Keele
UNIVERSITY

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2019/2020

1. Course Summary

Names of programme(s) and award title(s)	BA or BSc (Hons) International Relations BA or BSc (Hons) International Relations with International Year (see Annex A for details)
Award type	Combined Honours *NB:* Students who study their two Principal subjects in humanities and/or social science subjects will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) (BA Hons). All students who study a science Principal subject are candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science (with Honours) (BSc Hons) irrespective of their second Principal subject.
Mode of study	Full time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Duration	3 years 4 years with International Year between years 2 and 3
Location of study	Keele University – main campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK/EU students:** Fee for 2019/20 is £9,250* **International students:** Fee for 2019/20 is £14,320** *or* £14,690** *(if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)* The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee
Additional Costs	Please refer to the Additional costs section

* 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/

** 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/

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

2.   What is a Combined Honours programme?

Combined Honours degrees are degrees that are taken in two different subjects, resulting in an *X and Y* degree title, for example *International Relations and Politics.* If you are taking a Combined Honours programme, these will be the two subjects you applied for. These are referred to as your Principal Subjects.

In a Combined Honours degree you must take at least 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), accrued over all three levels of study, with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). The remaining available credits can be filled with modules from these subjects or other subjects entirely.

As a Combined Honours student you can choose to study just one subject in your final year of study, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject. This will result in an *X with Y* degree title, for example *International Relations with Politics*.

3.   Overview of the Programme

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

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

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

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

4. Aims of the Programme

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

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

5. What you will learn

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

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

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

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

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

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

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

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

Keele Graduate attributes

Engagement with this programme will enable you to develop your intellectual, personal and professional capabilities. At Keele, we call these our ten Graduate Attributes and they include independent thinking, synthesizing information, creative problem solving, communicating clearly, and appreciating the social, environmental and global implications of your studies and activities. Our educational programme and learning environment is designed to help you to become a well-rounded graduate who is capable of making a positive and valued contribution in a complex and rapidly changing world, whichever spheres of life you engage in after your studies are completed.

Further information about the Keele Graduate Attributes can be found here: http://www.keele.ac.uk/journey/

6. How is the Programme taught?

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

- **Traditional lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework for reading and independent study. Most lecturers employ presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations in the lecture hall
- **Interactive learning** in large classes where students have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning
- **Tutorials and seminars** in which key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part in, and occasionally to lead, these discussions, either individually, or as part of a small team. Some tutorials and seminars consist largely of presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams)
- **Independent study** based on directed reading from textbooks, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the printed media and appropriate sources deployed on the worldwide web
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE). The KLE is accessible to all students on and off campus and provides easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs
- For those who take their **dissertation** double module in International Relations in their final year, the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project and then independently implementing it with supervision and support from a member of staff

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

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

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

7. Teaching Staff

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

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

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

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

8. What is the Structure of the Programme?

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

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

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

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

A summary of the total credit requirements per year is as follows, with a minimum of 90 subject credits (compulsory plus optional) required for each year across both of your Principal Subjects. This document has information about *International Relations* modules only; please also see the document for your other subject.

Module credit requirements for International Relations					
Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
1	30	15	45	0	30
2	30	15	45	0	30
3*	0	45	75	0	30

* in year 3 there is the option to choose to specialise in one of your subjects, taking a minimum of 90 credits in this subject rather than taking modules from both subjects

Module lists

Year 1 (Level 4)

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Introduction to International Relations	PIR-10041	15	1
Securing Global Order	PIR-10060	15	2
Optional modules	**Module Code**	**Credits**	**Semester**
The Changing World	PIR-10043	15	1
Introduction to Global Political Economy	PIR-10058	15	2
Why Politics Matters	PIR-10038	15	1
Justice, Authority and Power	PIR-10045	15	2

Year 2 (Level 5)

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Contemporary International Relations Theory	PIR-20076	15	1
International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	PIR-20085	15	2
Optional modules	**Module Code**	**Credits**	**Semester**
The International Relations of Eurasia	PIR-20062	15	1
The Politics of the European Union	PIR-20081	15	2
African Politics	PIR-20092	15	2
Foreign Policy	PIR-20090	15	2
Russian Politics and Society	PIR-20078	15	1
British Government and Politics	PIR-20074	15	1
US Government and Politics	PIR-20071	15	1
Freedom and Equality	PIR-20066	15	2
Why Policy Changes	PIR-20068	15	2
The Practice of Politics	PIR-20065	15	2
Work Experience in Politics, International Relations and Philosophy	PIR-20082	15	1

Year 3 (Level 6)

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Semester
None			
Optional modules	**Module Code**	**Credits**	**Semester**
Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	PIR-30130	30	1-2
The Politics of Development	PIR-30147	15	1
The Missing Dimension	PIR-30025	15	1
Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	PIR-30114	15	1
Policing International Order	PIR-30118	15	2
Gendering Global Politics	PIR-30144	15	2
Israel-Palestine: Key Debates and Issues	PIR-30151	15	2
Britain and War Since 1945: War, Cold War and Society	PIR-30152	15	2
Russia and Europe	PIR-30101	15	1
The Extreme Right in Western Europe	PIR-30119	15	1
The Left in Modern Politics	PIR-30140	15	2
Modern Russia	PIR-30142	15	2
Environmentalism, Environmental Movements and Protest	PIR-30149	15	2

	Module Code	Credits	Semester
The Modern Middle East: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation	PIR-30143	15	2

NB: if you choose to specialise in International Relations in your final year you will study the following modules:

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Semester
Dissertation in Politics and International Relations	PIR-30130	30	1-2
Optional modules	**Module Code**	**Credits**	**Semester**
The Politics of Development	PIR-30147	15	1
The Missing Dimension	PIR-30025	15	1
Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	PIR-30114	15	1
Policing International Order	PIR-30118	15	2
Gendering Global Politics	PIR-30144	15	2
Israel-Palestine: Key Debates and Issues	PIR-30151	15	2
Britain and War Since 1945: War, Cold War and Society	PIR-30152	15	2
Russia and Europe	PIR-30101	15	1
The Extreme Right in Western Europe	PIR-30119	15	1
The Left in Modern Politics	PIR-30140	15	2
Modern Russia	PIR-30142	15	2
Environmentalism, Environmental Movements and Protest	PIR-30149	15	2
The Modern Middle East: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation	PIR-30143	15	2

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

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in each year of the Programme, the modules in which that learning takes place, and the main ways in which students are assessed on their learning. In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in optional modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

Year 1 (Level 4)

Subject Knowledge and Understanding		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Recognise the distinctive features of IR as a discipline and its relation to other disciplines	Introduction to International Relations	essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Define and work with key concepts in international political theory and international political analysis	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation

Recognise and evaluate the major factors shaping the evolution of the international political system	Introduction to International Relations	essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay
Describe and distinguish between a range of theoretical perspectives in IR, recognising their respective virtues	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Apply concepts and theories used in the study of IR to the analysis of political ideas and practices and policy issues in the global arena	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Critically evaluate the concept of the state, its practices, and its different sites of practice	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Identify various perspectives on how state power is enabled and may be challenged	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Recognise the distinctions between global and local dimensions of everyday life and their political implications	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation

Subject Specific Skills		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Use the library and electronic sources to locate primary and secondary sources in IR or pertinent cognate disciplines	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Identify, summarise and evaluate the main points of key secondary texts in IR and be able to appraise the logic of argumentation in key IR texts	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Interpret and distinguish between a range of primary and secondary sources in IR	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Employ research evidence, other data and some basic IR theories in developing arguments and making judgements about IR issues	Introduction to International Relations	Essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation

Make coherent arguments based on evidence and analysis	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Present written work in IR in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of citation and referencing	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Use IT for the retrieval and presentation of information (including, where appropriate, numerical data) in support of ideas and arguments	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written format	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay
Communicate orally information, ideas and arguments effectively to a variety of audiences informally and formally through oral presentation	Introduction to International Relations	not assessed, but developed in class through peer assessment of past exam answers by student teams
	Securing Global Order	group presentation
Work with others, demonstrating the capacity to plan, share goals, cooperate and collaborate with other members of a team	Introduction to International Relations	not assessed, but developed in class through peer assessment of past exam answers by student teams
	Securing Global Order	group presentation
Analyse problems in order to identify their essential elements and devise solutions	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Acquire, assess, organize and engage with a wide variety of sources as part of the practice of research	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Carry out research using a range of textual and electronic resources	Introduction to International Relations	essay plan; essay; exam
	Securing Global Order	essay; group presentation
Reflect on and plan their own	Introduction to International	not assessed, but developed by

| learning by accepting and acting appropriately on feedback | Relations | reflection on Tutor feedback on essay plan and essay |
| | Securing Global Order | not assessed, but developed by reflection on Tutor and peer feedback on group presentations |

Year 2 (Level 5)

Subject Knowledge and Understanding		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Analyse key problems in international relations and international security, in particular in the post-Cold War period, integrating theoretical concepts and empirical material	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Analyse, interpret and critically evaluate the treatment by different authors of a range of themes in International Relations	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Interpret and distinguish between different theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of international relations, global peace, conflict, and security	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam

Subject Specific Skills		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Evaluate a range of relevant ideas about conflict and conflict-resolution in terms of their applicability to the analysis of particular conflicts	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Combine theoretical and empirical material in order critically to evaluate how security problems are framed and addressed	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Analyse, interpret, and critically evaluate secondary materials and some primary source materials regarding international relations	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Conduct independent research in order to identify, locate, and	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay

retrieve appropriate paper and electronic materials to supplement module reading lists	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Conduct independent research	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Evaluate and make use of abstract theories in analysing and resolving problems	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in written form	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	short paper; case study; essay
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	critique; essay; exam
Effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in oral form	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	not assessed but developed through participation in tutorial discussions
	Contemporary International Relations Theory	Not assessed but developed through participation in tutorial discussions

Year 3 (Level 6)

Subject Knowledge and Understanding		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used**
Recognise, interpret and critically evaluate theories, concepts and research in defined areas, some of which are at the forefront of international political theory and international political analysis	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Apply established theories and methods of inquiry in the discipline to understanding and resolving new and unfamiliar problems in their study of International Relations	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations

Subject Specific Skills		
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**	**Principal forms of assessment (of**

Successful students will be able to:		the Level Outcome) used
Describe and make critical judgements about developments in current areas of research in International Relations	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Communicate ideas effectively and fluently informed by contemporary research in International Relations (international political theory and international political analysis) both orally and in writing	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Manage their own learning making use of appropriate International Relations materials	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Formulate research questions and identify appropriate research strategies to address them, as part of undertaking an independent research project	Dissertation in International Relations or other Principal Subject	dissertation
	Several student-oriented optional modules involve students delivering a research paper addressing a question that they have identified themselves	research design projects; research papers

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)		
Learning Outcome *Successful students will be able to:*	Module in which this is delivered	Principal forms of assessment (of the Level Outcome) used
Work productively in structured and largely unstructured contexts, exercising initiative and personal responsibility	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Make decisions and plan activity in uncertain and unpredictable contexts	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Work independently, exercising initiative and effective time management	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations
Undertake appropriate further training of an academic, professional or practical nature	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme	Modules are assessed in a variety of ways including but not limited to: essays; research design projects; research papers; unseen exams; oral presentations

Formulate research questions and identify appropriate research strategies to address them, as part of undertaking an independent research project	Dissertation in International Relations or other Principal Subject	dissertation
	Several student- oriented optional modules involve students delivering a research paper addressing a question that they have identified themselves	research design projects; research papers

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6. **Combined Honours:** A minimum of 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). Your degree title will be X *and* Y (e.g. International Relations and Politics). If you choose to study one Principal subject in your final year of study a minimum of 90 credits in that subject is required. Your degree title will be X *with* Y (e.g. International Relations with Politics).
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

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

10. How is the Programme assessed?

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

- **Unseen examinations** test students' knowledge of the relevant aspects of International Relations. Examinations require students to answer questions by writing a number of short essays.

- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of referencing.

- **Reviews** and **Critiques** of other scholars' work test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them.

- **Bibliographic exercises** require students critically to evaluate the arguments of scholars in addition to summarising the key points of specific texts as they assemble a short annotated bibliography of published materials that they judge to be especially useful in addressing a set question or solving a particular problem.

- **Research Design Projects and associated Research Papers** allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question and identify an appropriate research methodology as part of the task of designing and implementing a research strategy to enable them to address the research question effectively.

- **Oral presentations and group presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, as well as their ability to communicate what they know orally and visually. When delivered by groups of students, they also test students' ability to work effectively as members of a team.

- **Portfolios** may consist of a range of different pieces of work while usually also including evidence of students' critical reflection on the development of their own learning.

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

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

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

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

Activity	Year 1 (Level 4)	Year 2 (Level 5)	Year 3 (Level 6)
Scheduled learning and teaching activities	13%	14%	8%
Guided independent Study	87%	86%	92%
Placements	0%	0%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. Regulations

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

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

14. What are the typical admission requirements for the programme?

Subject	A-level	Subjects not included	International Baccalaureate	BTEC	Access to Higher Education Diploma	GCSE requirements
International Relations (Combined Hons)	BBB/ABC	None	32 points	DMM	Obtain Access to Higher Education Diploma with 122 UCAS Tariff points including a minimum of 15 L3 credits at Distinction	Maths or Science at C (or 4) English Language at C (or 4)

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

Please note: All non-native English speaking students are required to undertake a diagnostic English language assessment on arrival at Keele, to determine whether English language support may help them succeed with their studies. An English language module may be compulsory for some students during their first year at Keele.

Accreditation of Prior Learning (APL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/accreditationofpriorlearning/

15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module coordinators and tutorial group leaders provide support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations.

- Every student is allocated to a personal tutor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in International Relations and on their other Principal Programme.

- Personal tutors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services, located in the Student Services Centre.

- The International Student Support section in the Student Services Centre provides specialist help and advice to international students on visa and immigration matters, information about working and assistance with any personal or academic issues that might arise during their time at Keele

- The Life and Learning Team within Student Services can provide additional help with skills for studying at University level.

- Students for whom English is not their first language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice

- All members of teaching staff on the International Relations Programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment

16. Learning Resources

International Relations is taught in modern teaching rooms across the University, almost all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- The extensive collection of International Relations materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. Built up over nearly 40 years of delivering International Relations at this level, these materials include books, journals and government publications. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.

- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources – video, audio and text-based – accessible from external providers via the internet.

- The web spaces created in the KLE for each individual module taught by the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and the Environment host material tailor-made to support International Relations and Politics students. They contain a wealth of electronically accessible materials giving often interactive guidance on almost all aspects of study, including: finding and evaluating sources of information; planning and writing essays, research papers and dissertations; acknowledging sources appropriately using the Harvard system; working with others in groups and teams, and preparing and delivering oral presentations.

- The Life and Learning Team within Keele's Student Services can provide additional help with skills for studying at University level.

17. Other learning opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

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

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

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

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

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

Study Abroad (International Year)

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

Enhanced Degree: With Language Competency/With Advanced Language Competency

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

18. Additional costs

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

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

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

19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in International Relations are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The Learning and Teaching Committee of the School of Politics, Philosophy, International Relations and Environment is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.

- Individual modules and the International Relations Programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year and as part of the University's Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.

- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Internal Quality Audit (IQA) process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every International Relations module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of the Curriculum Annual Review and Development (CARD) process.

- Findings related to the International Relations Programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.

- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the International Relations Programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:
- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

20. The principles of programme design

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

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code

b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (2015)
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-politics-15.pdf?sfvrsn=ee95f781_10

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

21. Document Version History

Date of first approved version (v1.0): 2nd October 2018

Revision history

Version number[1]	Author	Date	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.1	Naveed Sheikh	July 2019	Changes to optional modules at Levels 5 and 6: at Level 5 'Foreign Policy' replaces 'Peace, Conflict and Security'; at Level 6 'The Modern Middle East: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation' has been added

---

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

Annex A

International Relations with International Year

Please note: in order to be eligible to take the International Year option your other subject must also offer this option. Please refer to the information published in the course document for your other subject.

International Year Programme
Students registered for Combined Honours International Relations may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Combined Honours programme in both their principal subjects, providing that they meet the progression criteria outlined in this document. Students accepted onto the International Year programme will have an extra year of study 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 Combined Honours programme without the International Year 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 'International Relations with International Year'.

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. The criteria to be applied are: • Academic Performance (an average of 60% across all modules at Level 5 is normally required) • General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's personal tutor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Student Support
Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods: • Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended Personal Tutoring 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:

i)   Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments

ii)   Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation

iii) Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.

Please note that students on Combined Honours programmes with International Year must meet the subject-specific learning outcomes for BOTH their principal subjects.

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

Course Regulations

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

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

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

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

Additional costs for the International Year

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

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

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

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