and Politics (20 credits) 4101IRP Understanding the theories behind politics (20 credits) 4102IRP Comparative Politics (20 credits) 4103IRP Researching International Relations and Politics (20 credits) 4104IRP Being Politically Engaged (20 credits) 4105IRP International History and		120 core credits at level 4 0 option credits at level 4

Information about assessment regulations

All programmes leading to LJMU awards operate within the University's Academic Framework.
<https://www.ljmu.ac.uk/about-us/public-information/academic-quality-and-regulations/academic-framework>

Opportunities for work-related learning (location and nature of activities)

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.

Criteria for admission

A/AS Level

112 UCAS points from a minimum of 2 A Levels. Maximum of 20 AS points accepted.

BTEC National Diploma

Acceptable on its own and combined with other qualifications. DMM in a relevant subject area is required if no other level 3 qualifications are taken.

Irish Leaving Certificate

112 UCAS points from a minimum of 5 subjects. A maximum of 20 UCAS Tariff points at Ordinary Level.

Scottish Higher

112 UCAS points

International Baccalaureate

26 IB points.

Access

At least 15 Distinctions and 30 Merits, or any other combination that equates to 112 UCAS Tariff points in a relevant subject.

Other

Prior to starting the programme applicants must have obtained grade 4 or grade C or above in English Language and Mathematics GCSE or an approved alternative qualification:

- 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
- Wales Essential Skills Level 2 in Communication or Application of Number

Credits may be awarded for Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) and Recognition of Unaccredited Prior Learning (RP(E)L).

Mature entry

Applications are welcomed from mature and non-standard applicants, who 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.

Overseas qualifications

International applications 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/presessional-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.

External Quality Benchmarks

All programmes leading to LJMU awards have been designed and approved in accordance with the UK Quality Code for Higher Education, including the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in the UK (FHEQ) and subject benchmark statements where applicable.

The University is subject to periodic review of its quality and standards by the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA). Published review reports are available on the QAA website at www.qaa.ac.uk

Programmes which are professionally accredited are reviewed by professional, statutory and regulatory bodies (PSRBs) and such programmes must meet the competencies/standards of those PSRBs.

Support for students and their learning

The University aims to provide students with access to appropriate and timely information, support and guidance to ensure that they are able to benefit fully from their time at LJMU. All students are assigned a Personal Tutor to provide academic support and when necessary signpost students to the appropriate University support services.

Students are able to access a range of professional services including:

- Advice on practical aspects of study and how to use these opportunities to support and enhance their personal and academic development. This includes support for placements and careers guidance.
- Student Advice and Wellbeing Services provide students with advice, support and information, particularly in the areas of: student funding and financial matters, disability, advice and support to international students, study support, accommodation, health, wellbeing and counselling.
- Students studying for an LJMU award at a partner organisation will have access to local support services

Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning

Student Feedback and Evaluation

The University uses the results of student feedback from internal and external student surveys (such as module evaluations, the NSS and PTES), module evaluation questionnaires and meetings with student representatives to improve the quality of programmes.

Staff development

The quality of teaching is assured through staff review and staff development in learning, teaching and assessment.

Internal Review

All programmes are reviewed annually and periodically, informed by a range of data and feedback, to ensure quality and standards of programmes and to make improvements to programmes.

External Examining

External examiners are appointed to programmes to assess whether:

- the University is maintaining the threshold academic standards set for awards in accordance with the FHEQ and applicable subject benchmark statements
- the assessment process measures student achievement rigorously and fairly against the intended outcomes of the programme(s) and is conducted in line with University policies and regulations
- the academic standards are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which external examiners have experience
- the achievement of students are comparable with those in other UK higher education institutions of which the external examiners have experience

and to provide informative comment and recommendations on:

- good practice and innovation relating to learning, teaching and assessment observed by external examiners
- opportunities to enhance the quality of the learning opportunities provided to students

Please note:

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the 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 learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in module and programme guides.