



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of award and field of study:	BA Politics and International Relations
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	3 academic years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	UBAF-QMPOLI1, UJPOLINR, L240
QAA Benchmark Group:	Politics and International Relations
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

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Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

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### Programme outline

The BA in Politics and International Relations examines a range of political phenomena at local, global, national, international, regional and transnational levels. Students develop a firm understanding of government, international organisation, and public policy and governance at different levels; of political institutions, the state system, political behaviour, foreign policy, security and war; of political economy and development, transnational corporations and civil society; and of different approaches to research and analysis. Students can choose to specialise through thematic pathways covering areas such as political activism, comparative politics, international politics, political economy, research and theory; by exploring phenomena such as globalisation, balance of power, geopolitics, legacies of imperialism and settler colonialism, capitalism, climate change, class, race and gender; or by studying the politics of specific states and regions, such as Africa, the EU, Latin America, the Middle East, Russia, South Asia, the United Kingdom and the United States. Students may also choose modules from other schools, covering subjects such as English, history, geography and languages.

### Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide students with core knowledge about key issues in contemporary Politics and International Relations;

- Provide students with the opportunity to specialise in particular sub-fields of Politics (e.g. political theory, ideas and ideologies, government and institutions, public policy, area studies and comparative politics) and International Relations (e.g. foreign policy, international political economy, development, security, war, peace, global governance and public policy)
- Provide students with the opportunity to specialise in the politics of particular states and regions (e.g. Africa, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East, South Asia, South East Asia, the United Kingdom and United States of America)
- Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of concepts, theories and methodological approaches for explaining and understanding politics and international relations.
- Enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement and to undertake independent research tasks.
- Develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
- Equip students with a range of skills and attributes that will support them in future activities as citizens and professionals.
- Provide a basis for further study in Politics, International Relations or related disciplines

### What will you be expected to achieve?

Students who successfully complete the programme will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Detailed knowledge of local, national, regional, transnational, international and global political relations;
- Detailed understanding of key principles, concepts, theories and research methods in Politics and International Relations;
- The ability to apply these frameworks to understand contemporary political and international phenomena;
- The ability to think critically and independently, to reason, to evaluate and deploy evidence, to draw appropriate conclusions, and to make persuasive arguments, in writing and orally.
- The ability to do research independently and as part of a team.

### Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:	
A 1	The nature of local, national, regional, international, transnational and global political relations, including a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics and international relations
A 2	The history of international orders and of international political thought, historical and contemporary political phenomena, and key texts, issues and problems within the fields of politics and international relations
A 3	The application of appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the fields of politics and international relations

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B 1	Demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics and international relations
B 2	Apply knowledge and understanding, selecting and using established techniques and a range of sources to evaluate texts, issues and problems in the fields of politics and international relations
B 3	Select and use appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to a range of issues within the fields of politics and international relations
B 4	Design and carry out independent research on specific topics

Attributes:	
C 1	Communicate effectively in a range of formats, orally and in writing
C 2	Engage critically and reflectively with knowledge claims
C 3	Apply your expertise across different domains and issues
C 4	Respect, listen to and value others and their opinions on contentious issues in international relations
C 5	Identify and defend your own opinions and the reasons for them
C 6	Work independently and take responsibility for your studies and future career aspirations
C 7	Work collaboratively with others as part of a team
C 8	Act honestly, fairly and ethically, including in academic conduct
C 9	Understand and think through the responsibilities incumbent on individuals in conditions of ecological crisis

## How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with SPIR's Education Strategy and statement of educational principles, which support excellent, inclusive and innovative teaching practice aimed at fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students. Our strategy is informed by QMUL's 2030 strategy.

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- lectures
- seminars
- workshops
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work.

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMPlus and online reading lists

- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Research methods training

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include: written coursework; examinations; presentations; and the final-year dissertation.

### How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

#### YEAR 1 (LEVEL 4)

##### Compulsory:

- POL105 Political Analysis (30 Credits)
- POL106 Introduction to International Relations (30 Credits)
- POL110 Thinking Politically: Introduction to concepts, theories and Ideologies (30 Credits)
- POL113 Politics in Action (15 Credits)

##### Optional:

- POL108 Background to British Politics (15 Credits)
- POL109 Global Histories (15 Credits)
- 15 Level 4 credits from another School

#### Year 2 (level 5)

##### Compulsory:

- POL285 Introduction to Social Science Methodologies (15 Credits)

##### 15 credits from:

- POL271 Qualitative Methods for Social Science Research (15 Credits)
- POL272 Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research (15 Credits)
- POL273 Unsettling Methods: Creativity In/For Social Science Research (15 Credits)

##### At least 30 credits from:

- POL263 Modern Political Thought 1 (15 credits)
- POL264 Modern Political Thought 2 (15 credits)
- POL251 International Relations Theory (30 credits)

##### At least 30 credits from:

- POL247 Modernity: Theories of the State, Economy and Society (30 Credits)
- POL243 British Politics (30 credits)
- POL254 US Politics (15 credits)
- POL263 Modern Political Thought 1 (15 credits)
- POL264 Modern Political Thought 2 (15 credits)
- POL268 The UK and the EU (15 Credits)
- POL284 Comparative Politics (30 credits)

##### At least 30 credits from:

- POL247 Modernity: Theories of the State, Economy and Society (30 credits)
- POL249 Foreign Policy Analysis (15 credits)
- POL251 International Relations Theory (30 credits)
- POL255 Colonialism, Capitalism and Development (15 credits)

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- POL256 War in World Politics (15 credits)
- POL257 The International Politics of the Developing World (15 credits)
- POL258 The International Politics of Security (15 credits)
- POL259 Politics of International Law (15 credits)
- POL261 Power in Global Governance (15 credits)
- POL274 Gender and Feminisms in World Politics (30 credits)
- POL283 Global Theory (30 credits)

**Optional:**

- a maximum of 30 credits outside SPIR.

\* Language electives may be taken at Level 4 (max 30 credits).\*\*

**Year 3**

**Compulsory:**

- POL318 - Dissertation in Politics/International Relations (45 credits).

Remaining 75 credits to be taken at Level 6 within SPIR; optionally, students may take a maximum of 30 Level 6\* credits in other Schools, for a total of 120 credits.

\* Language electives may be taken at Level 5 (max 30 credits).\*\*

\*\* Students who decide to take language electives at different levels of study must ensure that during the course of their programme they obtain at least 90 credits at each of level of study, i.e. Level 4, 5 and 6.

**Academic Year of Study**     FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Thinking Politically: Introduction to concepts, theories and ideologies	POL110	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Political Analysis	POL105	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to International Relations	POL106	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Politics in Action	POL113	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Background to British Politics	POL108	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Histories	POL109	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
15 credits at level 4 from outside SPIR		15	4	Elective	1	

**Academic Year of Study**     FT - Year 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
At least 30 credits from: Modern Political Thought 1	POL263	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
AND/OR Modern Political Thought 2	POL264	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
AND/OR International Relations Theory	POL251	30	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to Social Science Methodologies	POL285	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
15 credits from:				Elective	2	
Qualitative Methods for Social Science Research	POL271	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research	POL272	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Unsettling Methods: Creativity In/For Social Science Research	POL273	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
30 credits from list of 'Politics' modules			5	Elective	2	
30 credits from list of 'International Relations' modules			5	Elective	2	
max 30 credits outside SPIR					2	

**Academic Year of Study**    FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation in Politics/IR	POL318	45	6	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
75 credit at level 6 within SPIR		75	6	Elective	3	
Up to 30 credits at level 6 in approved modules from other schools		30	6	Elective	3	

**What are the entry requirements?**

AS/A-level: Typical grades required: ABB at A-level. Excluded subjects: General studies and critical thinking.  
International Baccalaureate: Subjects 32 points overall, with 6,5,5 in Higher Level subjects.

Vocational and other qualifications: The College accepts a wide range of qualifications such as; Access and Foundation programmes, vocational awards, Irish Leaving Certificate, Scottish Highers and other Baccalaureates. Further information on our entry requirements.

Admission is based on academic merit and on the proven ability of the applicant to achieve success on their chosen programme of study. Every application to Queen Mary is considered on its individual merits with personal statement and reference taken into consideration.

### **How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?**

The programme is monitored through the Student Voice Committee (SVC), with student representatives, chaired by the Academic Student Experience Lead, and the Education Committee (EC) chaired by the Director of Education (DoE). Issues arising from student evaluations (both mid-year and end of module) are fed into the Education Committee. External examiners oversee assessment and marking procedures; this is handled by the Chair of Exams. The programme is evaluated through the Programme Review process.

The Student Voice Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Student Voice Committee meets regularly throughout the year.

Each school/institute operates an Education Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Education on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership and consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. Programme Review is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the National Student Survey Action Plan, which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### **What academic support is available?**

The School runs induction and welcome back meetings at the start of each year, to update students on School/QM policies and advise them on their studies.

Each student is assigned a dedicated Advisor throughout their years of study to assist them in choosing their modules and advising them on their studies. The School has a dedicated Senior Tutor to deal with Extenuating Circumstances, the Senior Tutor is assisted by the Student Engagement Manager and Student Support Officers.

### **How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?**

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difference like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Examination access arrangements
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)

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- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
  - Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

This programme develops a range of employability skills, including in oral, written and visual communication, problem solving, self-awareness, self-management, research and team working. Programme content prepares students for a wide range of employment opportunities, including careers in the civil service, journalism, political research, social work, local, national and international governance and third-sector organisations. The skills and attributes developed by this programme also help to prepare students for work in diverse other sectors, including finance and banking, management training, public relations, human resources and advertising. The programme also builds academic skills essential for further study, including MSc and research degrees, and professional qualifications in law and teaching. The compulsory Year One module ‘Politics in Action’ as well as various optional modules and extra-curricula activities arranged by the Mile End Institute and the Careers Service, including presentations by Politics and IR Alumni, offer opportunities for all students to learn from practitioners working in a range of professional and activist contexts. In Year Three students have access to internship modules (in the UK Parliament and/or civil society organisations) offered alongside preparatory coursework that can help establish career pathways while still in the final year of their degree.

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:	Richelle Whitehead-Gill
Person responsible for management of programme:	Dr James Strong
Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Education Committee:	22 Oct 2024
Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board:	