



## Introduction to

# BA (Hons) International Relations and Languages

## *Combined Honours Programme Specification Supplement*

### **Primary Purpose**

Course management and quality assurance.

### **Secondary Purpose**

Detailed information for students, staff and employers. Current students should refer to the related Course Handbook for further detail.

### **Disclaimer**

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information given in this Programme Specification Supplement. We will endeavour to deliver the course in keeping with this Programme Specification Supplement; however, changes may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, review and update of units and courses. Where this activity leads to significant changes to units and courses, there will be prior consultation of students and others, wherever possible, and the University will take all reasonable steps to minimize disruption to students. It is also possible that the University may not be able to offer a unit or course for reasons outside of its control, for example; the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible. Where appropriate, the University will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

### **Copyright**

The contents of this document are the copyright of the University of Portsmouth and all rights are reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted, in any form or by any means electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior consent of the University of Portsmouth.

## Contents

1. Named Awards.....	1
2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable).....	1
3. Awarding Body.....	1
4. Teaching Institution.....	1
5. Document Control Information.....	1
6. Effective Session.....	1
7. <i>Home</i> Course Leader.....	1
8. <i>Home</i> Faculty.....	1
9. <i>Home</i> Department.....	1
10. About this Programme Specification Supplement.....	1
11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth.....	1
12. Course Management.....	2
13. Course Rationale.....	2
14. Educational Aims of the Course.....	2
15. Employability Statement.....	3

## **1. Named Awards**

BA (Hons) International Relations and/or with Languages

## **2. Course Code (and UCAS Code if applicable)**

C1727F/C1806F (LR29)

## **3. Awarding Body**

University of Portsmouth

## **4. Teaching Institution**

University of Portsmouth

## **5. Document Control Information**

September 2017

## **6. Effective Session**

2017/2018

## **7. Home Course Leader**

Janet Bryant

## **8. Home Faculty**

Humanities and Social Sciences

## **9. Home Department**

School of Languages and Area Studies

## **10. About this Programme Specification Supplement**

This Combined Honours Course Programme Specification Supplement is designed for prospective students, registered students, University staff and potential employers. It provides an introduction to combined honours courses at the University of Portsmouth, and an overview of the course rationale, aims and learning outcomes.

A full Programme Specification is prepared for each half of the course. This supplement links the full Programme Specifications for each half of the Combined Honours Course. In the full Programme Specification documents (see A1. and A2. below), you will find more detailed information on the teaching, learning and assessment methods, learning outcomes, unit information, reference points, support for student learning and regulatory arrangements for each half of the Combined Honours.

A.1 BA (Hons) International Relations – Combined Honours Half

A.2 BA (Hons) Languages – Combined Honours Half

## **11. The Combined Honours Degree Course at the University of Portsmouth**

At the University of Portsmouth, our Combined Honours Degrees are predetermined combinations of subjects (subject A and subject B). Most students will be registered on a joint award where the number of credits studied in both subjects is roughly the same (approximately 50/50). A small number of Combined Honours courses are designated major/minor courses where subject A is the

major subject and subject B is the minor subject (approximately 66/33). For a joint Combined Honours, a student may choose to undertake a dissertation in subject A or subject B; in the case of major/minor awards, the dissertation will always be in the major subject.

## 12. Course Management

For each course, one of the academic departments owning one of the two subject halves will be designated the 'home' department. The home department is often, **but not always**, the first named of the subject combination, see section 9 above for this course's home. The home department will be the students' base and is responsible for providing the academic course leader, personal tutor and student support. A deputy course leader is appointed from the 'away' department.

The University operates a two-tier course management structure at department level, which monitors students' progression and achievement at unit level and award level. At University level, there is a dedicated Combined Honours Management Board, which reviews annually overall student experience, monitors student achievement and advises on the introduction and withdrawal of new course combinations.

## 13. Course Rationale

Terrorism, democracy, international security, border war, ecological disaster, globalisation, worldwide credit crunch – how about not just understanding the language of international relations, but being able to express it in another foreign language? International Relations and/or Languages will allow you to do just that, enabling you not only to acquire an in-depth knowledge of why the world is the way it is today and how national and transnational economic and political forces shape our lives, but also to negotiate your way around it.

A major advantage of studying International Relations and Languages at Portsmouth is the close link between the course and cutting-edge research carried out at the University's internationally-recognised Centre for European and International Studies Research (CEISR). This is the largest centre of its kind in the UK and many of your lecturers are members, meaning you will only be taught the most up-to-date, innovative and original material. Portsmouth is highly regarded for its language teaching and state-of-the-art language learning facilities, ranking second in the UK for European Languages and Area Studies in the latest National Student Survey. And of course, Portsmouth's excellent location on the south coast means you are only a short trip away from exploring other European languages and cultures.

The degree offers the possibility of studying the history and politics of European nations and their political systems, and the wider context of world politics. You will study the recent history of the international political system, focusing on the Cold War and beyond. It examines the nature of foreign policy and war since 1945 and the transformation of the international political system since the fall of the Iron Curtain. The question of whether the events of September 11th 2001 have changed the world forever is considered in terms of the changing nature of terrorism. Changes in the world economic order since the Second World War are also discussed.

In particular, the degree considers those issues that transcend national boundaries - the global environment, international debt and world poverty - and assesses whether international institutions and forces are of greater significance than individual nation-states. You can choose your foreign language from French, German, Italian, Spanish, Mandarin or English as a Foreign Language. By studying two complementary subjects in depth you will be able to keep your career options open - just think how useful it will be to show prospective employers that you have studied two subjects at Honours degree level.

## 14. Educational Aims of the Course

- To enable students to acquire a sound knowledge and understanding of international relations and politics in a global context
- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts and theoretical approaches within the field of International Relations and develop an appreciation of its contested nature

- To encourage students to think critically about political issues, power, values, ideas and institutions at an international and global level
- To facilitate student knowledge of the key dimensions of contemporary international relations including conflict and co-operation between states, foreign policy, international order, strategic and security studies, and global political economy
- To enable students to analyse political events, political change, democratisation and development in selected countries and/or regions and to be able to situate them in an international and global context
- To provide students with knowledge and understanding of the country/ies where their target language(s) is/are spoken using a range of appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches
- To provide students with a sound understanding of contemporary affairs in one (single) or two (combined) language areas, with opportunities for specialisation in historical studies (including social and cultural), politics and social science, or business and economics
- To enable students to acquire an informed sense of the similarities and differences between areas, thus fostering cross-cultural and international perspectives
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise careers and postgraduate study opportunities
- To provide all students with the opportunities to develop their linguistic skills in accordance with their needs and with their overall programme objectives - for each target language (TL), the programme seeks to engage students in using the target language for the purposes of understanding, expression and communication in written, oral and aural forms
- Attaining explicit knowledge of the language (grammar, idiom, registers, and vocabulary)
- Acquiring knowledge of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the language is used
- Developing intercultural awareness and understanding

### **15. Employability Statement**

Employability skills are delivered (and assessed where applicable) throughout the curriculum. We provide structured support to enable students to develop their employability skills from L4 to L6. Core units at each level will include most of the academic and employability skills that are listed in Annex 5 of the 2012 Curriculum Framework.