

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2018/2019

1. Course Summary

Names of programme(s) and award title(s)	BA (Hons) International Relations BA (Hons) International Relations with International Year (see Annex A for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Duration	3 years 4 years with International Year
Location of study	Keele University – main campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE)
Tuition Fees	UK/EU students: Fee for 2018/19 is £9,250* International students: Fee for 2018/19 is £14,000** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee
Additional Costs	Refer to section 15

How this information might change: Please read the important information at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>. This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on International Relations. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules outside International Relations, in other disciplines and in

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

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modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

Although an academic discipline in its own right, International Relations draws upon a range of other disciplines in the social sciences - Politics, Sociology and (International) Law – and the humanities – primarily History. As with Politics, International Relations analyses who gets what, when, how, why and where. However, in examining the related questions of power, order, justice, conflict and legitimacy in the interaction of people, ideas and institutions, International Relations focuses much more on the regional and global arenas that are marked by the absence of international or global government. It explores the patterns of conflict and cooperation between the states, international organisations and non-state actors such as transnational business corporations and civil society groups that make up the international political system and it embraces theoretical, institutional and issue-based concerns related to regional and global governance.

Keele University has offered degrees in International Relations since the early 1970s. At Keele, we encourage students to take an active role in the learning process and to explore the debates surrounding currently controversial issues on the agendas of international organisations such as the United Nations, non-governmental pressure groups such as Amnesty International or Greenpeace, and the national government agencies involved in external relations. This ensures that the content of the programme remains relevant to students as it utilises on-going real-life cases to bring out essential features of the discipline of International Relations.

Alongside learning the core of the subject through taking the compulsory modules taught in the first and second year, students have a huge amount of choice at Keele as they choose their optional modules. Students can shape their studies to reflect their own particular areas of interest, whether these be mainly theoretical, historical, or oriented towards specific issue-areas in international affairs, such as conflict and security, economic justice or environmental change, specific practices such as strategy, intelligence and diplomacy, or the international politics of particular regions such as Europe, Eurasia, Africa or the Middle East.

International Relations at Keele draws upon research expertise in traditional and emerging forms of security, international theory, international organisation and history, global political economy and international environmental relations. Furthermore, our range of student options is broadened by the presence of programmes in Politics and Philosophy, each of which provides modules available to International Relations students. In the second year, the opportunity to study abroad widens student choice further and in the third year, many students choose dissertation subjects in an area that fascinates them. By the time students complete the three years of an Honours Degree course, they both understand the core of the discipline and have developed specialist knowledge in the areas that most interest them. Furthermore, they have developed an extensive portfolio of skills, both specific to International Relations as a discipline and transferable to many other venues. These skills aid students to succeed in the workforce and to be informed participants in civic life.

4. Aims of the Programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable students to:

- Investigate questions of international order and the nature of decision making on international matters
- Develop knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of international political theory and international political analysis
- Apply the concepts, approaches and methods of the discipline
- Be aware of the contested nature of many of these concepts and approaches and appreciate the particular challenges facing inquiry in the discipline of International Relations, thinking critically about these concepts and approaches
- Relate the academic study of International Relations to international policy matters of public concern, linking academic theory to the practices of foreign policy and political behaviour at the international level

- Acquire a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, personal and vocational development

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Appreciate the nature and significance of politics as a global activity
- Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins and evolution of the international political system and the elements of continuity and change in it associated with accelerating globalisation
- Understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of international relations
- Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to the analysis of political ideas, practices and issues in the global arena

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Think critically in evaluating different interpretations of world political ideas, institutions, events and issues
- Conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship in the field of International Relations

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply the personal and inter-personal skills necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in global politics

6. How is the Programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Traditional lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework for reading and independent study. Most lecturers employ presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations in the lecture hall
- **Interactive learning** in large classes where students have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning
- **Tutorials and seminars** in which key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part in, and occasionally to lead, these discussions, either individually, or as part of a small team. Some tutorials and seminars consist largely of presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams)
- **Independent study** based on directed reading from textbooks, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the printed media and appropriate sources deployed on the worldwide

web

- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE). The KLE is accessible to all students on and off campus and provides easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs
- During the **dissertation** double module in International Relations in the final year, the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project and then independently implementing it with supervision and support from a member of staff

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Personal Tutors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways. For example:

- Lectures and independent study allow students to gain a systematic understanding of key theoretical approaches to International Relations and of fundamental concepts employed in the discipline, and of how they may be used in the course of seminars and tutorials to analyse a variety of contemporary problems in international relations
- Seminars, tutorials and online discussions provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered in international relations in a responsible way, and to present their own ideas to members of staff and other students using an appropriate medium of communication
- Interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials and web-based activities encourage students to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from a member of staff
- Undertaking a research dissertation with the support of an experienced and active researcher allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them

7. Teaching Staff

In the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment (SPIRE), the core teaching staff currently comprises a number of professors, readers, senior lecturers and lecturers. Nearly all members of current staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in International Relations or a closely related subject in the social sciences. As members of the University's Research Centre for SPIRE within the Research Institute for Social Sciences, they are almost all active researchers whose work across many different aspects of International Relations, International Law and Politics has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals. The work of some members of current staff has been used directly in shaping policy in their areas of expertise at the national and international levels.

The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in universities in the UK, continental Europe and North America. All of the current teaching staff contributing to the International Relations programme have completed training as part of their induction to University teaching. 70% of them are members or associates of the Higher Education Academy and/or have a formal teaching qualification.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the Structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from course to course, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April.

Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are three types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules – a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules – these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Elective modules – a free choice of modules that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

Students may choose to study elective modules which are offered as part of other programmes in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences and across the University. These include:

- Modules in other subjects closely related to International Relations.
- Modules in other subjects in which they may have a particular interest such as History
- Modules designed to help students for whom it is not their first language to improve their use of English for Academic Purposes.
- Modern foreign languages modules at different levels in French, German, Spanish, Russian, Japanese and Chinese (Mandarin).
- Free standing modules related to the development of graduate attributes, student volunteering, and studying abroad as part of the University's exchange programme.

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year.

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
1	30	60	90	0	30
2	30	60	90	0	30
3	30	60	90	0	30

Module lists

Year 1 (Level 4)

The two compulsory first year modules provide students with a thorough grounding in the study skills needed for International Relations and an introduction to the nature and scope of International Relations as a discipline. They expose students to the various traditions or schools of thought that have tried to make sense of international politics and familiarise them with many of the problems addressed by, and concepts employed in, the discipline of International Relations. These include war and peace, order and intervention, the balance of power, diplomacy and international organisation, territoriality and the sovereign state, equity and justice, territoriality and governmentality. International Relations students may also learn about the workings of the global political economy, gain a solid background in the main developments in international history throughout and beyond the Cold War, or examine aspects of the study of Politics.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Introduction to International Relations	15	The Changing World: International Relations Since 1945	15
Securing Global Order	15	Introduction to Global Political Economy	15
		Why Politics Matters	15
		Justice, Authority and Power	15
		Debates in American Politics	15

		Modern Democracies	15
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Year 2 (Level 5)

In the second year students build on the foundations laid in the first year. The two compulsory modules cover core aspects of contemporary international politics: the roles and functions of international institutions, organisations and regimes in mitigating anarchy; the contending perspectives on international relations and contemporary developments in theoretical approaches to the IR discipline. Students have the opportunity also to study a number of specialised aspects of International Relations such as the International Relations of Eurasia, the Modern Middle East, African Politics or the Politics of the European Union or to take modules offered in the Politics programme. They may also take the Work Experience module offered by the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Contemporary International Relations Theory	15	The International Relations of Eurasia	15
International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	15	The Politics of the European Union	15
		African Politics	15
		The Modern Middle East	15
		US Politics	15
		Russian Politics and Society	15
		Electors, Voters and Public Opinion	15
		Environmental Politics and Policy	15
		British Government and Politics	15
		Freedom and Equality	15
		Why Policy Changes	15
		The Practice of Politics	15
		Work Experience in Politics, International Relations and Philosophy	15

Year 3 (Level 6)

In the third year students deepen their knowledge of selected topics in International Relations by choosing to study two or more modules in a range of subjects which vary from year to year but reflect the specialist expertise and active research interests of members of staff. Students taking Single Honours International Relations must write a research dissertation in International Relations, working under the guidance of a Supervisor who is a member of the academic staff of the School with expertise in the topic chosen by the student.

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	30	The Northern Dimension	15
		Proliferation	15
		The Missing Dimension	15
		Politics of Development	15
		Israel-Palestine: Key Debates and Issue	15
		Policing International Order	15
		Britain and War since 1945: War, Cold War and Society	15
		Gendering Global Politics	15
		Understanding Terrorism and Counter-terrorism	15
		Russia and Europe	15
		The Extreme Right in Western Europe	15

		The Left in Modern Politics	15
		Debating the Future of the European Union	15
		Environmental Politics in the USA	15
		Modern Russia	15
		Environmentalism, Environmental Movements and Protest	15

For further information on the content of modules currently offered, including the list of elective modules, please visit: www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/az

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in International Relations (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in International Relations.
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Relations with International Year: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree in International Relations with international year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year International Relations programme.

10. How is the Programme assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within International Relations at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used within International Relations:

- **Unseen examinations** test students' knowledge of the relevant aspects of International Relations. Examinations require students to answer questions by writing a number of short essays.
- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of referencing.
- **Reviews and Critiques** of other scholars' work test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them.
- **Bibliographic exercises** require students critically to evaluate the arguments of scholars in addition to summarising the key points of specific texts as they assemble a short annotated bibliography of published materials that they judge to be especially useful in addressing a set question or solving a particular problem.
- **Research Design Projects and associated Research Papers** allow students to demonstrate their ability to

formulate a research question and identify an appropriate research methodology as part of the task of designing and implementing a research strategy to enable them to address the research question effectively.

- **Oral presentations and group presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, as well as their ability to communicate what they know orally and visually. When delivered by groups of students, they also test students' ability to work effectively as members of a team.
- **Portfolios** may consist of a range of different pieces of work while usually also including evidence of students' critical reflection on the development of their own learning.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year/stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity	Year 1 (Level 4)	Year 2 (Level 5)	Year 3 (Level 6)
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	14%	15%	11%
Guided independent Study	86%	85%	89%
Placements	0%	0%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

14. Other learning opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the International Relations programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (<http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/>); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided at Annex A.

Enhanced Degree: With Language Competency/With Advanced Language Competency

International Relations students successfully completing a series of language elective modules have the opportunity to gain an enhanced degree title including their language competency such as, "BA (Hons) International Relations with competency in Japanese". Students taking language modules of at least 60 credits counting towards their main degree at Keele, and successfully completing minimum stage 6 in the chosen language, will be awarded an enhanced degree title with the designation 'with competency in [Language]'. Students taking language modules of at least 60 credits counting towards their main degree at Keele, and successfully completing stage 10 in the chosen language, will be awarded an enhanced degree title with the designation 'with advanced competency in [Language]'.

15. Additional costs

Students who opt for the module Work experience in Politics, International Relations and Philosophy may incur travel costs as a result of the arrangements they make.

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation.

We do not anticipate any further costs for this undergraduate programme.

16. The principles of programme design

The International Relations Programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/assuring-standards-and-quality/the-quality-code>
- b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (2015)
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf>

- c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

17. Document Version History

Date of first approved version (v1.0): 19th September 2017

Revision history

Version number ¹	Author	Date	Summary of and rationale for changes

¹ 1.1, 1.2 etc. are used for minor changes and 2.0, 3.0 etc. for major changes (as defined in the University's Guidance on processes supporting curriculum changes)

Annex A

Single Honours International Relations with International Year

International Year Programme
<p>Students registered for Single Honours International Relations may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Single Honours 'International Relations with International Year'. Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the Single Honours International Relations programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.</p> <p>Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for 'Single Honours International Relations with International Year'.</p>
International Year Programme Aims
<p>In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially
Entry Requirements for the International Year
<p>Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.</p> <p>The criteria to be applied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules at Level 5 is normally required)• General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)
Student Support
<p>Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring meeting points.• Support from the University's Global Education Team
Learning Outcomes
<p>In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of this document, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">i) Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments

- ii) Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
- iii) Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Course Regulations

Students registered for the 'Single Honours International Relations with International Year' are subject to the course specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any International Relations module with significant overlap to Level 6 modules to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students studying in Erasmus+ destinations may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.