

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) Politics BA (Hons) Politics 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 Politics. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules outside Politics, in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part

* 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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of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

There are a couple of terms in this document which are better introduced here:

KLE: The KLE is an online learning environment that provides a range of tools to support your learning, including access to documents and other resources, quizzes, discussion boards, assignments and announcements.

SPIRE: The 'School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment' is the teaching unit that hosts the politics programme. It is sometimes just referred to as 'the school'.

3. Overview of the Programme

Politics is a living, relevant and controversial subject that is at the core of modern society. Politics matters because it shapes who gets what, when, how, why and where. To understand society, and the events and forces that shape it, we must engage with questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, governance and decision-making. Learning about politics is developing a knowledge and understanding of government, people, ideas, institutions and their interactions.

At Keele, we encourage students to take an active role in the learning process. We teach using issues and debates on current questions of political concern so that the relevance of the subject is always apparent. By examining key contemporary issues, such as 'why are people becoming disillusioned with politics?', 'what is a democracy?' or 'when is it legitimate to resist the state?' we engage students with contemporary examples to bring out core features of the study of politics.

The course at Keele is designed around a path of learning that moves from introducing people to the subject through to a capacity to research it. The first stages of the course are intended to introduce students to the significance of the subject and to the study of politics. Politics is a broad discipline characterised by many different approaches to study: students are quickly introduced to some of those different approaches through consideration of political analysis, comparative government and political theory. Students are also introduced to the contested nature of politics and the problems of studying the subject effectively.

Alongside learning the core of the subject, students enjoy a great deal of choice in selecting their elective modules at Keele, allowing them to tailor their studies to suit their own particular areas of interest, whether these be mainly theoretical, historical, or oriented towards specific issue-areas in politics. Politics at Keele boasts research expertise in environmental politics, social movements and revolutions, European politics, American politics, modern political ideas and political parties. Furthermore, our range of student options is broadened by the presence of programmes in International Relations and Philosophy, each of which provides modules available to Politics 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 particularly interests them. By the time students complete the three years of an Honours Degree course, they have understood both the core of the discipline and developed specialist knowledge in the areas that most interest them. Furthermore, they have developed an extensive portfolio of skills, both specific to politics as a discipline and transferable to many other venues. These skills aid 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 you to:

- understand the nature and significance of politics
- acquire knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of political theory and political analysis
- understand and use the concepts, approaches and methods of their discipline
- understand the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry in the discipline
- develop a capacity to think critically and independently
- relate the academic study of politics to policy matters of public concern

- relate the academic theory to the practices of policy and political behaviour
- develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development
- benefit from a curriculum supported by scholarship and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate

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:

- Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them
- evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events
- understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches
- think critically in evaluating different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues
- develop the ability to conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship
- achieve 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 politics

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- gather, select and organise evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources
- interpret, analyse and deploy that evidence, data and information
- construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
- identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing
- use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information

- work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner
- collaborate with others to achieve common goals
- pursue research projects across a range of issues using methods grounded in social science

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 MS PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations. Lectures allow students to gain a systematic understanding both of key theoretical approaches to politics and of fundamental concepts employed in studying the subject
- **Tutorials and seminars** where 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 involve presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams). Seminars and tutorials provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered in politics and to present their own ideas
- **Interactive workshops;** where students in large classes have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning. Workshops 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 staff
- **Independent study;** based on directed reading from text books, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the printed media and appropriate sources deployed on the web. When combined with lectures, independent study is an integral part of developing proper understanding of key concepts, approaches and debates in the field
- **Web-based learning** using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE gives students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools to assist their studies, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs
- **Dissertations;** the dissertation double module in politics provides the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project and then implementing it independently. Undertaking a research dissertation with the supervision and support of experienced and active researchers from our staff allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them

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 have a diverse set of assessment types that enable students to achieve subject knowledge and understanding; subject specific skills; and key transferable skills they have gained on a module. Forms of assessment include:

- Essays: ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 words, the length usually associated with the year (Level) of instruction;
- Examinations: these may include multiple choice as well as short answer/essay responses;
- Module-specific assessed work such as a data analysis exercise or blog;
- In-class tests;
- Presentations;

- Small group project.

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

7. Teaching Staff

In the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment, the permanent teaching staff on the Politics Principal Programme currently consists of a number of full professors, senior lecturers and lecturers. Nearly all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in politics or a closely related subject in the social sciences. As members of the University's Research Centre for SPIRE in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, they are all active researchers whose work, across many different aspects of politics, has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals. The work of some members of 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, North America and Australasia. All members of staff in the School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy complete appropriate training as part of their induction to University teaching and most 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.

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	75	15	30
2	0	90	120	0	30
3	30	60	90	0	30

Module lists

Year 1 (Level 4) (minimum of 6 PIR modules to be taken)

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Why Politics Matters	15	Debates in US Politics	15
Modern Democracies	15	Justice, Authority and Power	15
		Intro to International Relations	15
		Securing Global Order	15
		Intro to Global Political Economy	15

Year 2 (Level 5) (minimum of 6 PIR modules to be taken) *Note: no compulsory modules in Year 2

Optional modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
US Politics	15	Environmental Policy and Politics	15
British Politics	15	Politics of the EU	15
Russian Politics	15	Contemporary International Relations Theory	15
Elections, Parties and Voters	15	International Organization	15
Why Policy Changes	15	IR of Eurasia	15
Freedom and Equality	15	African Politics	15
The Practice of Politics	15	Work Experience	15

Year 3 (Level 6) (minimum of 6 PIR modules to be taken)

Compulsory modules	Credits	Optional modules	Credits
Dissertation	30	Modern Russia	15
		The Extreme Right in Western Europe	15
		The Left in Modern Politics	15
		Environmental Politics in the USA	15
		Russia and Europe	15
		Environmentalism, Environmental Movements and Protest	15
		The Missing Dimension	15
		Proliferation	15
		The Northern Dimension	15
		Politics of Development	15
		Policing International Order	15
		Israel-Palestine: Key Debates and Issues	15
		Gendering Global Politics	15
		Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	15
		Britain and War since 1945: War, Cold War And Society	15
		The U.S. Presidency	15
		Urban Politics	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
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		You must accumulate at least 270 credits in Politics (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 Politics.
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

Politics 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 Politics with international year. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year Politics programme.

10. How is the Programme assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used within Politics 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 Politics:

- **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 scholar's 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
- **Unseen examinations and class tests** investigate students' knowledge of the relevant aspects of politics. Examinations require students to answer questions by writing a number of short essays
- **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 and Worksheets** 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%	14%	11%
Guided independent Study	86%	86%	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 Politics 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.

15. Additional costs

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. 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

BA (Hons) Politics with International Year

International Year Programme
<p>Students registered for Single Honours Politics may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Single Honours 'Politics 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 BA (Hons) Politics 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 'BA (Hons) Politics 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 environmentsii) 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.

In addition, students who complete 'BA (Hons) Politics with International Year' will be able to:

- iv) Design, plan and critically evaluate research projects with respect to politics, record relevant information accurately and systematically and be able to reflect on a range of sources in a critical manner.
- v) Integrate, apply and develop enhanced principles relating to political analysis; recognise, describe and explain cultural phenomena across national boundaries and reflect critically upon problems relating to contemporary politics, society and culture.

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 'BA (Hons) Politics 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 Politics 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.

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