UNIVERSITY OF FORWARD THINKING WESTMINSTER▦

Part one: Programme Specification

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) Politics BA Politics
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of HE in Politics Certificate of HE in Politics
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Regent site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Ricardo Blaug
Course URL:	
Mode and length of study:	Full time, 3 years
University of Westminster course code:	
JACS code:	
UCAS code:	L200
QAA subject benchmarking group:	Politics and International Relations
Professional body accreditation:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	November 2008
Date of programme specification:	September 2013

Admissions requirements

Normally, three A Levels (A2) at grades BCC or two A Levels (A2) at grades AB; plus English GCSE grade C or above. Other Curriculum 2000 combinations will be considered on an individual basis. A variety of non-standard vocational, professional and other qualifications may be acceptable with evidence of capacity both to benefit from and to pass this course.

Non-native speakers of English will normally be required to have an overall IELTS score of 6 points (or equivalent), including a score of 6 in reading and writing skills.

Aims of the course

Context

BA Politics is is hosted by the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), which is a centre of excellence for the study of Politics, International Relations and Development, and also hosts the internationally renowned Centre for the Study of Democracy (CSD). DPIR has a longstanding tradition of innovative research and high quality research-led teaching. Being in the heart of London, we regularly invite leading intellectuals, policy-makers and officials for our well-established series of seminars, public lectures and conferences.

What is the discipline of Politics? According to the Politics and International Relations benchmarks produced by the UK's Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:

> Politics is concerned with developing knowledge and understanding of government and society, the interaction of people, ideas and institutions and provides the focus to understand how values are allocated and resources distributed at many levels, from the local through to the sectoral, national, regional and global. Thus analyses of who gets what, when, how, why and where are central, and pertain to related questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, governance and decision-making. Politics encompasses philosophical, theoretical, institutional and issue-based concerns relating to governance (QAA, 2007: 3).

To these ends the BA Politics degree concentrates on both political theory and political institutions, at the international, national and local level. Our central London location gives us a unique ability to facilitate guest lectures by politicians, policy makers and political activists, and to arrange visits to and internships in parliament, MPs' constituencies and other political organisations based in London.

Aims

The aims of the BA Politics degree at the University of Westminster reflect the University's mission statement, namely, to provide for "the intellectual, social and professional development of the individual". In line with these goals, the course's primary aims are to:

- equip you with an understanding of basic concepts, knowledge and methods associated with the study of politics;

- enable you to develop a critical appreciation of political institutions and processes, of political theory, and of the relationship between political concepts and political practice;

- facilitate your ability to comprehend, analyse and assess contemporary political events and problems;

- provide a strong basis for postgraduate study.

- develop not only your intellectual abilities, subject-specific knowledge and your facility for critical reasoning, but also your personal and transferable skills.

Employment and further study opportunities
Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students

A degree in Politics prepares students for many professional careers and as a graduate you will enter the job market with valuable transferable skills. This degree develops your critical awareness and analytical capacity and provides you with the skills required to undertake in-depth research. You will also hone your teamwork, and oral and written communication skills in your three years of undergraduate study. Additionally, you are encouraged to develop career management skills; such as conducting a skills audit, choosing appropriate modules to support your intended career choices, and identifying ways to fill skills gaps through additional training.

There will be opportunities for you to learn or continue to study many modern languages at each level of study throughout your degree (through the Westminster 'free elective' modules).

In the second year you are encouraged to take an internship module (1POL598) which requires you to secure, with our assistance, a suitable placement in a political setting, such as an MP's constituency or parliamentary office, an NGO or an embassy. The University of Westminster's location in central London provides an unparalleled opportunity to secure an internship. Additionally we have excellent links with prospective employers.

The University careers service provides lists of job vacancies and voluntary work opportunities at the University (such as being a student ambassador or working in the library); it also provides invaluable career information and support to individual students, who may continue to use the careers service for up to three years after they graduate.

Increasing numbers of our students continue their study at postgraduate level, in the UK and abroad. We envisage that many students will apply to do Masters Degrees and PhDs in DPIR.

Recent graduates have gone on to a wide range of careers, including academia, the media, the civil service, pressure groups, political consultancies, management, the retail sector, accountancy, and banking.

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

Knowledge and understanding

Level 4

By the end of the first year, you are expected to:

- understand key political concepts and contemporary debates, and the development of underlying political ideas and ideologies;
- understand key theoretical perspectives related to the study of Politics;
- have begun developing critical and analytical skills used in the practice and understanding of politics;
- know about political institutions and methods of governance in their local, national and international contexts;
- have explored political processes in different national contexts all over the world.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, you are expected to have:

- built on and consolidated the knowledge and understanding gained at Level 4;
- developed a critical understanding of how political and democratic institutions emerge, how they operate, and how they shape individual and collective behaviour;
- understood a range of theories in Western political thought and international political economy;
- evaluated different types of research approaches and methods used in politics
- developed a research proposal in preparation for a dissertation at Level 6.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, you are expected to know how to:

- consolidate the theoretical knowledge and applied understanding developed at prior levels 5
- reflect critically on debates in contemporary political theory and evaluate the contribution of key political theorists;
- apply theories and concepts in different national and international political settings;
- formulate and construct logical arguments about political phenomena and to evaluate these through empirical and theoretical methods;
- design and complete a dissertation using appropriate conventions, methodologies and sources.

Specific skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year, you are expected to:

- understand the academic demands of higher education;
- be able to think critically about political concepts, ideologies and issues
- be aware of basic conceptual and theoretical debates;
- be able to use basic academic skills of literacy without plagiarism;
  be able to identify appropriate sources for assignments (including books, journals and e-resources) and reference them accurately
- be able to work independently.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, you are expected to:

- be able to evaluate different theoretical perspectives;
- know how to analyse, and effectively research, the main features and practices of politics;
- to be able to critically examine political processes and institutions in national and international contexts;
- know how to select and justify appropriate methodological and analytical approaches, relevant theories and techniques for different types of political research;
- have the ability to produce and justify a feasible dissertation research proposal.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, you are expected to:

- be able to reflect critically on the development of contemporary political theory;
- be able to present and defend your own analysis of texts in contemporary political theory;
- know how to research a political issue or a policy using empirical knowledge;
- be able to apply theories to real world contexts.

Key transferable skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year you are expected to:

- be able to develop strategies to support your independent learning;
- be able to manage time to allow for the preparation and submission of assignments by deadlines set;
- know how to locate and retrieve information, organise and present material;
- be able to cite sources in coursework and produce a bibliography;
- be able to communicate ideas clearly in written and spoken form and make informed reasoned arguments;
- have acquired fluency in computing skills – use of Word, PowerPoint, Blackboard;
- be able to discuss ideas and concepts in groups;
- developed analytical and problem-solving skills that they can use to promote, defend, criticise a particular approach in politics.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, you are expected to have:
- developed career management skills;

- acquired the ability to formulate an independent research question and carry out an extended piece of research.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, you are expected to have:
- the ability to work with academic staff on a research dissertation;
- the capacity to work independently and apply appropriate critical and analytical skills;
- the ability to formulate an independent analytical perspective.

Learning, teaching and assessment methods

Learning

This section addresses the question of how you study the discipline of Politics at Westminster. DPIR's Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy promotes 'student–centred, active learning', focussing on your individual needs, abilities, interests, and learning styles. And, as indicated above, teaching in the Department also makes full use of lecturers' own research interests: this is 'research-led teaching'. This approach is designed to bring the research and teaching purposes of the University closer together with the aim of enhancing your own learning. And in doing this, we encourage you to conduct your own research using inquiry-based learning techniques.

Your research sources will include academic journals, books, and electronic media linked to Blackboard: these develop your skills through 'blended learning' which uses a wide range of teaching and research media. The first year requires you significantly shift your approach to education, with the goal of becoming more aware of your learning strategies and the value placed on your independent learning.

You can achieve these goals if you manage your time well. You are advised to spend approximately 120 hours (for a 15-credit module) and 240 hours (for a 30-credit module) on reading and preparation of coursework in order to gain the skills and understanding required for the successful completion of a degree in politics.

Academic staff will support you by providing clear documentation in module handbooks about the module's content, learning outcomes (expectations), and assessment strategy, and appropriate core reading).

Students at Level 4 will be required to engage critically with texts and other sources – including journals and e-journals – from the start of the course. Guidance on subject matter is provided through lectures and seminar activities which outline key political arguments, approaches, concepts, methodologies and issues; this process helps you to think critically. Formative assessments, particularly those in the first semester of the first year, help you to appreciate the standard of work that is expected at degree level.

As you progress through your second and third years of study, you are expected to undertake more student-led coursework, for example producing a research proposal for your Level 6 dissertation. Independent learning is most developed through this dissertation, where you have the opportunity and freedom, supported by supervision, to do in-depth research and to write about a topic within the field of politics that interests you.

Teaching

Teaching at DPIR advances your learning through a range of methods applied both inside and outside the classroom including lectures, seminars, workshops, debates and audiovisual

formats. Level 4 modules focus on introductory skills of analysis and writing, learning techniques and the provision of core information and knowledge. There is an emphasis on 'learning how to learn' and on how to analyse material and present it effectively, in oral, visual and written formats.

Modules at Levels 5 and 6 progressively build on the knowledge and understanding gained during the foundational first year. The emphasis in these modules is on familiarising you with contemporary theories, debates in, and approaches to, the study of politics and institutions. For example, you will explore new forms of democratic practice currently emerging in political activism and public service in the UK and internationally, and you will examine the relationship between the state and civil society in contemporary European democracies. The emphasis in core modules is on applying theoretical perspectives and encouraging critical student-led debate. For instance, the module on contemporary Postcolonial Politics: India and China is research-led: it engages you with current research in postcolonial theory, and concepts which are essential in understanding politics in non-Western world.

Some optional modules on offer, such as 'Gender, Politics and the State' or 'Political Psychology' are linked to staff research. The internship module (1POL598) is available in the second year. Here you will be encouraged to seek a placement with a political organisation – for example, in an MP's constituency or parliamentary office, or in an NGO or embassy – to give you a concrete, experiential, understanding of politics in action.

Assessment

Assessment offers a way of measuring whether the learning outcomes of a module have been achieved and to what standard. Assessment is also crucial to student motivation; effective and timely feedback is a key aspect of the assessment strategy in the DPIR. There are appropriate assessments at each level and in each module. Our external examiners applaud the original and diverse range of assessments that we offer.

With regard to coursework, in the Level 4 modules 'Introduction to Political Theory' and 'Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations', students are required to write a critical review of a political concept and of a journal article, respectively. These exercises are designed to give you the confidence to use sources other than textbooks. In 'Comparative Politics' (also at Level 4) you are required to complete a research task using comparative analysis. At Level 5, you practice more advanced research and analytical skills. For example, in Western Political Thought you are required to read extracts from the primary texts of political philosophers. In the Level 6 module 'Power, Freedom, Justice: Explorations in Contemporary Political Theory', you will produce a log reflecting on different perspectives and themes in twentieth- and twenty first-century political theory.

While assessments may take a range of forms, essays remain very important. Essays test your ability to research and answer a central question, to marshal arguments, and to develop academic literacy (including appropriate referencing conventions). Other assessments include presentations, research proposals, posters, reports, and presentations with supporting statements. Presentations test group work and communication skills. At Level 5, in 'State and Society', students will be required to engage with policy frameworks. The research proposal completed in the research methods module at Level 5 provides an outline of the dissertation to be completed at Level 6. The dissertation, which represents the culmination of your studies, is based on your own research.

Course structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course and their credit value. Full-time Undergraduate students study 120 credits per year.

Core modules at Level 4

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL415	An Introduction to Political Theory	Core	30
SPIR401	Comparative Politics	Core	30
1INR410	Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations		

Optional modules at Level 4:

Code	Title	Status	Value

Code	Title	Status	Value
1EPO411	Immigration: the European Experience	Option	15
1INR411	Globalization, Power and International Governance	Option	15
SPIR402	International Relations and the Global Economy	Option	15
SPIR404	Global Environmental Politics	Option	15
SDEV411	Introduction to the Politics of Developing Countries	Option	15
SPIR404	Revolutions and Political Change	Option	15

Optional modules at Level 5:

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Core	15
SPIR513	International Security	Core	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Core	15
SPIR514	Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East	Core	15
1POL507	Democracy in America	Option	15
1POL508	Gender, Politics and the State	Option	15
1POL598	Politics and International Relations Internship module	Option	15
1EPO509	European Foreign Policy	Option	15
SPIR504	Governing the European Union	Option	15
SPIR506	Russia and Eastern Europe: The Politics of Transition	Option	15

SDEV511	Political Economy of Development	Option	15
SDEV525	Oil, Globalisation and Development in the Middle East and Central Asia	Option	15
1INR521	Foreign Policy Analysis	Option	15
SPIR517	Africa in the World: Politics Economy and Society	Option	15
SPIR513	International Security	Option	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Option	15
SPIR516	Political Gaming and Simulations	Option	15
SPIR514	Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East	Option	15
SPIR508	Questioning Rights	Option	15

Optional modules at Level 6:

1POL620	Applied British Politics	Option	15
1POL678	Diplomacy and International Relations	Option	15
1POL682	Political Analysis: Mind, Knowledge and Reality	Option	15
1POL683	American Power in the 21st Century	Option	15
1POL684	Politics and Media Freedom	Option	15
SINR600	Sovereignty and Intervention after the Cold War	Option	15
1INR620	Ethics and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR601	Power, Freedom and Justice: Explorations in Political Subjectivity	Option	15
SPIR602	Citizenship and Democratic Politics	Option	15
SPIR610	Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR611	European Security	Option	15
SPIR612	Protest, Politics and the Stare: Social Movements Today	Option	15
1DEV610	Development in the Era of Globalisation	Option	15
SDEV610	Globalisation, States and NGO's in Developing Countries	Option	15
SPIR613	Postcolonial: India and China	Option	15

| SPIR614 | Issues and Debates in the Middle East Politics | Option | 15 |
| SPIR616 | Political Psychology: New Perspectives on Organisations | Option | 15 |

Please note: Not all option modules will necessarily be offered in any one year.

Academic regulations

The BA (Hons) Politics and BA Politics and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with Section 17: Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

To qualify for the award of BA Hons in Politics, a student must have obtained at least 360 credits including:

- passed 75 credits at credit Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4; and
- passed a minimum of 120 Credits at credit Level 5 or higher; and
- passed a minimum of 120 credits at credit Level 6 or higher
- attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at credit Levels 5 and 6; and
- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant course scheme.

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria, the average of the best 105 credits passed at credit Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded, and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at credit Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

Support for students

Upon arrival, an Orientation programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated an academic tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference points for the course

Internally

The design of this course has been informed by the university's mission statement, widening student participation, university policies on skills and teaching, and learning and assessment policies, as well as by Faculty and departmental policies. The University's Skills Policy (2001) includes two elements: higher education (HE) and career management skills and personal development planning, both of which must be incorporated into course programmes (Whitlock, 2001). The Westminster Exchange (http://www.wmin.ac.uk/page-19440) provides professional development opportunities and publications and improves teaching and learning.

Most of your lecturers – permanent staff and visiting lecturers – are based in the Department of Politics and International Relations. The BA Politics closely reflects the specialist interests and research activity of the staff team in the areas of political theory, feminism, British politics, Islam and democracy, media freedom, social movements, and environmental politics. The Politics degree reflects the links with the Centre for the Study of Democracy, the Security and International Relations programme, and the Governance and Sustainability programme, all located in the Department. Researchers and PhD students from this Centre are encouraged to develop their pedagogical skills through participation as seminar leaders or dissertation supervisors to ensure that their research activity is fed back into teaching at undergraduate level.

Externally

The Dearing Report (1992) followed by the White Paper, *The Future of Higher Education,* published in 2003, significantly overhauled government policy. Together these gave rise to two key policy objectives: widening participation and employability, as expressed through Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCHE) and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) initiatives. The University's Teaching and Learning Policy (1998) and Skills Policy (2001) were responses to these initiatives; they are reflected in the University's statement 'Educating for Professional Life'. The Disability Equality Duty requires us to comply with the Disability Rights Commission code of practice for Post-16 Education and the Equality Challenge Unit to promote equality and diversity in HE.

The QAA's 2007 Politics and International Relations benchmarks were used in the revalidation of the course in 2008. These benchmarks provide detailed guidance and standards regarding subject knowledge, skills, teaching/learning, and assessment; they inform the current programme.

Quality management and enhancement

Course management

The BA Politics is managed by the Course Leader, Dr Ricardo Blaug (Room 507) Wells St; tel: 020 3506 8910; email R.Blaug@westminster.ac.uk, Department of Politics and

International Relations. The Department also offers BA (Hons) International Relations, BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations and BA International Relations and Development Studies. The Department has 25 permanent members of staff and several Visiting Lecturers.

The Department has one away-day per year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Staff in the Department undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues. Staff in the Department attend events organised by the and the Teaching and Learning Groups that address aspects of teaching, learning and assessment

Course approval, monitoring and review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2008. The panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and the relevance to employers. Periodic course review helps to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure it is running effectively and that issues which might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff will consider evidence about the course, including the outcomes from each Course Committee, evidence of student progression and achievement and the reports from external examiners, to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Annual Monitoring Sub-Committee considers the Faculty action plans resulting from this process and the outcomes are reported to the Academic Council, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full Orientation to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's' quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

> Dr Ricardo Blaug, BA Politics Course Leader, Room 506 Wells St;
> tel: 020 3506 8910; email: R.Blaug@westminster.ac.uk
> Course Enquiries Team, tel: +44 (0)20 3506 8910
> course-enquiries@westminster.ac.uk

Please note – This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with module

handbooks which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) International Relations BA International Relations
Name and level of intermediate award	Diploma of HE in International Relations Certificate of HE in International Relations
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Regent site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Thomas Moore
Course URL:	
Mode and length of study:	3 years full time
University of Westminster course code:	
JACS code:	
UCAS code:	L250
QAA subject benchmarking group:	Politics and International Relations
Professional body accreditation:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	November 2008
Date of programme specification:	September 2013

Admissions Requirements

Normally, three A Levels (A2) at grades BCC or two A Levels (A2) at grades AB; plus English GCSE grade C or above. Other Curriculum 2000 combinations will be considered on an individual basis. A variety of non-standard vocational, professional and other qualifications may be acceptable with evidence of capacity both to benefit from and to pass this course.

Non-native speakers of English will normally be required to have an overall IELTS score of 6 points (or equivalent), including a score of 6 in reading and writing skills.

Aims of the course

The BA International Relations enables you to develop a comprehensive understanding of the evolution of the international system, and to relate this to contemporary developments in international relations. It provides a theoretical framework for understanding the international system and the distribution of power at the global, regional and national levels.
You will focus particularly on the changing dynamics of international security and the challenges of state building within contemporary international relations. This course is linked

to the internationally renowned Security and International Relations research programme in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

The BA International Relations is hosted by the Department of Politics and International Relations. The Department of Politics and International Relations is a centre of excellence for the study of Politics, International Relations and Development Studies. Hosting the internationally renowned Centre for the Study of Democracy, there is a longstanding tradition of innovative research and high quality research-led teaching. Being in the heart of London, we regularly invite leading intellectuals, policy-makers and officials for our well-established series of seminars, public lectures and conferences.

With excellent links to employers, this course offers you the opportunity to advance your knowledge of international relations in an applied setting. Our graduates go on to develop careers in various sectors, including the Civil Service, NGOs, international organisations such as the EU or UN, policy and research, teaching, journalism and politics

The BA International Relations reflects the University's mission statement to shape the future of professional life by "being a diverse, vibrant and inspirational learning environment". To this end the course's primary aims are:

- To introduce students to the broad field of International Relations, its basic concepts, theories and methods;
- To understand the global character of international politics, informed by both theoretical and historical perspectives of the international system;
- To identify the changing geopolitical dimensions of international order and locate these within specific regional constellations;
- To engage in philosophical and empirical analysis of the dynamics of conflict, violence and intervention in the international system, with particular emphasis on challenges arising from the post-Cold War environment;
- To produce political researchers who understand the importance of research methodology and analytical frameworks in researching international politics.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students

- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students

With excellent links to employers, this course offers you the opportunity to advance your knowledge of international relations in an applied setting. Our graduates go on to develop careers in various sectors, including the Civil Service, NGOs, international organisations such as the EU or UN, policy and research, teaching, journalism and politics.

Students are encouraged to develop career management skills as part of their degree; this includes researching possible careers, conducting a skills audit, choosing appropriate modules to support their future intentions, and identifying ways of filling any skills gaps through additional training. Information literacy is at the heart of our core skills provision and you will work closely with academic and library support staff to develop research skills as part of your training in International Relations.

In their second year, students are encouraged to take an internship module (1POL598). This requires them to find a suitable placement in a profession related to international relations such as an MP's constituency or parliamentary office, or working for an NGO or at a foreign embassy. Our location in central London gives us an unparalleled opportunity to secure a learning placement for our students.

We recognise that studying International Relations requires a global outlook. For this reason, the University provides opportunities for students to learn or continue to study modern languages throughout their degree as a Westminster free choice module at each level of study.

The Career Development Centre provides lists of job vacancies and voluntary work opportunities at the university (such as working as a student ambassador or working in the library), and provides individual information and support (students find this invaluable). Students can continue to use the careers' service for up to three years after they graduate.

Learning Outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.
Knowledge and Understanding of the Subject

Level 4

By the end of the first year, typical students are expected to have:

- Identified the primary characteristics of International Relations as a scholarly discipline, informed by key theories and political concepts.
- Acquired an understanding of the differing accounts of the international system and the historical dimensions of global order.
- Identified the role of political culture and power in shaping our perceptions of political order within International Relations, understood through different regional, theoretical and cultural frameworks.
- Developed an awareness of the importance of information literacy and library skills for studying and researching International Relations.
- Appreciation for the value of critical thinking in assessing the diverse range of scholarly traditions within International Relations.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, typical students are expected to have:

- Detailed understanding of the contemporary agenda of international security and the key issues that have dominated International Relations in the post-Cold War era.

- Developed an awareness of the key traditions in International Relations Theory and an ability to differentiate between specific thinkers and debates within these traditions.
- An ability to critically identify the geopolitical dimensions of International Relations and key events into a broad narrative on post-Cold War politics.
- An appreciation for the regional dynamics of International Relations, with specific focus on the politics, society and culture of the Middle East.
- An appreciation of the role of social science methodologies and political research skills in the research process, having produced a feasible dissertation research proposal for Level 6 study.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, typical students are expected to have:

- Identified the primary characteristics of sovereignty as a primary concept in International relations and linked these to the changing frontiers of intervention in global politics.
- An understanding of the ethical dimensions of International Relations and the role of ethical discourse in addressing global political problems.
- An advanced ability to apply International Relations theory to 'real world' events and to think creatively about the applied dimensions of the discipline.
- The ability to critically interrogate key concepts in International relations and identify the contribution of theoretical perspectives for understanding the disciplinary framework of international politics.
- An ability to conduct their own political research, whether qualitative or quantitative, informed by appropriate research methodologies and theoretical frameworks.

Specific Skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to discuss contemporary issues in International Relations. An understanding of the nature of International Relations as an academic discipline.
- An understanding of the key theoretical perspectives within International Relations and ability to compare theories.
- An understanding of the range of research skills required in studying International Relations.
- The ability to identify appropriate sources for assignments and use information with integrity, including full knowledge of academic referencing.
- The ability to identify a range of research materials, including identifying, evaluating and selecting from a range of sources.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to apply theory to historical and geopolitical constellations within international politics.
- The ability to critique prevailing perspectives on International Relations and engage with critical perspectives.

- The ability to think independently about the history of international security and discuss contemporary developments in international security, supported by relevant theoretical knowledge.
- The ability to understand the regional dimensions of international political, especially as it relates to politics, society and culture of the Middle East.
- The ability to select and justify appropriate methodological and analytical approaches, relevant theories, and techniques for different types of political research within International Relations.
- An appreciation of the role of social science methodologies and political research skills in the research process, having produced a feasible dissertation research proposal for Level 6 study.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, typical students are expected to have:

- A critical understanding of foundational concepts within global politics and an ability to think imaginatively about their placement within the discipline of International Relations.
- An in-depth understanding of the origins and nature of sovereignty within International Relations, informed by recent developments in international security and the politics of humanitarian intervention.
- An ability to think critically about the role of 'ethics' within International Relations, applying ethical theories to real world challenges.
- An ability to conduct political research and produce a student-led dissertation of 10,000 words.

Key Transferable Skills

By the end of the first year, typical students are expected to have:

Level 4

- The ability to organise their workloads effectively.
- The ability to discuss political ideas and concepts in small groups.
- The ability to undertake short and medium term research projects.
- Fluency in word processing and Internet skills.
- The ability to locate and retrieve information electronically, with full knowledge of the range of scholarly resources available from the University of Westminster library.
- The ability to organise and present research material.
- The ability to communicate ideas clearly in written and spoken form.
- The ability to work as a team.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to engage analytically with given information.
- The ability to develop career management skills and identify areas for further skills development.
- The ability to formulate independent research questions and plan a programme of scholarly research.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to undertake a long-term research project
- An advanced ability to organise their workload.
- The ability to work in partnership with academic staff on producing a dissertation.
- The ability to formulate and demonstrate an independent analytical perspective.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Learning

The primary aim of the University of Westminster is to promote 'student-centred, active learning'. To this end the Department of Politics and International Relations seeks to encourage students to demonstrate their initiative and pursue their own intellectual goals to the greatest extent possible.

Teaching in the Department of Politics and International Relations makes full use of lecturers' own research interests: this is 'research-led teaching'. This term refers to initiatives designed to bring the research and teaching functions of the university closer together with the aim of enhancing students' learning.

Your learning is also enriched by your own research. Your research sources will include academic journals, books, and electronic media linked to Blackboard: these develop your skills through 'blended learning'. The first year requires you to make a significant shift in your approach to education: the goal is for you to become more aware of your learning strategies and the value placed on independent learning.

The BA International Relations encourages students to question the world in which they live and acquire an understanding of all the different theoretical approaches within International Relations. Students will be advised to critically engage with all perspectives and to utilise those that they feel have the greatest validity. The study of International Relations requires both a philosophical and empirical understanding of international politics and presents students with a number of diverse areas of study. Students will be encouraged to tailor this degree to their own research interests and demonstrate their independent analytical ability throughout the three levels.

Teaching

The Department of Politics and International Relations is committed to research-led teaching. Modules in IR will be delivered by research-active academics with particular expertise in the modules they teach. Each module is structured around a lecture and seminar; the lectures are designed to introduce students to each topic and provide a balanced and comprehensive overview; the seminars are student-led and provide a forum in which the student is encouraged to discuss the previous lecture and analyse in an informed way the issues under discussion.

Assessment

Assessment offers a way of measuring whether the learning outcomes of a module have been achieved and to what standard. Assessment is also crucial to student motivation; effective and timely feedback is a key aspect of the assessment strategy in the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR). There are appropriate assessments at each

level and in each module. Our external examiners applaud the original and diverse range of assessments that we offer. All feedback is provided electronically through our online marking system in Blackboard.

With regard to coursework, in the Level 4 modules 'Introduction to Political Theory' and 'Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations', students are required to write a critical review of a political concept and of a journal article, respectively. These exercises are designed to give students the confidence to use sources other than textbooks. In 'Comparative Politics' (also at Level 4) you are required to complete a research task using comparative analysis. At Level 5 you practice more advanced research and analytical skills. For example, in Theories of International Relations you are required to engage with classic texts in IR theory and develop skills of critical exegesis. In the Level 6 module Sovereignty and Intervention After the Cold War, students will produce a case study which develops a policy led response to issues of intervention in contemporary international politics.

While assessments may take a range of forms, essays remain very important. Essays test your ability to research and answer the question, marshal arguments and develop academic literacy (including appropriate referencing conventions). Other assessments include presentations, research proposals, reports, and PowerPoint presentations with supporting statements. Presentations test group work and communication skills. Students may initially feel less confident producing assignments which are not standard essays. However, with detailed guidance and appropriate support (including use of previous examples), they come to welcome the opportunities to do more creative assignments, analysing primary documents such as political manifestos, government bills and media reports). At Level 5, in 'Geopolitics', students will be required to formulate their own policy question and present this as a poster. This encourages student to develop job-ready skills and enhance their employability profile. The research proposal completed in the Political Research module at Level 5 provides an outline of the dissertation to be completed at Level 6. The dissertation, which represents the culmination of your studies, is based on your own research.

Course Structure

This section shows the core and option modules available as part of the course, and their credit value. Full-time undergraduate students study 120 credits per year. In the first year students in BA International Relations will complete three 30-credit year-long (two-semester) core modules as well as two option modules, one of which can be a Westminster 'free elective' module. The three core modules ensure that students gain an understanding of political theory, comparative Politics and International Politics/Relations.

Credit Level 4

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL415	An Introduction to Political Theory	Core	30
SPIR401	Comparative Politics	Core	30
1INR410	Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations	Core	30

Optional modules at Level 4:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1EPO411	Immigration: the European Experience	Option	15
1INR411	Globalization, Power and International Governance	Option	15
SPIR402	International Relations and the Global Economy	Option	15
SPIR404	Global Environmental Politics	Option	15
SDEV411	Introduction to the Politics of Developing Countries	Option	15
SPIR404	Revolutions and Political Change	Option	15

Students may also choose one 15-credit 'free elective' module from outside the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Credit Level 5

Students in their second year may – subject to academic approval – choose one Level 6 module in the second semester.

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Core	15
SPIR513	International Security	Core	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Core	15

CHOICE OF SPIR514 or SPIR517

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR514	Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East	Core	15
SPIR515	Political Research	Core	15
SPIR517	Africa in the World: Politics, Economy and Society	Core	15

Optional modules in Politics at Level 5:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL507	Democracy in America	Option	15
SPIR517	Africa in the World: Politics, Economy and Society	Core	15
1POL508	Gender, Politics and the State	Option	15
1POL598	Politics and International Relations Internship module	Option	15
SPIR504	Governing the European Union	Option	15
SPIR506	Russia and Eastern Europe: The Politics of Transition	Option	15
SDEV511	Political Economy of Development	Option	15
SDEV525	Oil, Globalisation and Development in the Middle East and Central Asia	Option	15
1INR521	Foreign Policy Analysis	Option	15
SPIR509	Democratic Innovations in Practice	Option	15
SPIR513	International Security	Option	15
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Option	15
SPIR507	Western Political Thought	Option	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Option	15
SPIR516	Political Gaming and Simulations	Option	15
SPIR514	Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East	Option	15
SPIR508	Questioning Rights	Option	15
SPIR510	State and Society	Option	15

Credit Level 6

Code	Title	Status	Value
SINR600	Sovereignty and Intervention after the Cold War	Core	15
1INR620	Ethics and International Relations	Core	15
1POL699	Dissertation	Core	30

Optional modules in Politics at Level 6:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL620	Applied British Politics	Option	15
1POL678	Diplomacy and International Relations	Option	15
1POL682	Political Analysis: Mind, Knowledge and Reality	Option	15
1POL683	American Power in the 21st Century	Option	15
1POL684	Politics and Media Freedom	Option	15
SINR600	Sovereignty and Intervention after the Cold War	Option	15
1INR620	Ethics and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR601	Power, Freedom and Justice: Explorations in Political Subjectivity	Option	15
SPIR602	Citizenship and Democratic Politics	Option	15
SPIR605	Themes in the Global Politics of Energy	Option	15
SPIR610	Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR611	European Security	Option	15
SPIR612	Protest, Politics and the Stare: Social Movements Today	Option	15
1DEV610	Development in the Era of Globalisation	Option	15
SDEV610	Globalisation, States and NGO's in Developing Countries	Option	15
SPIR613	Postcolonial: India and China	Option	15
SPIR614	Issues and Debates in the Middle East Politics	Option	15
SPIR616	Political Psychology: New Perspectives on Organisations	Option	15

Academic Regulations

BA Honours International Relations, BA International Relations and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with Section 17: Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

To qualify for the award of BA Hons in International Relations a student must have obtained at least 360 credits including:

- passed 75 credits at credit Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4; and
- passed a minimum of 120 Credits at credit Level 5 or higher; and
- passed a minimum of 120 credits at credit Level 6 or higher
- attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at credit Levels 5 and 6; and
- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant course scheme.

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria, the average of the best 105 credits passed at credit Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded, and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at credit Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

Support for Students

On arrival, an Orientation programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the site on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, and to the Registry Office Administration. Students are allocated an academic tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes the Library which, across its four sites, holds printed collections of 356,000 printed books, 29,000 print and e-journal, over 45,0000 electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Access to all services is facilitated through Library Search, a new online service.

There are over 3,500 computers spread over the four University sites available for students' use. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students can access course materials and communicate with staff and other students via message boards.

At University level, Student Services provides advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability matters, and careers. The chaplaincy provides multi-faith guidance. The International Education Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference Points for the Course

Internally

The design of this course has been informed by the university's mission statement, widening student participation, university policies on skills and teaching, and learning and assessment policies, as well as by Faculty and departmental policies. The University's Skills Policy (2001) includes two elements: higher education (HE) and career management skills and personal development planning, both of which must be incorporated into course programmes (Whitlock, 2001). The Westminster Exchange (http://www.wmin.ac.uk/page-19440) provides professional development opportunities and publications and improves teaching and learning.

Most of your lecturers – permanent staff and visiting lecturers – are based in the Department of Politics and International Relations. The BA International Relations closely reflects the specialist interests and research activity of the staff team in the areas of intervention and statebuilding, theories of security, post-colonial international relations and global change, energy security, and foreign policy and diplomacy. The International Relations degree reflects the links with the Security and International Relations programme, the Centre for the Study of Democracy, and the Governance and Sustainability programme, all located in the Department. Researchers and PhD students from this Centre are encouraged to develop their pedagogical skills through participation as seminar leaders or dissertation supervisors to ensure that their research activity is fed back into teaching at undergraduate level.

Externally

The Dearing Report (1992) followed by the White Paper, *The Future of Higher Education,* published in 2003, significantly overhauled government policy. Together these gave rise to two key policy objectives: widening participation and employability, as expressed through Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCHE) and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) initiatives. The University's Teaching and Learning Policy (1998) and Skills Policy (2001) were responses to these initiatives; they are reflected in the University's statement 'Educating for Professional Life'. The Disability Equality Duty requires us to comply with the Disability Rights Commission code of practice for Post-16 Education and the Equality Challenge Unit to promote equality and diversity in HE.

The QAA's 2007 Politics and International Relations benchmarks were used in the revalidation of the course in 2008. These benchmarks provide detailed guidance and standards regarding subject knowledge, skills, teaching/learning, and assessment; they inform the current programme.

Quality Management and Enhancement

Course Management

The BA International Relations is managed by the Course Leader, Dr Thomas Moore (Room 517 Wells St; tel: (0)20 3506 8920; email: T.Moore1@westminster.ac.uk) in the Department of Politics and International Relations. The Department also offers a BA (Hons) Politics and a BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations. The Department has 25 permanent members of staff and 6 Visiting Lecturers.

The Department has one away-day per year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Staff in the Department undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues. Staff in the Department attend events

organised by the Academic Standards and the Teaching and Learning Groups that address aspects of teaching, learning and assessment.

Course Approval, Monitoring and Review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2008. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and relevance to employers. Periodic course reviews help to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff consider the outcomes from each course committee, evidence of student progression and achievement, and the reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Academic Standards Group audits this process; the outcomes of the audit are reported to the Academic Council of the University, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student Involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full Orientation to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's' quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course:

> Contact Dr Thomas Moore, BA International Relations Course Leader, Room 517 Wells St; tel: 020 3506 8920 email: T.Moore1@westminster.ac.uk)

> Course Enquiries Team, course-enquiries@westminster.ac.uk

Please note – This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with module handbooks which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.

Part one: Programme Specification

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Honours) Politics and International Relations
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of HE
	Certificate of HE
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Regent Site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Farhang Morady
Course URL:	
Mode and length of study:	Full time 3 years
University of Westminster course code:	
JACS code:	
UCAS code:	LL12
QAA subject benchmarking group:	Politics and International Relations
Professional body accreditation:	
Date of course validation/review:	November 2008
Date of programme specification:	September 2013

Admissions Requirements

Normally, three A Levels (A2) at grades BBB or two A Levels (A2) at grades AB; plus English GCSE grade C or above. Other Curriculum 2000 combinations will be considered on an individual basis. A variety of non-standard vocational, professional and other qualifications may be acceptable with evidence of capacity both to benefit from and to pass this course.

Non native speakers of English will normally be required to have an overall IELTS score of 6 points (or equivalent), including a score of 6 in reading and writing skills.

Aims of the course

Context

This programme specification is written to give students an understanding of their degree progression in the BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations taught in the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR). The programme specification explains the desired learning outcomes, knowledge and understanding, and specific and transferable skills associated with the study of International Relations and Politics.

The BA Politics and International Relations is hosted by DPIR, which is a centre of excellence for the study of Politics, International Relations and Development, and also hosts the internationally renowned Centre for the Study of Democracy. DPIR has a longstanding tradition of innovative research and high quality research-led teaching. Being in the heart of London, we regularly invite leading intellectuals, policy-makers and officials for our well-established series of seminars, public lectures and conferences.

This programme specification acknowledges the importance of research-led teaching in the Department of Politics and International Relations. It also endorses the interdisciplinary outlook of the 2007 QAA Subject Benchmarking for Politics and International Relations:

> Politics and international relations reach out to other disciplines such as anthropology, cultural studies, economics, sociology, geography, history, law or literature. Thus, programmes in departments of politics and international relations or international studies usually include courses in other social sciences and humanities. While many programmes are primarily social scientific in approach, some are on the cusp of the social sciences and humanities. There is a discernible thrust towards what might be called the 'internationalisation' of courses, and a related stress on interdisciplinary. Departments must play to their specialist strengths, which may be expressed in 'traditional', self-contained courses.

Aims

Our Politics and International Relations degree provides an integrated approach for understanding the comparative dimensions of politics at the local, regional, national and global levels. This course enables you to develop specialist knowledge of important political actors and key trends in international politics, and your critical and analytical skills in the understanding of political problems at both the national and international levels. We make full use of our unique location, and many of our students gain placements through our successful internship programme with members of Parliament, governmental and non-governmental organisations. We also enjoy excellent links with employers, and our graduates go on to develop careers in a range of sectors, including the Civil Service, NGOs, international organisations such as the EU or UN, policy and research organisations, teaching, journalism and politics.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, ie employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses

- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students

- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision

- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements, which will inform the service delivered to students.

Learning outcomes

Learning outcomes are statements on what successful students have achieved as the result of learning. These threshold statements of achievement and are linked to the knowledge, understanding and skills that a student will have gained on successfully completing a course.

A degree in Politics and International relations prepares students for many professional careers and as a graduate you will enter the job market with valuable transferable skills. This degree develops critical awareness and analytical capacity and provides you with the skills required to undertake in-depth research and assessment both as an individual and as part of a group. You will also hone your individual, teamwork and communication skills in studying for this Politics degree.

Recent graduates have gone on to a wide range of careers, including academia, the media, the civil service, pressure groups, political consultancies, management, the retail sector, accountancy, and banking.

You are encouraged to develop career management skills as part of your degree; these include conducting a skills audit, choosing appropriate modules to support your intended career choices.

In the second year you are encouraged to take an internship module (1POL598) which requires you to negotiate a suitable placement in a political setting, such as an MP's constituency or parliamentary office, an NGO or an embassy. The University of Westminster's location in central London provides an unparalleled opportunity to secure an internship. Additionally we have excellent links with prospective employers. The University provides opportunities for you to learn or continue to study a wide number of modern languages at each level of study throughout your degree (through Westminster's 'free elective' modules). The University also offers international students the opportunity (should they need it) to improve their academic English, via the module English for Academic Purposes.

The University careers service provides lists of job vacancies and voluntary work opportunities at the University (such as being a student ambassador or working in the library); it also provides invaluable career information and support to individual students. Students may continue to use the careers service for up to three years after they graduate.

An increasing number of our students continue their study at postgraduate level both in the UK and abroad. We envisage that many students will apply to do Masters Degrees and PhDs in our own Department of Politics and International Relations

Learning outcomes of the BA Politics and International Relations

The Politics component of the degree aims to:

- equip you with an understanding of basic concepts, knowledge and methods associated with the study of politics;

- encourage you to develop a critical appreciation of political institutions and processes, political theory and the relationship between political ideas and political practice;

- enable you develop your ability to comprehend, analyse and assess contemporary political events and problems;

- provide a strong basis for postgraduate study;

- develop not only your intellectual abilities, subject-specific knowledge and your facility for critical reasoning, but also your personal and transferable skills.

The International Relations component of the degree aims to:

- introduce students to the broad field of International Relations, its basic concepts, theories and methods;

- understand the global character of international politics, informed by both theoretical and historical perspectives on the international system;

- identify the changing geopolitical dimensions of international order and locate these within specific regional constellations;

- engage in philosophical and empirical analysis of the dynamics of conflict, violence and intervention in the international system, with particular emphasis on challenges arising from the post-Cold War environment;

- produce political researchers who understand the importance of research.

The BA Politics and International Relations is designed around a number of core modules at each level; these provide basic disciplinary knowledge, concepts, subject specific intellectual skills, and personal transferable skills. The core modules equip you progressively with the intellectual tools appropriate to a Politics and International Relations graduate.

In addition, the degree offers several specialist option modules that enable you to develop and explore in greater depth a range of topics – thematic, historical, and contemporary – according to your interests. The final year dissertation represents the culmination of your studies as it enables you to develop your capacity for independent research.

Knowledge and Understanding

Overall, the BA Politics and International Relations is intended to develop a knowledge and understanding in both Politics and International Relations, as well understanding how the subjects are related. It equips you with both subject specific and general skills in order to enhance your employability; and provides a sound academic basis upon which to undertake further studies at postgraduate level.

Level 4

By the end of the first year, you are expected to have:

- understood key concepts in the study of Politics and International Relations
- the ability to demonstrate knowledge of political institutions and methods of governance and main contemporary debates in Politics
- understood key concepts and issues in International Relations
- the ability to apply comparative, historical and theoretical analysis in the broad subject area of Politics and International Relations
-

Level 5

By the end of the second year, you are expected to have:

- the ability to build on and consolidate knowledge and understanding gained at Level 4;
- the ability to evaluate the ideas of selected political thinkers;

- the ability to evaluate different types of research approaches, and methods in Politics and International Relations;
- the ability to develop a research proposal as the basis for a dissertation at Level 6.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, you are expected to have:

- the ability to reflect critically on texts and key debates in Politics and International Relations;
- the ability to identify and evaluate the contribution of theoretical debates to Politics and International Relations;
- the ability to apply theoretical knowledge and perspectives to the practice of Politics and International Relations;
- the ability to design and complete a dissertation using appropriate scholarly conventions, methodologies and sources.

Specific skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year, you are expected to have:

- understood the academic demands of a degree course;
- demonstrated the ability to think critically and independently about political concepts, theories, ideologies and issues;
- awareness of basic conceptual and theoretical debates;
- the ability to use basic academic skills without plagiarism;
- the ability to identify appropriate sources for assignments and to be able to reference them accurately;
- the ability to read and critically analyse books and journals and e journals beyond basic textbooks or internet sites.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, you are expected to have:

- the ability to consolidate and develop skills from Level 4;
- the ability to evaluate the ideas and texts of key thinkers in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations;
- the ability to analyse, and effectively research, the main features and debates relating to contemporary political practice at the UK, European, and international level;
- the ability to select and justify appropriate methodological and analytical approaches, relevant theories, and techniques for different types of research in Politics and International Relations;
- produce and justify a feasible dissertation research proposal.
-

Level 6

By the end of the third year, you are expected to have:

- the ability to reflect critically on current and future developments in Politics and International Relations;
- the ability to apply theoretical concepts from Politics and International Relations to real world cases;
- demonstrated an appreciation of scholarly debate and the contribution of academic research to Politics and International Relations;
- produced a student-led dissertation of 10,000 words that demonstrates intellectual rigour and knowledge of a specialised research area.

Key Transferable Skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year, you are expected to have:

- developed personal strategies to support independent learning;
- managed your time to allow for preparation and submission of assignments by the deadlines set;
- the ability to locate and retrieve information;
- the ability to organise and present material;
- the ability to communicate ideas clearly in written and spoken form;
- understand what plagiarism is and that it is an assessment offence;
- used both written and oral skills to explain current political debates and events;
- researched and produced reasoned arguments, written and oral (abstracts, reports, summaries);
- acquired ICT skills, for example: the use of Word, PowerPoint, Blackboard; the development of a PDP portfolio; online submission of assignments; using a library catalogue;
- understood how to write references in coursework and produce a bibliography;
- developed group-work skills and strategies.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, you are expected to have:

- developed career management skills to fill skills gaps in your CV. This might involve acquiring a computer literacy qualification, language skills or work experience;
- developed information retrieval skills appropriate to libraries, archives and the Internet.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, you are expected to have:

- used analytical and problem-solving communication skills in promoting, defending, criticising or implementing a particular policy;
- identified and located relevant research sources and materials in the study of politics and international relations;
- researched a topic in depth, using appropriate conventions, methodologies, techniques and sources;
- worked independently and applied appropriate critical and analytical skills
- presented research findings coherently and clearly;

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Learning

This section addresses the question of how you study Politics and International Relations at Westminster. Our Teaching, Learning and Assessment Strategy has the primary aim of promoting research-led and student–centred, 'active learning' which focusses on your needs, abilities, interests, and learning styles.

Teaching in the Department of Politics and International Relations makes full use of lecturers' own research interests: this is 'research-led teaching'. This refers to initiatives designed to bring the research and teaching activities of the University closer together with the aim of enhancing students' learning. And in doing this, we encourage you to conduct your own research using inquiry based learning techniques.

Your learning is also enriched by your own research. Your research sources will include academic journals, books, and electronic media linked to Blackboard: these develop your skills through 'blended learning' which involves a wide range of teaching and research media. The first year requires you to make a significant shift in your approach to education: the goal is for you to become more aware of your learning strategies and the value placed on independent learning.

You can achieve this goal if you manage your time well. You are advised to spend approximately 120 hours (for a 15-credit module) and 240 hours (for a 30-credit module) on reading and preparation of coursework in order to gain the skills and understanding required for the successful completion of a degree in politics.

Academic staff will support you by providing clear documentation in module handbooks about the module's content, learning outcomes (expectations), and assessment strategy, and as well as about the appropriate core reading for the module. Students in Level 4 core modules will be required to engage critically with texts and other sources – including journals and e-journals – from the start of the course. Guidance on the subject matter of the course is provided through lectures and seminar activities which outline key political arguments, approaches, concepts, methodologies and issues; these too help students to think critically. Formative assessments, particularly those in the first semester of the first year, help students to appreciate the standard of work that is expected at degree level.

As you progress through your second and third years of study, you are expected to undertake more student-led coursework, for example producing a research proposal for your Level 6 dissertation. Independent learning is most developed in this dissertation where you have the opportunity and freedom, supported by supervision, to do in-depth research and to write about a topic within the field of politics that most interests you.

Teaching

Teaching advances your learning through various methods applied both inside and outside the classroom. Level 4 modules focus on the basic skills of research and writing, learning techniques and the provision of core information and knowledge. There is an emphasis on 'learning how to learn' and on how to analyse material and present it effectively in oral, visual and written formats.

Levels 5 and 6 modules build progressively on the knowledge and understanding gained during the foundational first year. The emphasis in these modules is on familiarising you with contemporary theories, debates in, and approaches to, the study of Politics and International Relations. For example, you will examine the geopolitical dimensions of International

Relations through historical, political and geographical perspectives. The emphasis in core modules is on applying theoretical perspectives and encouraging critical student-led debate. For instance, you will develop reasoned arguments about the nature of sovereignty and critically examine how it has changed since the Cold War.

There is a range of optional modules on offer linked to staff research, from 'Gender, Politics and the State' to 'Political Psychology'. We also offer innovative modules including 'Political Gaming and Simulations' (SPIR516), which critically analyses political gaming from both a theoretical and practical perspective and involves role play and game playing. The internship module (1POL598) is available in the second year. Here you will be encouraged to seek a placement with a political organisation – for example, in an MP's constituency or parliamentary office, or in an NGO or embassy – to give you a concrete, experiential, understanding of politics in action.

Assessment

Assessment offers a way of measuring whether the learning outcomes of a module have been achieved and to what standard. Assessment is also crucial to student motivation; effective and timely feedback is a key aspect of the assessment strategy in the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR). There are appropriate assessments at each level and in each module. Our external examiners applaud the original and diverse range of assessments that we offer.

With regard to coursework, in the Level 4 modules 'Introduction to Political Theory' and 'Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations', students are required to write a critical review of a political concept and of a journal article, respectively. These exercises are designed to give students the confidence to use sources other than textbooks. In 'Comparative Politics' (also at Level 4) you are required to complete a research task using comparative analysis. At Level 5 you practice more advanced research and analytical skills. For example, in Western Political Thought students are required to read extracts from the primary texts of political philosophers. In the Level 6 module 'Power, Freedom, Justice: Explorations in Contemporary Political Theory', students will produce a log reflecting on different perspectives and themes in twentieth- and twenty first-century political theory.

While assessments may take various forms, essays remain very important. Essays test your ability to research and answer the question, marshal arguments and develop academic literacy (including appropriate referencing conventions). Other assessments include presentations, research proposals, reports, and PowerPoint presentations with supporting statements. Presentations test group work and communication skills. And with detailed guidance and appropriate support you are given the opportunity to do creative assignments, for instance analysing primary documents such as political manifestos, government bills and media reports). At Level 5, in 'State and Society', students engage with policy frameworks. The research proposal completed in the research methods module at Level 5 provides an outline of the dissertation to be completed at Level 6. The dissertation, which represents the culmination of your studies, is based on your own research.

Course Structure

This section lists the core and option modules available on the course and their credit value. Full-time undergraduate students take 120 credits per year. In the first year students in BA Politics will complete three 30-credit year-long core modules and two option modules, one of which can be a Westminster 'free elective'. These three core modules ensure that students gain a firm understanding of Political Theory, Comparative Politics and International Politics/Relations.

Credit Level 4

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL415	Introduction to Political Theory	Core	30
SPIR401	Comparative Politics	Core	30
1INR410	Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations	Core	30

Optional modules at Level 4:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1EPO411	Immigration: the European Experience	Option	15
1INR411	Globalization, Power and International Governance	Option	15
SPIR402	International Relations and the Global Economy	Option	15
SPIR404	Global Environmental Politics	Option	15
SDEV411	Introduction to the Politics of Developing Countries	Option	15
SPIR404	Revolutions and Political Change	Option	15

Students may also choose one 15-credit 'free elective' module from outside the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Credit Level 5

Students in their second year may – subject to academic approval – choose one Level 6 module in the second semester.

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Core	15
SPIR507	Western Political Thought	Core	15
SPIR515	Political Research	Core	15

Choice of TWO from the following:

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR510	State and Society	Core	15
SPIR509	Democratic Innovations in Practice	Core	15
SPIR513	International Security	Core	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Core	15

Optional modules in Politics at Level 5:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL507	Democracy in America	Option	15
1POL508	Gender, Politics and the State	Option	15
1POL598	Politics and International Relations Internship module	Option	15
1EPO509	European Foreign Policy	Option	15
SPIR504	Governing the European Union	Option	15
SPIR506	Russia and Eastern Europe: The Politics of Transition	Option	15
SDEV511	Political Economy of Development	Option	15
SDEV525	Oil, Globalisation and Development in the Middle East and Central Asia	Option	15
1INR521	Foreign Policy Analysis	Option	15
SPIR509	Democratic Innovations in Practice	Option	15
SPIR513	International Security	Option	15
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Option	15
SPIR507	Western Political Thought	Option	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Option	15
SPIR516	Political Gaming and Simulations	Option	15
SPIR514	Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East	Option	15
SPIR508	Questioning Rights	Option	15
SPIR510	State and Society	Option	15
SPIR517	Africa in the World: Politics, Economy and Society	Option	15

Credit Level 6

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL699	Dissertation	Core	30

Choice of ONE from the following:

SPIR602	Citizenship and Democratic Politics	Core	15
SPIR601	Power, Freedom and Justice	Core	15

Choice of ONE from the following:

SINR600	Sovereignty and Intervention After the Cold War	Core	15
1INR620	Ethics and International Relations	Core	15

Optional modules in Politics at Level 6:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL620	Applied British Politics	Option	15
1POL678	Diplomacy and International Relations	Option	15
1POL682	Political Analysis: Mind, Knowledge and Reality	Option	15
1POL683	American Power in the 21st Century	Option	15
1POL684	Politics and Media Freedom	Option	15
SINR600	Sovereignty and Intervention after the Cold War	Option	15
1INR620	Ethics and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR601	Power, Freedom and Justice: Explorations in Political Subjectivity	Option	15
SPIR602	Citizenship and Democratic Politics	Option	15
SPIR605	Themes in the Global Politics of Energy	Option	15
SPIR607	Political Ecology Today: Values, Power, Justice	Option	15
SPIR610	Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR611	European Security	Option	15
SPIR612	Protest, Politics and the Stare: Social Movements Today	Option	15
1DEV610	Development in the Era of Globalisation	Option	15

SDEV610	Globalisation, States and NGO's in Developing Countries	Option	15
SPIR613	Postcolonial: India and China	Option	15
SPIR614	Issues and Debates in the Middle East Politics	Option	15
SPIR616	Political Psychology: New Perspectives on Organisations	Option	15

Academic Regulations

BA Honours International Relations and Development Studies, BA International Relations and International Studies and its intermediate awards operate in accordance with the University's Academic Regulations and the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales and Northern Ireland published by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) in 2008.

All students should make sure that they access a copy of the current edition of the general University handbook called Essential Westminster, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/essential-westminster. The following regulations should be read in conjunction with Section 17: Modular Framework for Undergraduate Courses and relevant sections of the current Handbook of Academic Regulations, which is available at westminster.ac.uk/academic-regulations

Award

To qualify for the award of BA Hons in International Relations and Development Studies a student must have obtained at least 360 credits including:

- passed 75 credits at credit Level 4 or higher and achieved at least a condoned credit in each of the remaining modules worth 45 credits at Level 4; and

- passed a minimum of 120 Credits at credit Level 5 or higher; and

- passed a minimum of 120 credits at credit Level 6 or higher.

- attempted modules with a maximum value of 330 credits at credit Levels 5 and 6; and

- satisfied the requirements contained within any course specific regulations for the relevant course scheme.

The class of the Honours degree awarded is decided by two criteria, the average of the best 105 credits passed at credit Level 6 being in the range of the class to be awarded, and the average of the next best 105 credits passed at credit Levels 5 and 6 provided the next best 105 credits passed are no more than one classification below this.

Support for Students

Upon arrival, an Orientation programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the campus on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities and to the Faculty Registry. Students will be provided with the Course Handbook, which provides detailed information about the course. Students are allocated an academic tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes four libraries, each holding a collection of resources related to the subjects taught at their Faculty. Students can search the entire library collection online through the Library Search service to find and reserve printed books, and access electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books).

Students can choose to study in the libraries, which have areas for silent and group study, desktop computers, laptops for loan, photocopying and printing services. They can also choose from several computer rooms at each campus where desktop computers are available with the general and specialist software that supports the courses taught at their Faculty. Students can also securely connect their own laptops and mobile devices to the University wireless network.

The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students access their course materials, and can communicate and collaborate with staff and other students.

At University level, Services for Students provide advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability issues, careers and the chaplaincy providing multi-faith guidance. The International Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference Points for the Course

Internally

Most of your lecturers – permanent staff and visiting lecturers – are based in the Department of Politics and International Relations. The BA Politics and International Relations closely reflects the specialist interests and research activity of the staff team in the areas of political theory, feminism, British politics, Islam and democracy, media freedom, social movements, and environmental politics. The Politics degree reflects the links with the Centre for the Study of Democracy, the Security and International Relations programme, and the Governance and Sustainability programme, all located in the Department. Researchers and PhD students from this Centre are encouraged to develop their pedagogical skills through participation as seminar leaders or dissertation supervisors to ensure that their research activity is fed back into teaching at undergraduate level.

Externally

The Dearing Report (1992) followed by the White Paper, *The Future of Higher Education,* published in 2003, significantly overhauled government policy. Together these gave rise to two key policy objectives: widening participation and employability, as expressed through Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCHE) and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) initiatives. The University's Teaching and Learning Policy (1998) and Skills Policy (2001) were responses to these initiatives; they are reflected in the University's statement 'Educating for Professional Life'. The Disability Equality Duty requires us to comply with the Disability Rights Commission code of practice for Post-16 Education and the Equality Challenge Unit to promote equality and diversity in HE.

The QAA's 2007 Politics and International Relations benchmarks were used in the revalidation of the course in 2008. These benchmarks provide detailed guidance and standards regarding subject knowledge, skills, teaching/learning, and assessment; they inform the current programme.

Professional body accreditation

Quality Management and Enhancement

Course Management
The BA Politics and International Relations is managed by the Course Leader, Dr Farhang Morady (Room 507 Wells St; tel: 020 3506 8908; email: moradyf@westminster.ac.uk, Department of Politics and International Relations.

The Department has one away-day per year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Staff in the Department undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues. Staff in the Department attend events organised by the and the Teaching and Learning Groups that address aspects of teaching, learning and assessment.

Course Approval, Monitoring and Review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2008. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and relevance to employers. Periodic course reviews help to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the Faculty to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff consider the outcomes from each course committee, evidence of student progression and achievement, and the reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Quality and Standards Office audits this process; the outcomes of the audit are reported to the Academic Council of the University, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student Involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University and student views are taken seriously. Student feedback is gathered in a variety of ways. The most formal mechanism for feedback on the course is the Course Committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the Committee to represent the views of their peer group in various discussions. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full Orientation to the role of the Course Committee.

All students are invited to complete a Module Feedback Questionnaire before the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader on the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be enhanced. The University also has an annual Student Experience Survey, which elicits feedback from students about their course and University experience.

Students meet with review panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback on their experience on the course. Student feedback from course committees is part of the Faculty's' quality assurance evidence base.

For more information about this course contact:

Dr Farhang Morady (Admissions Tutor), Room 506 Wells St; tel: 0203 506 8908
email: Moradyf@westminster.ac.uk

Course Enquiries Team,
course-enquiries@westminster.ac.uk

Please note – This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with module handbooks which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.
this process; the outcomes of the audit are reported to the Academic Council of the University, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Part one: Programme Specification

Course record information

Name and level of final award:	BA (Hons) Development Studies and International Relations BA Development Studies and International Studies
Name and level of intermediate awards:	Diploma of HE Certificate of HE
Awarding body/institution:	University of Westminster
Status of awarding body/institution:	Recognised Body
Location of delivery:	Regent site
Language of delivery and assessment:	English
Course/programme leader:	Dr Farhang Morady
Course URL:	
Mode and length of study:	Full time, 3 years
University of Westminster course code:	BPOLPRM
JACS code:	L250
UCAS code:	LL12
QAA subject benchmarking group:	Politics and International Relations
Professional body accreditation:	N/A
Date of course validation/review:	November 2008
Date of programme specification:	August 2013

Admissions Requirements

Normally, three A Levels (A2) at grades BBB or two A Levels (A2) at grades AB; plus English GCSE grade C or above. Other Curriculum 2000 combinations will be considered on an individual basis. A variety of non-standard vocational, professional and other qualifications may be acceptable with evidence of capacity both to benefit from and to pass this course.

Non native speakers of English will normally be required to have an overall IELTS score of 6 points (or equivalent), including a score of 6 in reading and writing skills.

Aims of the course

Context

The BA Development Studies and International Relations is one of four Honours degrees offered by the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR), the other three

being the BA Politics, the BA International Relations and the BA Politics and International Relations.

This programme specification is written to give students an understanding of their degree progression in the BA (Hons) Development Studies and International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Relations. The programme specification also provides students with a framework within which to understand the desired learning outcomes, knowledge and understanding, specific skills and transferable skills associated with the study of Development Studies and International Relations in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

This programme specification acknowledges the importance of research-led teaching in the Department of Politics and International Relations. It also endorses the interdisciplinary outlook of the 2007 QAA Subject Benchmarking for Politics and International Relations:

> Politics and international relations reach out to other disciplines such as anthropology, cultural studies, economics, sociology, geography, history, law or literature. Thus, programmes in departments of politics and international relations or international studies usually include courses in other social sciences and humanities. While many programmes are primarily social scientific in approach, some are on the cusp of the social sciences and humanities. There is a discernible thrust towards what might be called the 'internationalisation' of courses, and a related stress on interdisciplinary. Departments must play to their specialist strengths, which may be expressed in 'traditional', self-contained courses.

Aims

Development Studies focuses on international development and the challenges associated with political and economic change in the international system. The course considers the relationships between the global North and South, examining how colonialism and capitalism have shaped our contemporary world. You will explore global poverty and inequality and the impact of globalisation on different parts of the world, including Africa, Asia, the Middle East, China, India, Central Asia and Latin America. The course provides a theoretical framework for understanding the international distribution of power at the global, regional and national levels, and we aim to enthuse and inspire you by building close links to government bodies and the policy world.

Employment and Further Study Opportunities

Today's organisations need graduates with both good degrees and skills relevant to the workplace, that is, employability skills. The University of Westminster is committed to developing employable graduates by ensuring that:

- Career development skills are embedded in all courses;
- Opportunities for part-time work, placements and work-related learning activities are widely available to students;
- Staff continue to widen and strengthen the University's links with employers in all sectors, involving them in curriculum design and encouraging their participation in other aspects of the University's career education and guidance provision;
- Staff are provided with up-to-date data on labour market trends and employers' requirements which will inform the service delivered to students.

This course also offers all students the opportunity to take an internship module, so that students are enabled to use that experience as a platform for reflection to inform personal development planning as well as career planning.

Learning outcomes of the BA Development Studies and International Relations
The International Relations component of the degree aims to:

- To introduce students to the broad field of International Relations, its basic concepts, theories and methods;
- To understand the global character of international politics, informed by both theoretical and historical perspectives of the international system;
- To identify the changing geopolitical dimensions of international order and locate these within specific regional constellations;
- To engage in philosophical and empirical analysis of the dynamics of conflict, violence and intervention in the international system, with particular emphasis on challenges arising from the post-Cold War environment;
- To produce political researchers who understand the importance of research methodology and analytical frameworks in researching international politics.

The Development Studies component of the degree aims to provide:

- Knowledge of the key issues, concepts and theories relevant to the field of international development and the processes of change in the developing world;
- An understanding of the international context, the social, political, geographical and economic conditions of the developing world, and knowledge of a regional specialisation of your choice;
- An application of the discipline of international development, through engagement with NGOs, government bodies and civil society actors;
- A critical evaluation of development practices and an appreciation of the contribution of international political economy to understanding uneven development in international politics;
- An understanding of the growth and emergence of regional formations in international development, documenting the contours of inequality within the global system.

The BA Development Studies and International Relations is designed around a number of core modules at each level; these provide basic disciplinary knowledge, concepts, subject specific intellectual skills, and personal transferable skills. The core modules progressively allow the student with the necessary intellectual tools appropriate to a Development Studies and International Relations graduate.

In addition the degree offers a range of specialist option modules that enable students to develop and explore in greater depth a range of topics – thematic, historical, and contemporary – concerning international development in the contemporary world. We place particular emphasis on international political economy, comparative politics and patterns of globalisation in the international system. The final year dissertation represents the culmination of students' studies as it enables the student to develop their capacity for independent research.

Overall, the degree equips the student with both subject specialist and general skills – including key transferable skills such as logical, coherent and independent thinking; critical and evaluative interpretation and argument; and the use of a range of different kinds of evidence – in order both to enhance their employability, and to provide them with a sound academic foundation on which to undertake postgraduate study.

Knowledge and Understanding

Overall, the BA Development Studies and International Relations is intended to develop a knowledge and understanding in Development Studies and International Relations. It equips students with both subject specialist and general skills in order to enhance their employability; and provides a sound academic basis on which to undertake further studies at postgraduate level.

Level 4

By the end of the first year, typical students are expected to have:

- Identified the primary characteristics of Development Studies and International Relations as a scholarly discipline, informed by key theories and political concepts;
- Acquired an understanding of the differing accounts of the international system and the historical dimensions of global order, with particular emphasis on colonialism and post-colonialism;
- Identified the role of political economy in shaping our perceptions of development within International Relations, understood through different regional, theoretical and cultural frameworks;
- Developed an awareness of the importance of information literacy and library skills for studying and researching International Relations;
- Appreciation for the value of critical thinking in assessing the diverse range of scholarly traditions within Development Studies and International Relations.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, typical students are expected to have:

- Detailed understanding of the contemporary agenda of international development and the key issues that have dominated both Development Studies and International Relations in the post-Cold War era;
- Developed an awareness of the key traditions in International Relations Theory and an ability to differentiate between specific thinkers and debates within these traditions;
- An ability to critically identify the geopolitical dimensions of International Relations and key events into a broad narrative on development in the post-colonial context;
- An appreciation for the regional dynamics of Development Studies and International Relations, with specific focus on the politics, society and culture of the Middle East;
- An appreciation of the role of social science methodologies and political research skills in the research process, having produced a feasible dissertation research proposal for Level 6 study.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, typical students are expected to have:

- Identified the primary characteristics of sovereignty as a primary concept in International Relations and linked these to the changing frontiers of international development within global politics;
- An understanding of the ethical dimensions of Development Studies and International Relations and the role of ethical discourse in addressing global political problems;
- An advanced ability to apply theory to 'real world' events and to think creatively about the applied dimensions of international development;

- The ability to critically interrogate key concepts in Development Studies and International Relations and identify the contribution of theoretical perspectives for understanding the disciplinary framework of global politics;
- An ability to conduct their own political research, whether qualitative or quantitative, informed by appropriate research methodologies and theoretical frameworks.

Specific skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to discuss contemporary issues in Development Studies and International Relations;
- An understanding of the nature of Development Studies and International Relations as an academic discipline;
- An understanding of the key theoretical perspectives within Development Studies and International Relations and ability to compare theories;
- An understanding of the range of research skills required in studying Development Studies and International Relations;
- The ability to identify appropriate sources for assignments and use information with integrity, including full knowledge of academic referencing;
- The ability to identify a range of research materials, including identifying, evaluating and selecting from a range of sources.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to apply theory to historical and geopolitical constellations within international political economy;
- The ability to critique prevailing perspectives on International Relations and engage with critical perspectives in international development;
- The ability to think independently about the history of international development and discuss contemporary developments global political economy, supported by relevant theoretical knowledge;
- The ability to understand the regional dimensions of international political economy, especially as it relates to politics, society and culture of the Middle East;
- The ability to select and justify appropriate methodological and analytical approaches, relevant theories, and techniques for different types of political research within Development Studies and International Relations;
- An appreciation of the role of social science methodologies and political research skills in the research process, having produced a feasible dissertation research proposal for Level 6 study.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, typical students are expected to have:

- A critical understanding of foundational concepts within global politics and an ability to think imaginatively about their placement within the discipline of Development Studies and International Relations;

- An in-depth understanding of the origins and nature of development within International Relations, informed by recent developments in international development and global political economy;
- An ability to think critically about the contemporary politics of development, applying theories to real world challenges in both Development Studies and International Relations;
- An ability to conduct political research and produce a student-led dissertation of 10,000 words.

Key Transferable Skills

Level 4

By the end of the first year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to organise their workloads effectively;
- The ability to discuss political ideas and concepts in small groups;
- The ability to undertake short and medium term research projects;
- Fluency in word processing and Internet skills;
- The ability to locate and retrieve information electronically, with full knowledge of the range of scholarly resources available from the University of Westminster library;
- The ability to organise and present research material;
- The ability to communicate ideas clearly in written and spoken form;
- The ability to work as a team.

Level 5

By the end of the second year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to engage analytically with given information;
- The ability to develop career management skills and identify areas for further skills development;
- The ability to formulate independent research questions and plan a programme of scholarly research.

Level 6

By the end of the third year, typical students are expected to have:

- The ability to undertake a long-term research project
- An advanced ability to organise their workload;
- The ability to work in partnership with academic staff on producing a dissertation;
- The ability to formulate and demonstrate an independent analytical perspective.

Teaching, Learning and Assessment Methods

Teaching

Teaching advances student learning through a range of methods applied both inside and outside the classroom. Level 4 modules focus more on basic skills of research and writing, learning techniques and the provision of core information and knowledge. There is an emphasis on 'learning how to learn' and on how to analyse material and present it effectively, in oral, visual and written formats.

Levels 5 and 6 modules progressively build on the knowledge and understanding gained during the foundational first year. The internship module (1POL598) is available all year in the second year, including in the summer (semester 3); students will be encouraged to seek a placement with a political organisation – for example, in an MP's constituency or parliamentary office, or in an NGO or embassy – to give you a concrete, experiential, understanding of politics in action. In order to fulfil the criteria for the module students will need to complete 72 hours of work experience in the placement. It is anticipated that many students will complete their internship during either the second or third semester.

Learning

This section addresses the question of how you study at Westminster. The Teaching, Learning and Assessment Policy (2007/10) of the Faculty of Social Sciences and Humanities, within which the Department of Politics and International Relations (DPIR) is located, has been interpreted with the primary aim of promoting 'student–centred, active learning'.

Teaching in the Department of Politics and International Relations makes full use of lecturers' own research interests: this is 'research-led teaching'. This term refers to initiatives designed to bring the research and teaching functions of the university closer together with the aim of enhancing students' learning.

Your learning is also enriched by your own research. Your research sources will include academic journals, books, and electronic media linked to Blackboard: these develop your skills through 'blended learning'. The first year requires you to make a significant shift in your approach to education: the goal is for you to become more aware of your learning strategies and the value placed on independent learning.

You can achieve this goal if you manage your time well. You are advised to spend approximately 150 hours (for a 15-credit module) and 300 hours (for a 30-credit module) on reading and preparation of coursework in order to gain the skills and understanding required for the successful completion of a degree in politics.

Academic staff will support you by providing clear documentation in module handbooks about the module's content, learning outcomes (expectations), and assessment strategy, and as well as about the appropriate reading for the module (which fosters independent learning and critical thinking). Students in Level 4 core modules will be required to engage critically with texts and other sources – including journals and e-journals – from the start of the course. Guidance on the subject matter of the course is provided through lectures and seminar activities which outline key political arguments, approaches, concepts, methodologies and issues; these too help students to think critically. Formative assessments, particularly those in the first semester of the first year, help students to appreciate the standard of work that is expected at degree level.

As you progress through your second and third years of study, you are expected to undertake more student-led coursework, for example producing a research proposal for your Level 6 dissertation. Independent learning is most developed in this dissertation where you have the opportunity and freedom, supported by supervision, to do in-depth research and to write about a topic within the field of politics that most interests them.

Assessment

Assessment offers a way of measuring whether the learning outcomes of a module have been achieved and to what standard. Assessment is also crucial to student motivation; effective and timely feedback is a key aspect of the assessment strategy in the Department

of Politics and International Relations (DPIR). There are appropriate assessments at each level and in each module. Our external examiners applaud the original and diverse range of assessments that we offer.

While assessments may take a range of forms, essays remain very important. Essays test your ability to research and answer the question, marshal arguments and develop academic literacy (including appropriate referencing conventions). Other assessments include presentations, research proposals, reports, and PowerPoint presentations with supporting statements.

Coursework consists of a range of assessments and essays remain very important. They test students' ability to research and answer the question, marshal arguments and practice academic literacy including referencing conventions. Other assessments include presentations, research proposals, reports and producing PowerPoint presentations with supporting statements. Presentations test group work and communication skills.

Course structure

This section lists the core and option modules available on the course and their credit value. Full-time undergraduate students take 120 credits per year. In the first year students in BA Development Studies and International Relations will complete three 30-credit year-long core modules and two option modules, one of which can be a Westminster 'free elective'. These three core modules ensure that students gain a firm understanding of Political Theory, International Relations and Politics and Society in Developing Countries.

Credit Level 4

Code	Title	Status	Value
SDEV411	Introduction to Politics in Developing Countries	Core	15
1INR410	Introduction to Key Concepts and Issues in International Relations	Core	30
1POL415	Introduction to Political Theory	Core	30
1INR411	Globalisation, Power and International Governance	Core	15

Optional modules at Level 4:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1EPO411	Immigration: the European Experience	Option	15
SPIR402	International Relations and the Global Economy	Option	15
SPIR404	Global Environmental Politics	Option	15
SPIR404	Revolutions and Political Change	Option	15

Students may also choose one 15-credit 'free elective' module from outside the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Credit Level 5

Students in their second year may – subject to academic approval – choose one Level 6 module in the second semester.

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Core	15
1DEV520	International Political Economy	Core	15
SDEV511	Political Economy of Development	Core	15
SPIR515	Political Research	Core	15

Choice of ONE from the following:

Code	Title	Status	Value
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Core	15
SPIR513	International Security	Core	15

Credit Level 6

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL699	Dissertation	Core	15

| SDEV610 | Globalisation, States and NGOs in Developing Countries | Core | 15 |

Choice of ONE from the following:

| SINR600 | Sovereignty and Intervention after the Cold War | Core | 15 |
| 1INR620 | Ethics and International Relations | Core | 15 |

Optional modules in Politics at Level 5:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL507	Democracy in America	Option	15
1POL508	Gender, Politics and the State	Option	15
1POL598	Politics and International Relations Internship module	Option	15
1EPO509	European Foreign Policy	Option	15
SPIR504	Governing the European Union	Option	15
SPIR506	Russia and Eastern Europe: The Politics of Transition	Option	15
1DEV520	International Political Economy	Option	15
SDEV511	Political Economy of Development	Option	15
SDEV525	Oil, Globalisation and Development in the Middle East and Central Asia	Option	15
1INR521	Foreign Policy Analysis	Option	15
SPIR509	Democratic Innovations in Practice	Option	15
SPIR513	International Security	Option	15
SPIR511	Theories of International Relations	Option	15
SPIR507	Western Political Thought	Option	15
SPIR512	Geopolitics	Option	15
SPIR516	Political Gaming and Simulations	Option	15
SPIR514	Introduction to the Politics of the Middle East	Option	15
SPIR508	Questioning Rights	Option	15
SPIR510	State and Society	Option	15
SPIR517	Africa in the World: Politics, Economy and Society	Option	15

Optional modules in Politics at Level 6:

Code	Title	Status	Value
1POL620	Applied British Politics	Option	15
1POL678	Diplomacy and International Relations	Option	15
1POL682	Political Analysis: Mind, Knowledge and Reality	Option	15
1POL683	American Power in the 21st Century	Option	15
1POL684	Politics and Media Freedom	Option	15
SINR600	Sovereignty and Intervention after the Cold War	Option	15
1INR620	Ethics and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR601	Power, Freedom and Justice: Explorations in Political Subjectivity	Option	15
SPIR602	Citizenship and Democratic Politics	Option	15
SPIR605	Themes in the Global Politics of Energy	Option	15
SPIR610	Humanitarian Intervention and International Relations	Option	15
SPIR611	European Security	Option	15
SPIR612	Protest, Politics and the Stare: Social Movements Today	Option	15
1DEV610	Development in the Era of Globalisation	Option	15
SDEV610	Globalisation, States and NGO's in Developing Countries	Option	15
1SPA672*	US-Latin American Relations, From Monroe to the Present	Option	15
1CHI671	China and the World: From Mao Zedong to Hu Jintao	Option	15
SPIR613	Postcolonial: India and China	Option	15
SPIR614	Issues and Debates in the Middle East Politics	Option	15
SPIR616	Political Psychology: New Perspectives on Organisations	Option	15

*   Modules marked with an asterisk are offered by the Department of Modern Languages and Cultures.

Support for Students

On arrival, an orientation programme will introduce students to the staff responsible for the course, the site on which they will be studying, the Library and IT facilities, and to the Registry Office Administration. Students are allocated a personal tutor who can provide advice and guidance on academic matters.

Learning support includes the Library which, across its four sites, holds printed collections of 356,000 printed books, 29,000 print and e-journal, over 45,0000 electronic resources (databases, e-journals, e-books). Access to all services is facilitated through Library Search, a new online service.

There are over 3,500 computers spread over the four University sites available for students' use. The University uses a Virtual Learning Environment called Blackboard where students can access course materials and communicate with staff and other students via message boards.

At University level, Student Services provides advice and guidance on accommodation, financial and legal matters, personal counselling, health and disability matters, and careers. The chaplaincy provides multi-faith guidance. The International Education Office provides particular support for international students. The University of Westminster Students' Union also provides a range of facilities to support all students during their time at the University.

Reference Points for the Course
Internal

The design of this course has been informed by the university's mission statement, widening student participation, university policies on skills and teaching, and learning and assessment policies, as well as by Faculty and departmental policies. The University's Skills Policy (2001) includes two elements: higher education (HE) and career management skills and personal development planning, both of which must be incorporated into course programmes (Whitlock, 2001). The Westminster Exchange (http://www.wmin.ac.uk/page-19440) provides professional development opportunities and publications and improves teaching and learning.

Most of your lecturers – permanent staff and visiting lecturers – are based in the Department of Politics and International Relations. The BA Development Studies and International Relations closely reflects the specialist interests and research activity of the staff team in the areas of political theory, feminism, British and US politics, media freedom, social movements, environmental politics, intervention and statebuilding, theories of security, post-colonial international relations and global change, energy security, and foreign policy and diplomacy. The Development Studies and International Relations degree reflects the links with the Security and International Relations programme, the Centre for the Study of Democracy, and the Governance and Sustainability programme, all located in the Department. Researchers and PhD students from this Centre are encouraged to develop their pedagogical skills through participation as seminar leaders or dissertation supervisors to ensure that their research activity is fed back into teaching at undergraduate level.

External

The Dearing Report (1992) followed by the White Paper, *The Future of Higher Education,* published in 2003, significantly overhauled government policy. Together these gave rise to two key policy objectives: widening participation and employability, as expressed through Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCHE) and Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) initiatives. The University's Teaching and Learning Policy (1998) and Skills Policy (2001) were responses to these initiatives; they are reflected in the University's statement 'Educating for Professional Life'. The Disability Equality Duty requires us to comply with the

Disability Rights Commission code of practice for Post-16 Education and the Equality Challenge Unit to promote equality and diversity in HE.

The QAA's 2007 Politics and International Relations benchmarks were used in the revalidation of the course in 2008. These benchmarks provide detailed guidance and standards regarding subject knowledge, skills, teaching/learning, and assessment; they inform the current programme.

Quality Management and Enhancement

Course Management

The BA Development Studies and International Relations is managed by Dr Farhang Morady, Subject Co-ordinator for Development Studies: Dr Farhang Morady, Room 505, Wells Street. Ext 68908. Email moradyf@westminster.ac.uk in the Department of Politics and International Relations.

The Department also offers a BA (Hons) International Relations and a BA (Hons) Politics. The Department has 25 permanent members of staff and 6 Visiting Lecturers.

The Department has one away-day per year to identify and address ways of improving the design and delivery of its courses. Staff in the Department undergo annual appraisal and observation of their teaching by their colleagues. Staff in the Department attend events organised by the Academic Standards and the Teaching and Learning Groups that address aspects of teaching, learning and assessment.

Course Approval, Monitoring and Review

The course was initially approved by a University Validation Panel in 2008. The Panel included internal peers from the University and external subject specialists from academia and industry to ensure the comparability of the course to those offered in other universities and relevance to employers. Periodic course reviews help to ensure that the curriculum is up-to-date and that the skills gained on the course continue to be relevant to employers.

The course is monitored each year by the School to ensure that it is running effectively and that issues that might affect the student experience have been appropriately addressed. Staff consider the outcomes from each course committee, evidence of student progression and achievement, and the reports from external examiners in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the course. The Academic Standards Group audits this process; the outcomes of the audit are reported to the Academic Council of the University, which has overall responsibility for the maintenance of quality and standards in the University.

Student Involvement in Quality Assurance and Enhancement

Student feedback is important to the University; student comment is taken seriously. One formal feedback mechanism is the course committee. Student representatives will be elected to sit on the committee to represent the views of their peer group. The University and the Students' Union work together to provide a full induction to the role of the course committee.

Students are asked to complete a questionnaire at the end of each module. The feedback from this will inform the module leader about the effectiveness of the module and highlight areas that could be improved. Students meet Review Panels when the periodic review of the course is conducted to provide oral feedback about the course. Student meetings are also held annually with representatives of the Academic Standards Group as part of the annual monitoring process.

For more information about this course contact:

- Farhang Morady (Admissions Tutor), Room 515 Wells St; tel: 0203 506 8908; email: moradyf@westminster.ac.uk
- Course Enquiries Team, tel: +44 (0)20 7915 5511; course-enquiries@westminster.ac.uk

Please note – This programme specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. This specification should be read in conjunction with module handbooks which provide more detailed information on the specific learning outcomes, content, teaching, learning and assessment methods for each module.