

## Course Information Document: Undergraduate

### For Academic Year 2025/26

#### 1. Course Summary

|                                                                                |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>                                   | BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics<br>BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics with International Year (see Annex for details)<br>BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)<br>BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics with Entrepreneurship Year (see Annex for details)                                                           |
| <b>Award type</b>                                                              | Single Honours                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Mode of study</b>                                                           | Full-time                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b> | Level 6                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
| <b>Normal length of the programme</b>                                          | 3 years; 4 years with either the Entrepreneurship Year, International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <b>Maximum period of registration</b>                                          | The normal length as specified above plus 3 years                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              |
| <b>Location of study</b>                                                       | Keele Campus                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| <b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>                                           | Not applicable                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Regulator</b>                                                               | Office for Students (OfS)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |
| <b>Tuition Fees</b>                                                            | <p><b>UK students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535*</p> <p><b>International students:</b></p> <p>Fee for 2025/26 is £17,700**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for either the work placement year or entrepreneurship year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p> |

**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.

\* 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/>

\*\* These fees are for new students. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at <http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/>

## 2. What is a Single Honours programme?

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

Studying Philosophy and Politics at Keele enables you to explore fundamental issues including the nature of the good human life (Ethics), the nature and rationality of religion (Philosophy of Religion), the ultimate nature of reality (Metaphysics), the extent to which we can achieve knowledge (Epistemology), the relation between language, truth and meaning (Philosophical Logic), and how society and political systems ought to be organised, including the nature of equality and concepts of justice (Political Philosophy). Each subject offers critical tools for becoming a changemaker in society: Philosophy provides tools for critical thinking, ethical reasoning, and understanding fundamental questions about human existence, morality, and knowledge; Politics focuses on analysing political systems, governance, public policies, and the dynamics of power and justice in society. Developing a stronger understanding of key concepts in Philosophy and Politics enables you to have critical skills to explore how different ethical frameworks can be applied to everyday problems and those of political decisions and policy. Understanding who we are and why the world is the way that it is are fundamental elements to this degree.

Philosophy and Politics adopt a global perspective on their subjects. Philosophy incorporates perspectives from a diverse range of philosophers, including often overlooked female figures, and covers a wide variety of Western and non-Western traditions, both contemporary and historical. Politics examines global challenges to political systems, including movements that challenge the current political order and ways to address political issues.

By the end of the degree, you will have been exposed to various methods of interpreting and answering the biggest questions in Philosophy and Politics. The programme also looks to apply your understanding of philosophy and Politics to contemporary issues, such as environmentalism and the development of AI technologies. Philosophy and Politics teach the transferable skills which employers desire more directly than most other disciplines do since they teach skills of logical analysis and textual criticism, as well as cooperation and leadership through their emphasis on debate and the development of original and independent thinking. This will empower you to reflect on your own positions and consider how we can make a difference in an ever-changing political world. You also have the option to combine your studies in Philosophy and Politics with an Entrepreneurship Year, which gives you the opportunity to start to develop your business ideas into a live enterprise project, thus boosting the value of your degree and equipping you for a successful career in the world of business.

## 4. Aims of the programme

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

- Think, talk, and write about the central areas of philosophical theory (e.g., moral philosophy, metaphysics, aesthetics, political philosophy), with particular emphasis on metaphysics, epistemology, ethics and philosophy of religion.
- Understand philosophical problems and evaluate the various solutions that have been offered to them with specific focus on ethics and religion.
- Understand and interrogate philosophical theories in general, and theories in ethics and philosophy of religion in particular, to determine which you favour and why, thereby developing high-level transferrable critical faculties.
- Learn formal and symbolic logical and critical thinking skills required to understand and deploy sound argument, while identifying underlying fallacies and other argumentative weaknesses, both in general and with application to ethics and religion.
- Be able to detect and show critical awareness of common rhetorical strategies.
- Develop skills in the interpretation of complex texts from incremental practice throughout the degree.
- Develop an awareness of the history and societal influence of philosophical ideas, including Analytic Philosophy, Continental Philosophy, Indian Philosophy, African Philosophy, Chinese Philosophy, Christian Philosophy, Islamic Philosophy and Buddhist Philosophy.
- Develop a knowledge and understanding of government and society, the contested nature of power, and how values are allocated, and resources distributed and contested, via the study of the interaction of people, ideas and institutions at the local, sectoral, national, regional and global levels.
- Investigate and critically analyse how power, governance, participation and decision-making shape the political world by exploring questions of power, justice, order, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, mediation, governance and decision-making.
- Develop a critical and evidence-based understanding of how the discipline is shaped and how knowledge is produced, questioning and subjecting to rigorous analysis not only the diverse world in which they live, but

also the concepts and theories constructed to understand this.

- Build empathy and respect for diverse perspectives in preparation for the workplaces of the future.
- Develop the skillsets needed to decode, interpret and reject, when necessary, the multitude of narratives and propaganda filling social media in a context where technology, social media, cyber warfare, generative AI and misinformation shape the conduct of politics today.
- Develop the ability to conduct, and report on, your own research using suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship in Philosophy.
- Develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.
- Develop an understanding of the nature and significance of politics, enabling students to become active participants and future leaders, understanding how best to effect change in the world around them.
- 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:

- Evaluate the ideas and arguments of some of the major philosophers, ethicists and religious thinkers in the history of the subject, encountered in their own writings.
- Understand the main divisions of philosophical interest, such as logic, metaphysics, epistemology and moral and political philosophy, and their relations to ethics and political philosophy.
- Understand the history of philosophy in a global context, seeing interconnections and lines of influence between the various traditions, particularly in ethics and philosophy of religion.
- Understand and evaluate a variety of different approaches to philosophy, such as analytic, phenomenological and theological approaches both in general, and as manifested in ethics and religious thinking
- Understand the concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics and be able to apply these to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour.
- Evaluate different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them, the contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them.
- Understand different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues, developing an ability to critically evaluate these interpretations.
- Evaluate key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches

### **Subject specific skills**

Successful students will be able to:

- Use logic to formalise arguments and evaluate them for validity and soundness, distinguish argument from rhetoric, and identify argumentative fallacies.
- Form opinions on controversial philosophical and political issues and defend these with reasoned arguments.
- Identify the main points of key texts and use them in developing arguments and making judgements about philosophical and political issues.
- Clearly communicate ideas informed by contemporary and historical philosophical and political theories both orally and in writing.
- Manage their own learning making use of appropriate philosophical and political materials.
- Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence.
- Identify, interpret and apply appropriate methods of data collection and analysis.
- Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems.
- Construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgment to engage with debates, concepts and empirical findings.

### **Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)**

Successful students will be able to:

- Identify, gather, synthesise, organise, and deploy evidence in the support of an argument
- Locate and evaluate information and ideas from a variety of sources, including online and digital materials
- Use logic to formalise arguments and evaluate them for validity and soundness, distinguish argument from rhetoric and identify argumentative fallacies.
- Engage with debates, negotiate disagreements, understand complexity and tolerate (even enjoy) ambiguity
- Work both constructively and critically, by themselves and as part of a team (in a respectful and collaborative way), to deliver specific projects
- Present materials in oral and in a written form, with clarity in the use of language, professional referencing, and effective layout
- Write and think under pressure, and meet deadlines
- Organise their own learning through self-management
- Reflect productively on their strengths and weaknesses, both with regard to work in progress (they will value the opportunity to edit and revise work in order to improve it, for example) and with regard to their more general capacities
- Become adept with technology and digital communication and proficient in the use of a variety of digital platforms.
- Manage their own work to time limits.
- Criticise their own work disinterestedly in order to improve it.
- Interpret, analyse, apply and present numerical, textual and other forms of data.

### **Keele Graduate Attributes**

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

## **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 some lectures feature also video and audio presentations;

**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. Interactive lectures may involve the use of 'buzz groups', debates and quizzes;

**Tutorials and seminars** where current topics and challenges can be discussed in greater depth with academics, peers and external partners (where appropriate) in smaller groups of students. Students have opportunities to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered in politics and to present their own ideas. 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 groups

**Independent study** based on directed reading from textbooks, research monographs, and academic journals;

**Web-based learning** using the University's virtual learning environment (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;

**Workshops** where students can gain hands-on skills related to the subject. Examples include data-based workshops where students can examine and interpret data, developing their data analysis skills either independently or in small groups with the support of the lecturer; and research skills workshops, where students can reflect on their own skills and practice and learn from others.

**Simulations and experiential learning** in tutorials, seminars and extra-curricular activities, where students can simulate real political situations in groups including policy-making projects, leadership simulations and more.

**Undertaking a piece of independent research** supervised and supported by a member of staff, as part of the Dissertation double module in Philosophy and /or Politics, which is compulsory for Single Honours students in their final year.

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 Academic Mentors 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 and structured knowledge of philosophical and political ideas and how they may be used in the course of seminars and tutorials to analyse a variety of contemporary and traditional problems;
- Tutorials, seminars and online discussions provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, philosophical and/or political problems, and to present their own ideas to members of staff and other students using an appropriate medium of communication;
- Interactive lectures, 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 develop their own strategies for answering them;
- Participating in simulations and real-world scenarios allows students to apply their knowledge and skills to relevant issues in contemporary politics.

## 7. Teaching Staff

Currently, all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in Philosophy and Politics (or cognate subjects) with substantial experience of teaching and research. Their work has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals. The Philosophy and Politics staff groups have extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate levels in a variety of leading UK and international universities. They are all either members or associates of the HEA 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 programme to programme, 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 two 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.

### Global Challenge Pathways

This programme includes the option for you to take a Global Challenge Pathway. These modules offer you an exciting opportunity to work with students and staff from different disciplines to explore topical global issues such as power and conflict, health inequalities, climate change, generative AI, social justice, global citizenship, and enterprise from different perspectives.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

### Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching

English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice as a faculty funded 'additional' module. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

For more information about Language Centre option modules available to you please visit the following webpages.

For new (Level 4) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/>

For current (Level 5 and Level 6) students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/>

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For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/>

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows:

| Year    | Compulsory | Optional |     |
|---------|------------|----------|-----|
|         |            | Min      | Max |
| Level 4 | 75         | 45       | 45  |
| Level 5 | 75         | 45       | 45  |
| Level 6 | 15         | 105      | 105 |

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## Module Lists

### Level 4

| Compulsory modules              | Module Code | Credits | Period       |
|---------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|
| Philosophy as Reason and Wonder | PHI-10030   | 30      | Semester 1   |
| Making Sense of Politics        | PIR-10069   | 30      | Semester 1-2 |
| Becoming a Social Scientist     | SSC-10001   | 15      | Semester 1-2 |

| Optional modules                               | Module Code | Credits | Period       |
|------------------------------------------------|-------------|---------|--------------|
| Nietzsche's Death of God                       | PHI-10024   | 15      | Semester 1   |
| Exploring Political Inequalities               | PIR-10071   | 30      | Semester 1-2 |
| What does it mean to be good?                  | PHI-10026   | 30      | Semester 2   |
| Ancient Global Wisdom                          | PHI-10028   | 30      | Semester 2   |
| British Politics: Welfare, Economy and Society | PIR-10081   | 15      | Semester 2   |

### Level 4 Module Rules

All students must take a minimum of 45 credits from PHI modules and 45 credits from PIR modules.

### Level 5

| <b>Compulsory modules</b>                             | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Period</b> |
|-------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? | PIR-20116          | 30             | Semester 1    |
| Social Sciences at Work                               | SSC-20005          | 15             | Semester 1    |
| Environmental Philosophy and Technology               | PHI-20034          | 30             | Semester 2    |

| <b>Optional modules</b>              | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Period</b> |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Meaning and Nihilism                 | PHI-20032          | 15             | Semester 1    |
| Knowing Minds                        | PHI-20036          | 30             | Semester 1    |
| Enlightenment Philosophy             | PHI-20038          | 30             | Semester 2    |
| Environmental Politics and Policy    | PIR-20067          | 15             | Semester 2    |
| Elections, Voters and Public Opinion | PIR-20118          | 15             | Semester 2    |
| Public Policy and How To Make It     | PIR-20126          | 15             | Semester 2    |
| Social Sciences Placement            | SSC-20001          | 15             | Semester 2    |

### **Level 5 Module Rules**

All students must take a minimum of 45 credits from PHI modules and 45 credits from PIR modules.

### **Level 6**

| <b>Compulsory modules</b> | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Period</b> |
|---------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Engaged Social Science    | SSC-30005          | 15             | Semester 1    |

| <b>Optional modules</b>                                | <b>Module Code</b> | <b>Credits</b> | <b>Period</b> |
|--------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Evaluating Science with Philosophy                     | PHI-30040          | 30             | Semester 1    |
| The Dark Side of Politics                              | PIR-30174          | 30             | Semester 1    |
| PHILOSOPHY DISSERTATION - ISP                          | PHI-30025          | 30             | Semester 1-2  |
| Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP                  | PIR-30130          | 30             | Semester 1-2  |
| Work Placement for Social Sciences Final Year Students | SSC-30003          | 15             | Semester 1-2  |
| Religion and Metaphysics                               | PHI-30038          | 30             | Semester 2    |
| Practical Philosophy                                   | PHI-30042          | 15             | Semester 2    |
| Parliamentary Studies                                  | PIR-30160          | 15             | Semester 2    |
| Building A Better Future                               | PIR-30182          | 30             | Semester 2    |

### **Level 6 Module Rules**

All students must take a minimum of 45 credits from PHI modules and 45 credits from PIR modules.

Students opting for the Entrepreneurship Year cannot also take a Placement Year or International Year.

## **9. Final and intermediate awards**

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

|                                          |             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Honours Degree</b>                    |             | You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6                                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>BA (Hons) Philosophy and Politics</b> | 360 credits | You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (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 this subject. |
| <b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>       | 240 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>   | 120 credits | You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher                                                                                                                                                                |

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

**Work Placement Year option:** in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

**Entrepreneurship Year option:** in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the Entrepreneurship Year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Entrepreneurship Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the Entrepreneurship Year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

## 10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The variety of assessment methods used on this programme 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 ensuring assessments are inclusive and authentic, 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 summative assessment strategy will be supported by formative work and is designed to introduce students to a range of authentic assessment types that will be developed throughout their philosophical studies. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Dialogues and Empathetic Monologues** are a traditional method of engaging students with philosophical ideas so as to understand different people's perspectives on them, and to encourage students to develop their own genuine opinions on philosophical matters;
- **Class tests** taken either conventionally or online via the KLE, assess students' subject knowledge and their ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way;
- **Video and podcast exercises** and a contemporary, innovative and engaging way for students to organise their understand and present it to peers and assessors;
- **Bibliographic exercises** require students to critically evaluate the arguments of philosophers, 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;
- **Oral and group presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding. They also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually with PowerPoint presentations, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development;
- **Portfolios** are used to establish effective study routines at Level 4, and may subsequently consist of a range of different pieces of work but routinely include a requirement that students provide some evidence of critical reflection on the development of their own learning; Reviews 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.
- **Reports and case studies** assess students' ability to apply knowledge in a practical manner. Depending on the module, this includes a data analysis report demonstrating understanding and analysis of data or a policy report where students are asked to write an evidence-based policy report evaluation designed for an external audience. Case studies enable students to apply knowledge in a practical way, focusing on a

specific example to draw out key themes and trends.

- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge, as well the student's ability to empathise with philosophical problems and develop responses to them based upon the literature. 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;
- **The dissertation** allows students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question, identify an appropriate research methodology and conduct their own research in an ethically responsible manner.

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

|                         | <b>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</b> | <b>Guided independent Study</b> | <b>Placements</b> |
|-------------------------|---------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| <b>Year 1 (Level 4)</b> | 21.1%                                             | 78.9%                           | 0%                |
| <b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b> | 15.6%                                             | 78.6%                           | 5.8%              |
| <b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b> | 15.1%                                             | 78.3%                           | 6.7%              |

## 12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## 13. University 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/>

If this programme has any exemptions, variations or additions to the University Regulations these will be detailed in an Annex at the end of this document titled 'Programme-specific regulations'.

## 14. Other Learning Opportunities

### Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

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 who meet external eligibility criteria 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 in the Annex for the International Year.

## **Work Placement Year**

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Work Placement Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. Eligibility rules are included in the Annex.

Students wishing to take the work placement year should meet with the Programme Director to obtain their signature to confirm agreement before they will be allowed to commence their placement.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa must check with the Immigration Compliance Team prior to commencing any form of placement.

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

## **Entrepreneurship Year**

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Entrepreneurship Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year degree programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their year-long placement. To be eligible for the entrepreneurship year, students must have a good University attendance record. They must also have passed all Year 1 and Year 2 Semester 1 assessments. Students must have met the progression requirements to proceed to their final year of study prior to commencing a placement. Students will be required to put forward a proposal, give a short presentation and attend an interview prior to being accepted onto this module.

Barred combinations: Placement Year and International Year.

## **15. Additional Costs**

Students who elect to take and gain places on our work-based placement modules at level 5 and 6 may be expected to pay travel costs (usually one day weekly) to their placement. Distances vary and indicative distances range from 10 miles from Keele Campus to 40 miles (maximum). Opportunities are available to students, subject to availability and based on the number of partner agencies who offer such places, for work-based placements. Allocation for places is competitive, based on academic performance and selective application process. This usually involves the submission of an application and an interview process involving the host partners and administered by the programme.

These costs have been forecast by the University as accurately as possible but may be subject to change as a result of factors outside of our control (for example, increase in costs for external services). Forecast costs are reviewed on an annual basis to ensure they remain representative. Where additional costs are in direct control of the University we will ensure increases do not exceed 5%.

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 programme.

## 16. Annex - International Year

### Philosophy and Politics with International Year

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>International Year Programme</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                |
| <p>Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option 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 standard 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 the International Year option.</p>                                                                                                                       |
| <b>International Year Programme Aims</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
| <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"><li>1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject</li><li>2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially</li></ol>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |
| <b>Entry Requirements for the International Year</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <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"><li>• Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)</li><li>• 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 Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)</li></ul> <p>Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.</p> |
| <b>Student Support</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| <p>Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.</li><li>• Support from the University's Global Education Team</li></ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
| <b>Learning Outcomes</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. 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.

## **Regulations**

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-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 module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study 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](http://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 who meet external eligibility criteria 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.

## **17. Annex - Work Placement Year**

### **Philosophy and Politics with Work Placement Year**

#### **Work Placement Year summary**

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

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 the Work Placement Year option.

### **Work Placement Year Programme Aims**

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. The opportunity to carry out a long-term, placement-based learning experience between Years 2 and 3 of their degree programme
2. Enhanced employability
3. The opportunity to develop and consolidate the knowledge and skills they have gained during the course of their studies at Level 4 and 5.
4. A professional CV and portfolio that they can use when applying for employment

### **Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year**

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module, (\* or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

\* We recommend where possible students undertake a placement of between 9 - 12 months on a full-time basis to maximize academic and personal growth. However, the Work Placement Year mandates a minimum of 24 weeks in duration, ideally on a full-time basis, but no less than 21 hours per week. This enables those undertaking an unpaid placement to work on a part-time basis alongside.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Academic Performance (an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the Work Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Work Placement Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- (*International students only*) Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

### **Student Support**

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organization at around 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

### **Learning Outcomes**

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Understand the variety of ways in which skills developed during the study of Social Sciences can be deployed in non-academic contexts
2. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context through a SWOT analysis, design learning outcomes, and reflect on their own progress throughout the module
3. Articulate their placement experiences effectively and critically reflect on their enhanced skill set in front of an audience
4. Understand the aims and priorities, as well as the strengths and possible limitations, of an external organisation and complete tasks as directed
5. Reflect on and critically evaluate their learning from the work placement, showing evidence that they have researched their sector and evaluated the effectiveness of their activities with this in mind

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (SOC-30051) which involves:

1. Supporting students in locating and securing a relevant work placement in any workplace where the research, analytical, and communication skills as a developed part of a Social, Political and Global Studies degree can be used.
2. Students completing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) at the beginning of the placement, reflecting on their employability skills in terms of their assessment of sector skill demands. This will be used to create Intended Placement Outcomes and contribute to Continuing Professional Development. The action plan will be negotiated and agreed by the student, module convenor and employer.
3. Students creating a professional CV and portfolio that can be used when seeking employment after graduation
4. Students completing a 15-20 minute presentation in June/July, critically reflecting on the activities/projects they have completed so far, and the skills they have learned/developed. The audience will primarily be other students on this module, to ensure shared experiences and to create connections in preparation for returning to Keele for third year (Level 6)
5. Students developing a heightened awareness of the various ways in which their knowledge and skills can be utilised in real-world situations

### **Regulations**

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated Work Placement Year module (SOC-30051)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

#### **Additional costs for the Work Placement Year**

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: [www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk)

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

## **18. Annex - Programme-specific regulations**

### **Programme Regulations: [Programme Name]**

|                                     |                                                                                                                     |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>Final Award and Award Titles</b> | [insert]                                                                                                            |
| <b>Intermediate Award(s)</b>        | [insert]                                                                                                            |
| <b>Last modified</b>                | n/a                                                                                                                 |
| <b>Programme Specification</b>      | <a href="https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications">https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmespecifications</a> |

The University's Academic Regulations which can be found on the Keele University website (<https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>)[1] apply to and regulate the programme, other than in instances where the specific programme regulations listed below over-ride them. These programme regulations list:

- *Exemptions* which are characterised by the omission of the relevant regulation.
- *Variations* which are characterised by the replacement of part of the regulation with alternative wording.
- *Additional Requirements* which set out what additional rules that apply to students in relation to this programme.

The following **exemptions, variations** and **additional requirements** to the University regulations have been checked by Academic Services and have been approved by the Faculty Education Committee.

## A) EXEMPTIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where an exemption from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

For the whole duration of their studies, students on this Programme are exempt from the following regulations:

- **[list exemptions] or state: No exemptions apply.**

## B) VARIATIONS

The clause(s) listed below describe where a variation from the University's Academic Regulations exists:

**Variation 1: [list topic or state: No variations apply]**

This programme varies from Regulation [list].

[insert the text for the variation]

**Variation 2: [continue list of variations as necessary]**

## Additional Requirements

The programme requirements listed below are in addition to the University's Academic Regulations:

**Additional requirement 1: [list]**

**Additional requirement 2: [continue list of additional requirements as necessary]**

[1] References to University Regulations in this document apply to the content of the University's Regulatory Framework as set out on the University website here <https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/>.

## Version History

**This document**

**Date Approved:** 09 May 2025

**Previous documents**

| Version No | Year | Owner | Date Approved | Summary of and rationale for changes |
|------------|------|-------|---------------|--------------------------------------|
|------------|------|-------|---------------|--------------------------------------|