



UNIVERSITY OF
PORTSMOUTH

COURSE SPECIFICATION

BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND / WITH LANGUAGES

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND / WITH LANGUAGES
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U1727FTC, U1806FTC
Mode of study	full time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	<i>4 years with placement/year abroad for U1727FTC International Relations and Languages; 3 years without year abroad for U1806FTC International Relations with Languages</i>
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2022 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature
Course webpage including entry criteria	https://www.port.ac.uk/study/courses/undergraduate/ba-hons-international-relations-and-languages
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	None
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 4,5, 6

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	The world's division into multiple polities, drawing on the study of anarchy, security, economy, globalisation and the extent of - and explanations for - conflict and cooperation between states.		
A2	The experiences of people across the globe in both historical and contemporary settings, in particular in the context of power relations and various state and non-state actors.		
A3	Key themes and concepts in International Relations to explore and discover the complex, controversial and		

	contested nature of the field and different interpretations of world political events and issues.	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.
A4	The target language, understanding a wide range of demanding texts and expressing themselves fluently and spontaneously.		
A5	The cultures and societies where the language is used, acknowledging different sociocultural and sociolinguistic perspectives and norms.		

B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Construct reasoned argument, synthesising relevant information and exercising critical judgement		
B2	Gather, process and evaluate evidence and information from a variety of sources in different languages.		
B3	Identify, investigate and solve problems through lateral thinking to develop solutions, thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts		
B4	identify differences in sociolinguistic and pragmatic conventions, reflect on them, and adjust their communication accordingly.		

B5	Recognise and reflect on feedback to critically analyse and improve their work	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.
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C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with the study of power, exploration and analysis of the contested nature of knowledge and understanding; study of differing approaches to the study of politics and of a range of key concepts, theories and methods. Critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of contending approaches		
C2	Engage critically with International Relations ideas, including normative and positive foundations of wider political ideas; the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change		

C3	Review and critically assess the literature on a topic in order to engage with contending debates, concepts and empirical findings in the field	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.
C4	Deploy a range of critical methodologies to analyse and interpret diverse cultural materials, media forms and means of communication		
C5	Use language flexibly and effectively for social, academic and professional purposes both in the target language and in their own.		

D. Transferrable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Effectively communicate through a variety of formats, and to different audiences both in their own language and the target language; create and produce information and media in an innovative manner.		
D2	Manage their own learning and projects effectively in a timely and critical fashion while working individually and collectively and critically reflect on their own learning.		
D3	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.		
D4	Mediate between languages, demonstrating cultural and plurilinguistic competence		

D5	Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence.	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.
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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

Template Date	June 2021
Author	David Norman
Date of production and version number	November 2018 [1]
Date of update and version number	June 2023 v6
Minimum student registration numbers	