

Course Information Document: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA (Hons) Politics and Economics BA (Hons) Politics and Economics with International Year (see Annex for details) BA (Hons) Politics and Economics with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details) BA (Hons) Politics and Economics with Entrepreneurship Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International, Placement or Entrepreneurship Year between Levels 5 & 6.
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	UK students: Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250* International students: Fee for 2024/25 is £19,500** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for either the work placement year or entrepreneurship year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

Please note this document applies to Level 5 and 6 (Year 2 and 3) students in 2025/26. Level 4 (Year 1) students should refer instead to the document labelled '2025/26'.

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

Our Politics and Economics programme is based on a core idea, that you cannot understand economics without understanding politics and you cannot understand politics without understanding economics. The relationship between political power and economic power is a fundamental element in understanding our society and the challenges it faces. However, to understand the interactions between the two, you also need to understand the core disciplines - the ideas, theories and approaches of both politics and economics. This programme, then, introduces you to politics and economics as individual disciplines as well as bringing the two together in the study of political economy. The effect is to equip our students with the skills of each discipline, preparing them well for life after Keele both in the workplace and as a citizen.

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 teaching at Keele is designed around a learning path that moves from introducing people to the subject to a capacity to research it. The first stages are intended to introduce students to the subject's significance and 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 by considering 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 optional modules at Keele, allowing them to tailor their studies to suit their 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, public policy, social movements and revolutions, American politics, European politics, Russian politics, modern political ideas, security, and international development. Students can also choose to take modules outside the programme through the Global Challenges Pathways.

Economics is a well-developed and coherent discipline that analyses the economic behaviour of households, firms and government. It begins from the core principle that economic agents (households, firms) aim to achieve the best outcome for themselves ('utility' or profits) subject to the constraints they face; in other words, they form their 'smartest' behaviour and strategy depending on the economic environment that surrounds them. From this powerful central idea, Economics then builds theories that explain the economic behaviour of households, firms and government; their decisions to spend, produce, invest or hire labour; the determination of market outcomes such as output, inflation, interest rates, the wage rate, the stock market and exchange rates; and the effects of government policies on such outcomes. Starting from this rich theoretical framework, Economics then makes extensive use of empirical methods to test key hypotheses and provide quantitative propositions. This methodology finds applications in a wide range of real-world problems and policy-related issues. As such, Economics provides essential knowledge for the understanding of business behaviour, government policy as well as the wider economy.

Economics teaching at Keele, from the Economics group in the Keele Business School (KBS), gives students a good grounding in the subject. It is academically rigorous and delivered in a challenging but supportive learning environment. You will study essentials of Economics such as Microeconomics and Macroeconomics at various levels; quantitative, mathematical and statistical methods; options that include Contemporary Issues in Economics, International Finance, Industrial, and Labour Economics. You'll learn to use critical reasoning, analytical and mathematical/statistical techniques to address a wide range of real-world problems and policy-related issues and you will become familiar with professional software tools to analyse and interpret data.

Individually, the disciplines of Politics and Economics make a substantial contribution to a student's intellectual and professional development but there is a clear synergy to be gained from combining the disciplines. Students on each side of the disciplinary divide are aware of the relationship between political and economic power and become interested in the idea of political economy especially, but are not in the best place to investigate it in their single-discipline programmes. Studying the two together broadens the outlook substantially as students investigate the areas of intellectual common ground across the disciplines through our modules in political economy, public policy, and in economic policy and its effects specifically. Particularly, political economy is both a thriving and vital area of study. In its broadest definition, political economy is described as investigating the interrelationships among individuals, governments, and public policy, but it poses fundamental questions about the nature of power, influence and the allocation of resources in societies. Political factors can play a key role in explaining why particular policies are chosen - policymaking is a political process - and so the outcomes that occur, beg crucial questions about how that power, often economic power, works. This is a subject rife with intense debate over how economic and political systems function and interact with one another.

Studying politics, economics and political economy equips students with a range of skills and capabilities that are highly valued by prospective employers, whilst also providing a firm foundation for those wishing to pursue postgraduate study. By the time students complete the three years of an Honours Degree course, they have understood both the core of the disciplines and developed specialist knowledge in the areas that most interest them. They have also developed an extensive portfolio of skills. In addition to subject-specific knowledge, you will be taught a range of generic, transferable skills such as analytical/critical/reasoning ability, advanced literacy (essay writing, presentations) and numeracy (statistics, data analysis and presentation), time management, researching and capacity for independent study. In other words, the degree equips graduates with intellectual, professional and personal resources upon which they can draw throughout their lives and opens up a wider range of career possibilities in the private/business sector, finance, the public sector, and NGOs. Not only will these skills contribute to success in the workplace, but our graduates become informed participants in civic life.

Four-Year Programmes in Politics and Economics

The four-year International Year option provides students with the opportunity to undertake a year-long study abroad programme taught in English at an international university between Levels 5 and 6 of their degree programme in a subject relevant to their degree. Students will gain substantial experience of study in a different culture to their own and additionally benefit from the opportunity to develop their knowledge and networks in specialist areas of Economics relevant to both international and home settings.

The four-year Placement Year option provides students with the opportunity to undertake a professionally focused placement, a minimum 30 weeks full time (1050 hours), or equivalent, between Levels 5 and 6 of their degree programme. Students will gain substantial experience of a professional working environment relevant to their future career aspirations allowing for familiarisation of professional practice, enhanced skill development, and reflection upon programme content.

The four-year Entrepreneurship option provides students with the enhanced opportunity to undertake a year-long placement within Keele's Innovation Hub, working on developing their own business idea (minimum 30 weeks full-time (1,050 hours) or equivalent) between the 2nd and 3rd year of their degree programme.

4. Aims of the programme

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

- Study the disciplines of economics and politics in some depth;
- Understand, evaluate and combine theoretical and empirical models and analysis in economics;
- Develop the knowledge and skills for independent sophisticated analysis and reasoning using relevant economic concepts and methods
- 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 in politics
- Understand the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry in politics
- Relate academic theory to the practices of policy and political behaviour
- Understand, evaluate and criticise theories of political economy
- Evaluate and critically analyse differential social impacts upon political-economic processes and the ways in which these feedback into decision-making.
- Develop the knowledge and skills both for in-depth understanding of practical problems and policy matters of public concern from economic, political and political economy perspectives and for formulation of proposals in response to them
- Develop the knowledge and skills to conduct your own research exercising appropriate levels of scholarship.
- Develop a capacity to think critically and independently
- Develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to your intellectual, vocational and personal development
- Develop independence and self-confidence in your work and the ability to cooperate with others.

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:

- 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
- Show familiarity with up-to-date factual knowledge about the economy and public policy;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories in Economics related to the functioning of markets, the behaviour of actors such as individuals/households and firms and the effects of government intervention in the economy;
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key theories of political economy and the capacity to evaluate 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
- Employ a variety of analytical and empirical (statistical/econometric) methods in economics and utilise professional software for the analysis of real economic and business data.
- Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices
- 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.

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;
- deploy advanced reasoning capabilities, using surveys of existing theories, critical and analytical thinking and formal tools and methods including graphical, mathematical and statistical/econometric tools;
- construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement;
- present and communicate their reasoning and policy analysis and accompanying data in an effective way;
- identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- work effectively with information technology and use spreadsheet software in the analysis of quantitative data;
- express themselves and communicate clearly, fluently and effectively in a variety of ways (written as well as oral);
- use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information
- collaborate with others in groups to achieve common goals
- pursue research projects across a range of issues using methods grounded in social science
- problem-solve effectively
- work independently, demonstrating initiative, reflection, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner

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:

- Lectures accompanied by suggested reading for independent study, intended to provide a core framework of subject knowledge on which a systematic understanding of major principles and key theoretical approaches can be built. Most lecturers employ presentation software such as MS PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations. Some lecture classes may feature activities such as mock auctions, quizzes that involve voting, or other interactive activities. Lectures and associated readings are the main conduits for the dissemination of subject-based material.
- Tutor-led seminars where students contribute to or lead a discussion in more depth on key topics. 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, to present their own ideas, to develop critical thinking and permit the reflective individual expression of their understanding.
- Problem-based tutorials (often based on scenarios rooted in the real world) in which students are expected to offer answers or solutions to previously provided problems but also offer opportunities for students to direct specific questions to tutors and develop a better understanding of the issues in question. Tutor-led seminars and problem-based tutorials aim to develop analytical and critical thinking, give opportunities for problem-solving, presentations and the conduct of teamwork and as such contribute towards the fulfilment of a variety of learning outcomes related to subject knowledge, subject-related-skills and generic skill development;
- Interactive workshops where students 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;
- Practical, computer laboratory-based classes where students acquire the hands-on subject-related and generic skills associated with describing, analysing and interpreting business data;
- Directed independent study where students are referred to specific materials from textbooks, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, print media and appropriate sources deployed on the web. When combined with lectures, independent study is an integral part of developing a proper understanding of key concepts, approaches and debates in the field. Other opportunities for directed independent study are available in our computer laboratories which are equipped with Bloomberg information terminals and Sage accounting software allowing students to interact with real-world data and situations. Directed independent study, making use of a variety of resources such as the library, Library facilities, the University's virtual learning environment (KLE) and the wider Internet, promotes subject knowledge; subject-related skills such as analytical thinking and problem-solving; and generic skills such as self-management, the conduct of independent scholarly and research work, and IT literacy;
- Students may undertake web-based self-study exercises using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE gives students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools and permits the use of online discussion, quizzes and 'blogs' in teaching and learning whilst permitting students to develop improved IT knowledge;
- Students may also be asked to research and find information independently, which may extend to undertaking an independent research project under the supervision of an experienced tutor. 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 Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to engage effectively with a diverse set of assessment types (see Section 10 below) that allow them to achieve subject knowledge and understanding, and demonstrate both subject-specific skills and key transferable skills they have gained on a module.

7. Teaching Staff

The programme is taught by two staffing groups, the Politics and International Relations team in the School of Social Sciences and the Economics, Accounting and Finance Group of KBS, each of whom maintains a strong commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching and scholarly work.

Nearly all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in politics, economics or a closely related subject in the social sciences. 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 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.

Most staff are active in research, continually presenting and publishing academic papers at national and international conferences, in books and in internationally ranked journals. The work of some staff members has been used directly to shape policy in their areas of expertise at the national and international levels. Teaching is informed by research and, continually updated, and is at the forefront of developments in the field.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having sufficient numbers 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.

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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/>

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 5	45	75	75
Level 6	30	120	120

Students must take either PIR-30130 or ECO-30051 as an independent study option (please note that ECO-20042 is a pre-requisite for ECO-30051).

Module Lists

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Intermediate Microeconomics	ECO-20046	15	Semester 1
Statistics with Bloomberg	ECO-20049	15	Semester 1
Open Economy Macroeconomics	ECO-20037	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
U.S Government and Politics	PIR-20071	15	Semester 1
British Government and Politics	PIR-20074	15	Semester 1
The Politics of the European Union	PIR-20081	15	Semester 1
Contemporary Issues in Economics	ECO-20040	15	Semester 2
Introduction to Econometrics	ECO-20042	15	Semester 2
Environmental Politics and Policy	PIR-20067	15	Semester 2
Why Policy Changes	PIR-20068	15	Semester 2
Elections, voters and public opinion	PIR-20089	15	Semester 2
Personal and Professional Development for Social Scientists	PIR-20108	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

ECO-20042: This Module is prerequisite for Data Analysis (ISP) (ECO-30051) in year 3.

All students must take an ISP in year 3, if you wish to take your ISP in Economics then you must take this module.

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dynamic Macroeconomics	ECO-30033	15	Semester 1
Advanced Topics in Microeconomics	ECO-30047	15	Semester 1

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Extreme Right in Western Europe	PIR-30119	15	Semester 1
Parliamentary Studies	PIR-30160	15	Semester 1
Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP	PIR-30130	30	Semester 1-2
Labour Economics	ECO-30032	15	Semester 2
Data Analysis - ISP	ECO-30051	15	Semester 2
'Eyes on the Prize': The Struggle for Civil Rights in America	HIS-30157	15	Semester 2
Contemporary Democratic Theory	PIR-30150	15	Semester 2
Environmental Political Economy	PIR-30156	15	Semester 2
Feminist Interventions: Theorising the Political	PIR-30166	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

- (1) Students must choose either PIR-30130 or ECO-30051 as their independent study project but can also select to do both.
- (2) Students must choose at least one Politics module in Semester One (PIR-30119, PIR-30117, PIR-30160, or PIR-30156).
- (3) Students must choose at least one Politics module in Semester Two (PIR-30150, PIR-30166, or PIR-30158).
- (4) Prerequisite for ECO-30051: Introduction to Econometrics ECO-20042.

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree BA (Hons) Politics and Economics	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 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.
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International 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 wide 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 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 on your programme:

- 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
- Class tests taken either conventionally or online via the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) as Computer-based tests assess your subject knowledge and your ability to apply it in a more structured and focused way compared to essays
- Final examinations, in different formats, test your knowledge and understanding of the module. Examinations may consist of essays, short answers, multiple-choice questions and computational answers depending on the module. Many exams ask you to apply the skills you have learned to show you can use them in answering realistic questions you might encounter in your career
- Oral presentations assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, as well as their ability to communicate what they know orally and visually.
- Group presentation, where you collaborate with a group of fellow students and present your findings to other students on the module and the module tutor, testing students' ability to work effectively as members of a team
- Individual report, where you produce a document that sets out your response to the task, including your recommendations and conclusions
- 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. This is a key academic skill in learning to understand different approaches to asking particular questions and learning how to go about finding answers to these questions, which demands an understanding of how evidence should be evaluated and interpreted
- Portfolios and Worksheets may consist of a range of different pieces of work to demonstrate your engagement with and understanding of a topic, while often also including evidence of students' critical reflection on the development of their own learning. They also allow the development of specific academic skills and allow students to apply them in realistic scenarios
- Work Placement reflection on work placement activity and development of employability skills

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: lectures, seminars, tutorials, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshops, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	21.9%	78.1%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	19%	81%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	13%	87%	0%

12. Accreditation

Various modules taught in this programme, particularly accounting, finance and a small number of economics modules, are accredited by certain professional bodies such as ACCA (Association of Chartered Certified Accountants) and CIMA (Chartered Institute of Management Accountants). Accreditation implies that if a student has taken the modules referred to, they will be offered exemptions from some of the training and exams that these professional bodies require in order to confer membership and/or chartered status. Please ask the KBS Office for a list of the modules that are accredited by professional bodies.

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/>

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

A student is not allowed to study both the International Year option and the Work Placement Year or Entrepreneurship Year option.

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, 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 the 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.

Additional costs might include travel to and from work, the need for professional clothing suitable for the workplace, and visas for international students. 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.

Entrepreneurship Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year Economics 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 to the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking their Entrepreneurship Year. To be eligible for the Entrepreneurship year, students must have a good University attendance record. They must also demonstrate a viable new business idea and suitability to undertake entrepreneurial activity. This will be assessed during Year 2, through the submission of a proposal, presentation and interview.

Due to visa restrictions, the Entrepreneurship Year is not available to International students.

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

Students can study the International Year, the Work Placement Year, or the Entrepreneurship Year but not a combination of these options.

Other opportunities

15. Additional Costs

Students will be responsible for organising their own placement, with the support of the placement officer. This allows students to choose when and where to carry out their placement, taking into consideration the potential living and travel expenses, for which they will be responsible. Students are encouraged to consider the potential costs incurred in carrying out the placement at the time of setting these up. Further guidance and support on these considerations is available from the placement officer.

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

BA Politics and Economics with International Year

International Year Programme

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.

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.

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.

International Year Programme Aims

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:

1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject
2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially

Entry Requirements for the International Year

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.

To undertake the Placement Year, it is normally required that students must have achieved an average of 50% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5. Places on the 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 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 may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

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

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

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.

In addition, students who complete the International Year will be able to:

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

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

BA Politics and Economics 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 (minimum 30 weeks equivalent of full-time work) between Years 2 and 3 (Levels 5 and 6) of their degree programme.

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.

To undertake the Placement Year, it is normally required that students must have achieved an average of 50% across all modules in semester one at Level five. Places on the Placement Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 50% across all Level five modules.

Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 50% requirement may progress to the Placement Year. Where no semester one marks have been awarded, performance in level four modules and ongoing level five assessments are taken into account.

Students may not register for the Work Placement Year if already enrolled on either the International Year and an Entrepreneurship 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 the 5 weeks after 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. evaluate their own employability skills (via a SWOT Analysis) together with an analysis of sector skill demands to create Intended Placement Outcomes in order to develop the skill areas which they have identified as being weak or needing further enhancement;
2. develop, through practice on placement, the employment-related skills identified through their SWOT analysis and Intended Learning Outcomes;
3. reflect on and apply academic themes, concepts and theory as explored at Level 4 and Level 5 to complex real situations on work placement;
4. reflect on and critically evaluate their learning from the work placement and previous learning;
5. explain how their chosen professional or placement sector operates and what skills are needed to develop their career.

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (MAN-30086) which involves:

- the submission of two portfolios of evidence, one at the beginning of the placement (usually after six weeks into the placement) and one at the end of the placement and before the start of the final year of undergraduate studies.

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 'Placement Year module (MAN-30086)
- 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

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 - Entrepreneurship Year

BA Politics and Economics with Entrepreneurship Year

Entrepreneurship Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Entrepreneurship' option. Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Entrepreneurship Year) located within the Incubation Hub at Keele after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Entrepreneurship Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Entrepreneurship 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 Entrepreneurship Year option.

Entrepreneurship Year Programme Aims

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

1. The opportunity to develop a business idea into a live enterprise project within Keele's incubator for a minimum of 30 weeks (full-time equivalent work) but can be longer with access to expertise from Entrepreneurs in Residence.

Entry Requirements for the 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 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 entrepreneurship. Students who fail to pass the entrepreneurship year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the entrepreneurship year module (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent activity within the incubator), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme. The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- A suitable business idea and demonstration of ability to benefit from time in the incubator, assessed through the submission of a proposal, presentation and interview during year 2.
- Students who require a Study Visa to undertake the programme in the UK (including Tier 4) are not able to add in an Entrepreneurship Year due to UK Home Office (UKVI) restrictions. If a student has existing Immigration permission (Visa) to be in the UK, they may be able to carry out entrepreneurship activities depending upon the specific conditions of their visa category.

Students may not register for Entrepreneurship Year if already enrolled on either the International Year or a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

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

- Students are supported throughout the year by the administrative lead and academic lead of the entrepreneurship module. There will also be a programme of support offered by the Entrepreneurs in Residence.
- Students also have access to various guides in terms of their assessment via KLE as well as the opportunity for 1-2-1 meetings with the academic lead to discuss their progress.

Learning Outcomes

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

- Create an innovative business venture and critically evaluate its potential viability
- Demonstrate understanding of the barriers to start-up enterprise growth and success
- Evaluate and apply a range of strategic decisions to maximise the viability of the start up
- Reflect on one's own entrepreneurial knowledge, skills, behaviour, and learning process

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Entrepreneurship Year module (MAN-30075) which involves:

- The submission of a portfolio of evidence demonstrating the activities and learning taken place during the year and a detailed synopsis of how the business idea has progressed.

Regulations

Students registered for the Entrepreneurship Year are subject to course specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Entrepreneurship Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Entrepreneurship Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Entrepreneurship Year' module (MAN-30075)

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the incubation hub

Additional costs for the Entrepreneurship Year

Tuition fees for students on the Entrepreneurship Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Entrepreneurship 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 accommodation, food and personal costs.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 08 August 2025

What's Changed

Optional module changes: PIR-30117 removed.

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.3	2024/25	PHILIP CATNEY	05 August 2025	Optional module changes: add HIS-30157 instead of PIR-30038.
1.2	2024/25	PHILIP CATNEY	07 July 2025	Optional module changes: PIR-30158 replaced with PIR-30038.
1.1	2024/25	PHILIP CATNEY	18 March 2025	Optional module changes
1	2024/25	JONATHAN PARKER	31 May 2024	
1	2023/24	JONATHAN PARKER	09 February 2023	
1	2022/23	JONATHAN PARKER		