



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

## ***BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND / WITH LANGUAGES***

**Academic Standards, Quality and Partnerships**  
**Department of Student and Academic Administration**

**July 2021**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

<b>Course Title</b>	<b><i>INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND / WITH LANGUAGES</i></b>
Final Award	<i>BA (Hons)</i>
Exit Awards	<i>CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary</i>
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	<i>C1727F/ U1727FTC, C1806F/U1806FTC</i>
Mode of study	<i>full time</i>
Mode of delivery	<i>Campus</i>
Normal length of course	<i>4 years with placement/year abroad for C1727F/U1727FTC International Relations and Languages; 3 years without year abroad for C1806F/U1806FTC International Relations with Languages</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	<i>September 2019 intake onwards</i>
Awarding Body	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Teaching Institution	<i>University of Portsmouth</i>
Faculty	<i>Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences</i>
School/Department/Subject Group	<i>School of Area Studies, Politics and International Relations</i>
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/">http://www.port.ac.uk/school-of-social-historical-and-literary-studies/</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/modern-languages-and-area-studies/ba-hons-international-relations-and-languages/">http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/modern-languages-and-area-studies/ba-hons-international-relations-and-languages/</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	<i>none</i>
<a href="#">Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level</a>	<i>Level 4,5, 6</i>

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- To develop a sound knowledge and understanding of international relations
- To understand and apply key concepts and theoretical approaches within the field of International Relations and develop an appreciation of its contested nature
- To develop knowledge of historical and contemporary international relations and foster critical thinking about a range of international political phenomena (including events, issues, change, values, ideas and institutions) in a global context
- To acquire knowledge of aspects of the cultures, communities and societies where the target language is used
- To develop an informed sense of the similarities and differences between areas, fostering cross-cultural and international/global perspectives
- To use the target language for the purposes of understanding, expression and communication in written, oral and aural forms and develop explicit knowledge of the language (grammar, idiom, registers, and vocabulary)
- To develop the skills and knowledge required to maximise postgraduate study opportunities
- To develop the transferable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing labour markets

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below. The following are taken from the Politics and International Relations (PIR) and Languages, Cultures and Societies (LCS) Benchmark Statements

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	A range of international political phenomena, including the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it; the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of international political debate; the structure and operation of different international political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change	These are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, group work, independent study, discussion and knowledge based classes, language laboratory work, simulation exercises and the Year Abroad. Methods vary based on the	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, Research Project or Dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, blogs, seminar performance, briefing papers, set exercises/ in class tests, group and individual work, summaries, recordings, news broadcasts, mock conferences, interviews. Opportunities for
A2	The concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations		
A3	The contending interpretations of world political events and issues		
A4	The effective use of the target language for social, academic and professional purposes, and the linguistic principles and terminology required to analyse and describe the target language.		

A5	Intercultural awareness and understanding of the similarities and dissimilarities of the cultures, communities and societies where the target language is used in comparison with their own.	topics being covered.	formative assessment are offered at every level.
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**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Identify issues for political enquiry and gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources	These are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, group work, independent study, discussion and knowledge based classes, language laboratory work, simulation exercises and the Year Abroad. Methods vary based on the topics being covered.	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, Research Project or Dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, blogs, seminar performance, briefing papers, set exercises/ in class tests, group and individual work, summaries, recordings, news broadcasts, mock conferences, interviews. Opportunities for formative assessment are offered at every level.
B2	Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement		
B3	Use language creatively and precisely for a range of purposes and audiences		
B4	Reflect on learning, seek and make use of constructive feedback		
B5	Develop research skills, including data-searching		

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	These are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, group work, independent study, discussion and knowledge based classes, language laboratory work, simulation exercises and the Year Abroad.	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, Research Project or Dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, blogs, seminar performance, briefing papers, set exercises/ in class tests, group and individual work, summaries, recordings, news broadcasts, mock conferences,
C2	Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and in writing		
C3	Become mature, independent learners who can demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time management attributes		
C4	Think and write under pressure and meet deadlines		
C5	Use and present material in the target language in written and oral forms in a clear and effective manner		

		Methods vary based on the topics being covered.	interviews. Opportunities for formative assessment are offered at every level.
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#### D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Critically analyse and disseminate information	These are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, group work, independent study, discussion and knowledge based classes, language laboratory work, simulation exercises and the Year Abroad. Methods vary based on the topics being covered.	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, Research Project or Dissertation, presentations, posters, projects, reports, blogs, seminar performance, briefing papers, set exercises/ in class tests, group and individual work, summaries, recordings, news broadcasts, mock conferences, interviews. Opportunities for formative assessment are offered at every level.
D2	Use communication and information technologies for the retrieval and presentation of information		
D3	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals		
D4	Develop resilience, resourcefulness, self-reliance, initiative, adaptability and flexibility		
D5	Ability and willingness to engage with other cultures, appreciating their distinctive features		

### Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course.

### Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPort](#) student portal.

### Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Languages, Cultures and Societies and Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

## Disclaimer

The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## Document details

Author	<i>Janet Bryant</i>
Date of production and version number	<i>November 2018 [1]</i>
Date of update and version number	<i>November 2020 v2</i>
Minimum student registration numbers	