

# International Politics

<b>Final award</b>	BA (Hons)
<b>Intermediate awards available</b>	Cert HE, Dip HE
<b>UCAS code</b>	L240 - Level 1 entry (3 Year full time route)
<b>Details of professional body accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>Relevant QAA Benchmark statements</b>	Politics & International Relations
<b>Date specification last up-dated</b>	November 2013

## Profile

### The summary - UCAS programme profile

#### BANNER BOX:

This programme is designed to provide students with a detailed and broad understanding of the theory and practice of international politics.

#### ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The minimum requirements for entry for Level 1 entry is 240 UCAS tariff points from: A/AS level (Including 2 A2 passes), GNVQ, AVCE, Scottish Highers, International Baccalaureate. European Baccalaureate, BTEC / SCOTEC Diploma, Relevant Access Course. Other qualifications, including overseas, may be considered.

We also welcome applicants from mature students who do not have formal qualifications but may have relevant experience. Students applying to this programme will be expected to demonstrate a specific interest in this area of study and should have a commitment to engaging with the subject. Applicants may be invited for interview.

#### Overseas Qualifications

The number of overseas qualifications which are accepted for entry are too numerous to list, but you can get advice from the British Council or our admissions unit on 020 8223 2835. You must be able to understand and express yourself in both written and spoken English and some evidence e.g. For level 1 entry a TOEFL score of 550 or an IELTS score of 6.0 (no skill level below 5) and for Level 0 entry an IELTS score of 5.5 (no skill level below 5) would be required.

#### ABOUT THE PROGRAMME

##### What is International Politics?

The political situation of the present is one in which the nation-state - the traditional focus of political analysis - is increasingly under pressure from a range of global forces, from trans-

national flows of capital to international organisations and the economic and moral orthodoxies they impose. This makes traditional responses to the problems it encountered - problems like social justice, civil rights and political participation - inadequate. International Politics focuses on this changed situation by studying political theory, political institutions and social movements in an international context. It is the study of social processes that occur across borders and the attempt to understand what is 'international'. As such it is an interdisciplinary subject that draws on traditional political and social theory, international relations, philosophy, history and political economy. Its main themes are the concept of global justice; the theory and practice of international human rights regimes; the role of nation-states in the international order; and the possibilities for global political change through international social movements.

### **International Politics at UEL**

Our programme adopts a critical approach to international politics. We challenge the assumption that globalisation is an inevitable and progressive force in the modern world. More fundamentally, we question whether globalisation theory is an adequate basis for understanding the changed political situation in the world. We look at the theoretical justifications underpinning paradoxes in contemporary politics like 'humanitarian intervention'. We are critical of the 'democratic deficit' generated by globalisation and the extent to which international institutions disempower people, preventing them having a say in decisions that affect their lives.

### **Programme structure**

Typically three years full time / Five years part time. International Politics may be studied as a single or a combined honours programme. In a Combined Honours degree it may be studied as a major, joint or minor. The programme will also be available for semester B starts.

### **Learning environment**

Lectures, seminars, workshops, study-support groups and personal tutorials

### **Assessment**

The typical assessment for a module is two pieces of coursework. Coursework comprises essays, book reviews, presentations and project work.

### **Work experience/placement opportunities**

The advantage of studying in London is that there are multiple opportunities for undertaking work experience or a placement while studying for your degree. At level two, students on the programme will take an module designed to support them in securing work experience/placement opportunities.

### **Project work**

Project work and group work forms part of the assessment in some modules

### **Added value**

The degree programme offers a rigorous education in the theory and practice of international politics taught by an experienced staff team who are themselves leaders in their respective research fields; students on the programme can take advantage of the opportunity to study abroad for a semester; students can make the most of studying politics in London by securing a placement through the employability module on the programme.

## **IS THIS THE PROGRAMME FOR ME?**

### **If you are interested in...**

- Politics and world events
- Citizenship in a diverse society
- Pressure groups and NGO's
- Political activism
- Broadening your horizons and thinking for yourself

### **If you enjoy...**

- Questioning assumptions and beliefs - both your own and those of other people
- Thinking, debating, disputing
- Developing your own arguments that reflect your concerns
- Setting targets that will stretch you
- Working with groups

### **If you want...**

- To gain an insight into power relations that obtain both within the state and between states
- To use the skills you will develop not just to make money, but to make a difference in people's lives
- To understand something of the huge diversity of political issues
- To develop a reflective understanding of the different perspective on current issues
- To reflect and understand the political, economic and social context of those issues

## **Your future career**

This programme is designed for people who want a distinctive theme or focus for their studies and who are interested in international events. It offers a range of skills, concepts and insights that you can transfer to careers in both public and private sectors; to central and local government, public bodies, pressure groups and NGO's; campaign groups and community organisations. It provides a sound background for people wishing to enter the public services, non-governmental organisations and the voluntary sector. It supports you in taking the first steps in this career by assisting you in securing a work experience/placement opportunity.

## **How we support you**

- Whilst at UEL you will have a personal tutor to act as an adviser on academic matters, such as choice of options, and personal matters for when perhaps things don't go quite as planned and to generally advise you about how you might benefit from the various services offered in the university.

- We offer you a range of data gathering and presentation skills.
- Study skills support at the start of your programme and on-going support throughout your programme.
- We will help you plan a strategy for building a career – supporting you seeking working experience/placement opportunities, writing a cv, doing a web site, writing letters of introduction, filling in application forms.
- UEL provides a range of medical, counselling, and financial support and services to all students
- There are a wide range of student societies which can enrich your experience of being a student.

### **Bonus factors**

The International Politics programme at UEL has a highly research-active and dedicated staff team and international student body. Studying International Politics in London allows students to undertake work experience or a placement during their studies and the programme supports them in this undertaking. [Return to top](#)

## **Outcomes**

### **Programme aims and learning outcomes**

#### **What is this programme designed to achieve?**

This programme is designed to give you the opportunity to:

- engage with key issues of contemporary debate in the field of domestic and international politics
- give students the skills in developing and executing projects of relevance to a range of occupations in the fields of politics and policy making
- to acquire a range of methodological skills
- to empower students to become effective participants in politics

#### **What will you learn?**

##### **Knowledge and understanding**

- Theoretical and conceptual approaches from the disciplines of politics and international relations
- The way these conceptions concretise themselves in political and legal institutions and their associated practices
- How national, local and international political and legal institutions are structured and their associated practices
- How policy makers, activists and 'ordinary people' have contested and disputed contemporary issues

##### **'Thinking skills**

- An insight into how politics can provide some useful tools to understand the theory and practice of policy making at a national and an international level;
- An ability to select relevant data to understand political issues;
- An ability to assess political behaviour to understand its links to the social-economic framework;
- An ability to subject the debates, concepts and approaches to politics to critical analysis

### **Subject-Based Practical skills**

- To gain an appreciation of the contribution of politics to understanding the diversity and complexity of democracy and citizenship;
- To be able to collect and analyse data to study political issues;
- To use the world wide web and other online data retrieval systems to gain information relevant to a study of politics.

### **Skills for life and work**

- The presentation of data and production of reports - orally, visually, in writing and virtually;
- To work with groups of people;
- Management of time, workloads and data;
- Web based skills
- Options in work-based learning and professional development to enhance employability

## **Structure**

### **The programme structure**

#### **Introduction**

All programmes are credit-rated to help you to understand the amount and level of study that is needed.

One credit is equal to 10 hours of directed study time (this includes everything you do e.g. lecture, seminar and private study).

Credits are assigned to one of 4 levels:

- 1 - equivalent in standard to the first year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 2 - equivalent in standard to the second year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- 3 - equivalent in standard to the third year of a full-time undergraduate degree programme
- M - equivalent in standard to a Masters degree

#### **Credit rating**

The overall credit-rating of this programme is 360 credits.

### **Typical duration**

The expected duration of this programme is 3 years when attended in full-time mode or 4.5 years in part-time mode. It is possible to move from a full-time mode of study to a part-time mode of study and vice-versa, to accommodate any external factors such as financial constraints or domestic commitments. Many of our students make use of this flexibility and this may impact on the overall duration of their study period.

### **How the teaching year is divided**

The teaching normally year begins in September and ends in June. It is possible however to commence your study in semester B (February) rather than September. A student, normally registering for 6 modules in one year (3 modules in each Semester) would do so in a full-time attendance mode of study and a student registering for up to 4 modules in one year (2 modules in each Semester) would do so in part-time attendance mode of study.

### **What you will study when**

This programme is part of a modular degree scheme. A typical full-time student will take six 20 credit modules per year. An honours degree student will complete six modules at level one, six at level 2 and six at level 3.

It is possible to bring together modules from one subject with modules from another to produce a combined programme. Subjects are offered in a variety of combinations:

- Single - 120 credits at levels one, two and three
- Major - 80 credits at levels one, two and three
- Joint - 60 credits at levels one, two and three
- Minor - 40 credits at levels one, two and three

Modules are defined as:

- Core - Must be taken
- Option - Select from a range of identified modules within the field
- University wide option - Select from a wide range of modules across the University

The following are the core and optional requirements for the single and major routes for this programme

### **Level 1 Entry**

<b>LEVEL</b>	<b>TITLE</b>	<b>CREDITS</b>	<b>STATUS SINGLE</b>	<b>STATUS MAJOR</b>	<b>STATUS JOINT</b>	<b>STATUS MINOR</b>
1	Politics, State and Society	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	Study Skills in Anthropology, Politics	20	Core	Core	Core*	N/A

	and International Development					
1	Political Philosophy I	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
1	International Relations: Issues and Approaches	20	Core	Core	Option	
1	Globalisation and Modernity	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Globalisation and Modern Britain	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Introduction to Anthropology	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Poverty, Inequality and Development	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Imperialism: Economy, State and War	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Introduction to the origins of culture	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Political economy of International development	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Cultural Politics: Power & Contemporary social change	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	The Politics of sex and kinship	20	Option	Option	Option	
1	Patterns in Imperial History	20	Option	Option	Option	
2	Political Philosophy II	20	Core	Core	Core	Core
2	International Relations Theory Today	20	Core	Core	Core**	Core
2	The Politics of Work	20	Core	Core	Core*	N/A
2	The UN in World Politics	20	Option	Option	Core**	Core
2	The Ethics of War	20	Option	Option	Option	
2	Social movements in the Radical 20th Century	20	Option	Option	Option	
2	Refugees, migration and development	20	Option	Option	Option	
2	China & the World	20	Option	Option	Option	
2	Social Theory II: Globalisation in an Information age	20	Option	Option	Option	
3	Research methods and Dissertation	40	Core	Core	Core*	N/A

3	Warfare, Welfare, Citizenship	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	US as a Global Power	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Women, Politics and Power	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	International Political theory: Justice, Rights & Sovereignty	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Enlightenment & Modernity	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Islam and the Modern World	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Modernity and Postmodernity	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	Culture Power & Resistance	20	Option	Option	Option	Option
3	War, Revolution, and Upheaval in Twentieth-Century Europe	20	Option	Option	Option	Option

\* Skills curriculum module. Joint Honours Students must take this module unless the equivalent module is being taken in the other half of their programme

\*\* Combined Honours students can take either International Relations Theory Today or The UN in World Politics as a core module

### **Requirements for gaining an award**

In order to gain an honours degree you will need to obtain 360 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain an ordinary degree you will need to obtain a minimum of 300 credits including:

- A minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher
- A minimum of 120 credits at level two or higher
- A minimum of 60 credits at level three or higher

In order to gain a Diploma of Higher Education you will need to obtain at least 240 credits including a minimum of 120 credits at level one or higher and 120 credits at level two or higher

In order to gain a Certificate of Higher Education you will need to obtain 120 credits at level one or higher.

### **Degree Classification**

Where a student is eligible for an Honours degree, and has gained a minimum of 240 UEL credits at level 2 or level 3 on the programme, including a minimum of 120 UEL credits at level 3, the award classification is determined by calculating:

The arithmetic mean of the best 100 credits at level 3  $\times \frac{2}{3}$  + The arithmetic mean of the next best 100 credits at levels 2 and/or 3  $\times \frac{1}{3}$

and applying the mark obtained as a percentage, with all decimal points rounded up to the nearest whole number, to the following classification

70% - 100% First Class Honours  
60% - 69% Second Class Honours, First Division  
50% - 59% Second Class Honours, Second Division  
40% - 49% Third Class Honours  
0% - 39% Not passed

## **Assessment**

### **Teaching, learning and assessment**

#### **Teaching and learning**

#### **Knowledge and understanding is developed through**

- Integrated lecture and seminar
- Private study to prepare for seminar discussion and presentations
- Private study to prepare for project and essay writing

#### **'Thinking' skills are developed through**

- Structure discussion in seminars
- Linking of conceptual and empirical work in each module
- Structuring essays and other written assignments, responding to exam questions

#### **Practical skills are developed through**

- Researching presentations, projects and dissertations;
- Undertaking data collection and analysis;
- Group work

#### **General skills are developed through**

- Presentations;
- Work placements;
- Participating in the group life of the programme i.e. being a programme representative on the programme committee

## **Assessment**

### **Knowledge is assessed by**

- Summaries of assigned reading
- Presentations
- Essays
- Exams

### **Thinking skills are assessed by**

- Seminar discussions
- Argument structure in essays, presentations
- Responding to exam questions

### **Practical skills are assessed by**

- Library and internet searches
- Preparing presentations
- Managing workload and programme work deadlines

### **Skills for life and work (general skills) are assessed by**

- Presentations
- Use of IT in teaching and assessment

## **Quality**

### **How we assure the quality of this programme**

#### **Before this programme started**

Before the programme started, the following was checked:

- there would be enough qualified staff to teach the programme;
- adequate resources would be in place;
- the overall aims and objectives were appropriate;
- the content of the programme met national benchmark requirements;
- the programme met any professional/statutory body requirements;
- the proposal met other internal quality criteria covering a range of issues such as admissions policy, teaching, learning and assessment strategy and student support mechanisms.

This is done through a process of programme approval which involves consulting academic experts including some subject specialists from other institutions.

### **How we monitor the quality of this programme**

The quality of this programme is monitored each year through evaluating:

- external examiner reports (considering quality and standards);

- statistical information (considering issues such as the pass rate);
- student feedback.

Drawing on this and other information programme teams undertake the annual Review and Enhancement Process which is co-ordinated at School level and includes student participation. The process is monitored by the University's Quality Standing Committee. Once every six years an in-depth review of the whole field is undertaken by a panel that includes at least two external subject specialists. The panel considers documents, looks at student work, speaks to current and former students and speaks to staff before drawing its conclusions. The result is a report highlighting good practice and identifying areas where action is needed.

### **The role of the programme committee**

This programme has a programme committee comprising all relevant teaching staff, student representatives and others who make a contribution towards the effective operation of the programme (e.g. library/technician staff). The committee has responsibilities for the quality of the programme. It provides input into the operation of the Review and Enhancement Process and proposes changes to improve quality. The programme committee plays a critical role in the University's quality assurance procedures.

### **The role of external examiners**

The standard of this programme is monitored by at least one external examiner. External examiners have two primary responsibilities:

- To ensure the standard of the programme;
- To ensure that justice is done to individual students.

External examiners fulfil these responsibilities in a variety of ways including:

- Approving exam papers/assignments;
- Attending assessment boards;
- Reviewing samples of student work and moderating marks;
- Ensuring that regulations are followed;
- Providing feedback through an annual report that enables us to make improvements for the future

### **Listening to the views of students**

The following methods for gaining student feedback are used on this programme:

- Module evaluations
- Student representation on programme committees (meeting 6 times year)
- Student/Staff consultative committee (meeting 3 times a year)

Students are notified of the action taken through:

- circulating the minutes of the programme committee
- a newsletter published three times a year

- providing details on the programme notice board

### **Listening to the views of others**

The following methods are used for gaining the views of other interested parties:

- Annual student satisfaction questionnaire
- Questionnaires to former students
- Industrial liaison committee
- Placements Officer

## **Further Information**

### **Alternative locations for studying this programme**

<b>Location</b>	<b>Which elements?</b>	<b>Taught by UEL staff</b>	<b>Taught by local staff</b>	<b>Method of Delivery</b>
-	-	-	-	-

### **Where you can find further information**

Further information about this programme is available from:

- The UEL web site (<http://www.uel.ac.uk>)
- The programme handbook\* <http://www.uel.ac.uk/hss/programmes/politics/index.htm>
- Module study guides\* <http://www.uel.ac.uk/hss/programmes/politics/modules.htm>
- UEL Manual of General Regulations and Policies <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- UEL Quality Manual <http://www.uel.ac.uk/qa/>
- Regulations for the Academic Framework <http://www.uel.ac.uk/academicframework/>
- UEL Guide to Undergraduate Programmes
- School web pages  
<http://www.uel.ac.uk/lss/undergraduate/programmes/internationalpolitics.htm>