

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

Academic Year 2021/22

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BSc (Hons) Social and Political Sciences BSc (Hons) Social and Political Sciences with International 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 the International Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	None
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2021/22 is £9,250*</p> <p>International/EU students:</p> <p>Fee for 2021/22 is £15,500**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p>

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

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

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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

We are living in a period of profound social and political change and many of the old certainties that suggested what society should look like, what social life means, how we should run our political systems, and even what we mean when we talk about politics, have been shattered. The aim of this programme is to think through the range of problems facing our rapidly changing world with a view to exploring potential social and political solutions and ways forward in the future.

In the wake of the coronavirus pandemic, which has forced us to question many of our taken for granted understandings about social life, work, and the way we live together, traditional political thinking has been upended as politicians have been forced to improvise in order to maintain some kind of social and economic order. While those previously in favour of free markets have engaged in unprecedented economic bail-outs that we might normally associate with socialist forms of government, liberal politicians have been forced into forms of social restrictions (lockdowns) that would have been unthinkable before anybody had heard of the coronavirus.

However, the current social and political shifts we are living through are not only about coronavirus and can be traced back much further to the early years of the 21st century when it first became apparent that processes of globalisation were not only positive, but could also cause serious social and political problems. Following 9 / 11 and the emergence of global terrorism, governments suddenly became aware that the great freedoms brought about by globalisation needed to be tempered by a new concern with security and control of movement. Later in the first decade of the 21st century, this new understanding of the need to exert social and political control over movement extended to the problem of economy. The global economic crash of 2008 brought with it a wave of austerity policies and the idea that globalisation was necessarily a social and political good seemed questionable to many people.

Indeed, it is possible to argue that the popular vote to take Britain out of the European Union and the election of President Trump in America came about in response to deep suspicion about the idea of globalisation, global trade, and the free movement of people. Of course, at the same time that populist leaders rose to power in America, Britain, Brazil and other countries, China has continued to exert its influence across the globe, suggesting a very different model of society and politics to what is thought normal in the West. Many commentators are now speculating about the end of centuries old western ideas of what society should look like and how the political system should operate.

Casting a long shadow over all of this change is, of course, the problem of climate change and a recognition of the unsustainability of the capitalist social and political system. Despite everything else that has happened since the end of the 20th century, most now realise that we cannot continue to live in high-consumption societies and must rethink our social, political, and economic system from the bottom up. The enormous shock caused by the coronavirus has simply made this need to change feel even more urgent. But how can we manage this change? How can we think differently and step outside of our taken for granted assumptions about the ways in which society and politics should work?

The key purpose of Social and Political Sciences at Keele is to engage with the enormous transformations taking place in society and politics in order to try to think through ways forward into a sustainable, inclusive future. The current uncertainty about the social and political future has led to the emergence of new forms of post-truth and conspiratorial politics, which make it extremely difficult for people to make reasonable decisions about their lives. In this context, one of the key purposes of the Social and Political Sciences programme is to equip students with the rigorous methodological, theoretical, and analytic skills that underpin the social and political sciences in order to identify real world problems, collect information about them, and produce analyses designed to suggest workable solutions moving forward into an uncertain future.

Given the uncertain situation of the contemporary world in the middle of a period of enormous transformation, the skills taught on the Social and Political Sciences programme will be essential for students concerned with equipping themselves for employment in a rapidly changing world, but also vital for people who want to contribute to social and political transformation for the better.

4. Aims of the programme

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

- Understand the nature and significance of political and social life
- Acquire knowledge and understanding in key areas of social and political theory and analysis
- Understand and use concepts, approaches, and methods in the social and political sciences
- Understand the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry in social and political sciences
- Develop the capacity to think critically and independently and mobilise theoretical materials to support this mode of thought
- Relate the academic study of social and political issues to matters of public concern
- Relate academic theory to social and political behaviour and policy issues
- Develop a range of cognitive and communication skills relevant to intellectual, vocational, and personal development
- Communicate social and political explanations to diverse audiences through written and oral modes of presentation
- Develop analytic, learning, and communication skills that may be employed in a variety of different real world contexts

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 of key ideas in the history of the social and political sciences and be able to apply these ideas beyond their original context
- Apply concepts, theories, and methods used in the study of the social and political sciences to the analysis of social and political ideas, institutions, issues and practices
- Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different social and political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them, and the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them
- Demonstrate knowledge of social and political theory and be able to mobilise these ideas to analyse substantive problems in the field
- Evaluate different interpretations of social and political issues and events using theoretical sources material
- Understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of society and politics, appreciating the relative strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches
- Think critically in evaluating different interpretations of social and 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
- Develop the personal and inter-personal skills necessary to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become an informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in social and political issues

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Employ a social and political imagination to explain private events in terms of public situations and develop critical social and political accounts of everyday life concerns.
- Collect, select, and organise evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources
- Interpret, analyse, and deploy that evidence, data and information in written and oral presentations
- Construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information, and exercise critical judgement in a variety of written and oral modes of presentation
- Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate, and advocate solutions to problems to social and political issues
- Report, interpret, and analyse raw data and communicate findings in written and oral form.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Think critically about problems and develop theoretical models with a view to proposing imaginative solutions
- Understand problems from a range of different perspectives and recognise the importance of negotiation in proposing potential solutions
- Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing
- Use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information
- Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner
- Collaborate with others to achieve common goals
- Pursue research projects across a range of issues using methods grounded in the social and political sciences

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 MS PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations. Lectures allow students to gain a systematic understanding both of key theoretical approaches in the social and political sciences and of fundamental concepts employed in studying the subject.

- Tutorials and seminars: where key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part in, and occasionally to lead, these discussions, either individually, or as part of a small team. Some tutorials and seminars involve presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams). Seminars and tutorials provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered in the study of the social and political sciences and to present their own ideas.
- Learning Pods; where students in larger classes have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning.
- Workshops: here, we encourage students to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from staff.
- Independent study: based on directed reading from text books, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the print media and appropriate sources deployed on the web. When combined with lectures, independent study is an integral part of developing proper understanding of key concepts, approaches, and debates in the field.
- Web-based learning: Using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE gives students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools to assist their studies, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs.
- Dissertations: the dissertation double module in Social and Political Sciences provides students the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project, developing an appropriate methodology and method, collecting and analysing data, and then implementing this design independently. Undertaking a research dissertation with the supervision and support of experienced and active researchers from our staff group allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them.

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

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

Students are able to demonstrate the subject knowledge and understanding, subject specific skills, and key transferable skills through a wide range of forms of assessment including:

- Essays: the word count is usually associated with the year (Level) of instruction;
- Examinations: these may include multiple choice as well as short answer/essay responses;
- Module-specific assessed work such as a data analysis exercise or blog;
- In-class tests;
- Oral Presentations;
- MS PowerPoint Presentations;
- Individual projects;
- Small group projects;
- Dissertations.

7. Teaching Staff

The permanent teaching staff of the Social and Political Sciences Programme consists of a number of Professors, Senior Lecturers and Lecturers. All current members of staff have doctorates in Sociology, Politics, or closely related disciplines, such as Anthropology. Moreover, a significant number of the group have professionally accredited teaching qualifications. The majority of members of the teaching staff are research active and publish books and articles on international presses and in international journals. The teaching group also has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level at universities in the UK, Europe, the United States, Canada, West Africa, and Japan.

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

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

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

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

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

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

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 4	90	0	0	30	30
Level 5	60	30	60	0	30
Level 6	30	60	90	0	30

Module Lists

Level 4

There are 6 compulsory modules on the Level 4 programme. Students are also required to take 2 elective modules from a list provided by the University.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Why Politics Matters	PIR-10038	15	Semester 1
Social inequalities in the contemporary world	SOC-10009	15	Semester 1
Social and Political Theory	SOC-10029	15	Semester 1
Modern Democracies	PIR-10055	15	Semester 2
Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE)	PIR-10058	15	Semester 2
Classical Sociology	SOC-10014	15	Semester 2

Level 5

There are 4 compulsory modules on the Level 5 programme and students have a choice of up to 4 option modules. Students may also choose to take 2 elective modules from a list provided by the University.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Globalisation and its Discontents	SOC-20043	15	Semester 1
Research Methods	SOC-20046	15	Semester 1
Why Policy Changes	PIR-20068	15	Semester 2
Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics	PIR-20079	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Environmental Politics and Policy	PIR-20067	15	Semester 1
U.S Government and Politics	PIR-20071	15	Semester 1
British Government and Politics	PIR-20074	15	Semester 1
International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	PIR-20085	15	Semester 1
African Politics (Level 5)	PIR-20092	15	Semester 1
Contemporary Social Theory	SOC-20049	15	Semester 1
The Practice of Politics	PIR-20065	15	Semester 2
Freedom and Equality	PIR-20066	15	Semester 2
The International Politics of the Middle East: A Century of War and Diplomacy	PIR-20094	15	Semester 2
Witchcraft, Zombies and Social Anxiety	SOC-20033	15	Semester 2
Social Movements	SOC-20056	15	Semester 2
Producing Sociological Knowledge	SOC-20060	15	Semester 2

Level 6

There is 1 compulsory 30 credit double module on the Level 6 programme. At this level students may choose up to 6 option modules. Alternatively, they may choose to take 4 option modules and 2 elective modules from a list provided by the University.

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dissertation - ISP	SOC-30028	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Human Rights: Concepts, Norms and Identities	PIR-30126	15	Semester 1
The Modern Middle East: Conflict, Competition and Cooperation	PIR-30143	15	Semester 1
Gendering Global Politics	PIR-30144	15	Semester 1
Contemporary Democratic Theory	PIR-30150	15	Semester 1
The Virtual Revolution: New Technologies, Culture and Society	SOC-30031	15	Semester 1
Home: belonging, locality and material culture	SOC-30032	15	Semester 1
Policing International Order	PIR-30118	15	Semester 2
Modern Russia	PIR-30142	15	Semester 2
Britain and war since 1945: War, Cold War and society	PIR-30152	15	Semester 2
Gender and Consumption	SOC-30029	15	Semester 2
Dreamworld and Catastrophe: Utopia and Dystopia Through History	SOC-30035	15	Semester 2
Moving People: Migration, emotion, identity	SOC-30042	15	Semester 2

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 4

At Level 4 (Year 1) and Level 5 (Year 2) 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 and elective modules together with other outcomes not stated here. At Level 6 (Year 3) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

At the end of Level 4 (Year 1) students should be able to:

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate knowledge of the forms of stratification of social life in contemporary societies	Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Express knowledge of the diversity of types of social inequality in the contemporary world	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Demonstrate knowledge of the ways that policy decisions impact upon the social world upon social inequalities through reference to both historical and contemporary examples	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Demonstrate knowledge of the 'classical' sociology of the 19th century (Marx, Weber, Durkheim)	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014
Recognise and distinguish between the main theories and concepts employed in the study of global political economy	Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Analyse the role of gender, ethnicity, social class, and age in shaping life chances	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Assess the value of sociological explanations for inequalities which challenge individualist and common-sense understandings	Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Engage with individualized and culturally specific explanations for major disparities in life chances from a sociological perspective	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Think critically in evaluating different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues	Modern Democracies - PIR-10055
Explore the impact key writers had on future research and assess the degree to which their analyses and findings remain relevant to contemporary society	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Rehearse classical social theories and ways of theorising	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014
Question the role of sociological theory, recognising that theorising is a means of simplifying complexity	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Recognise that the consequences of theorising inevitably creates new uncertainties and complexities.	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Critically assess the analyses of a range of issues in the global economy offered by the different approaches in the field of global political economy	Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058
Identify and explain patterns of development in global political economy since the end of World War II	Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058
Describe key thinkers' works and show how they relate to sociological conceptions of historical change expressed by notions such as feudalism and modernity	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014

Intellectual skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Explain the value of theoretical models to the study of the social and political sciences	Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Demonstrate the ability to think critically about real world problems in the social world and political sphere with a view to developing reasoned responses	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055
Identify problems in the social world and political sphere and understand the value of theorising in coming to terms with these problems	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Conform to key academic conventions, reflect on own performance, and present materials in a coherent fashion	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058
Show evidence of reflection on own learning and the ability to conform to academic conventions	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038
Access information from library catalogues and databases and use online facilities	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058
Participate in group discussion and express ideas in reasoned and coherent manner	Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Demonstrate the ability to interpret quantitative data representing patterns of social inequalities, and compare these to findings of qualitative research to develop an understanding of the contribution of different methodological approaches to sociological research	Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009
Plan their learning activities and how to improve the effectiveness of their learning, including revision for examinations and preparation of course work	Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029
Accept feedback in a positive manner and act appropriately on it	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055
Organise themselves and their time and development time management skills.	Classical Sociology - SOC-10014 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Social inequalities in the contemporary world - SOC-10009 Social and Political Theory - SOC-10029 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038

Level 5

At the end of Level 5 (Year 2) students should be able to:

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate knowledge of processes of globalisation and how these have developed over the course of history	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043
Demonstrate knowledge of the relation of the central concerns to the social and political sciences, such as social inequality and power, to processes of globalisation,	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043
Demonstrate knowledge of the different approaches to understanding processes of globalisation in the social and political sciences	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043
Demonstrate knowledge of the difference between methodology and method and know that the research object should produce methodological debate, result in the choice of methodology, and the choice of method	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of the social and political sciences to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices	Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079
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	Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068
Demonstrate understanding of key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of society and politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Demonstrate the ability to think critically in evaluating different interpretations of social and political ideas, institutions, events and issues	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Show evidence of the ability to conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation, and appropriate techniques of scholarship	Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Research Methods - SOC-20046 Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Discuss the ways in which processes of globalisation impact upon the world and critically analyse these in written work	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043
Critically review the political positions influencing both processes of globalisation and the various accounts of these processes and assess the relative validity of these accounts	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043
Explain the production of research in terms of process and identify the different elements of that process	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Analyse the strengths and weaknesses of different data collection procedures in sociology and politics for different research problems.	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Link concepts and evidence in social and political science within a broadly comparative framework	Research Methods - SOC-20046 Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Evaluate sociological and political ideas in the context of real-life ethical, social, political and policy issues	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Explain the sociological and political dimensions of theories of society and politics in a range of teaching and learning contexts	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Research Methods - SOC-20046 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Analyse key concepts in social and political science, such as structure, agency, truth, value, and interpretation	Research Methods - SOC-20046 Producing Sociological Knowledge - SOC-20060

Intellectual skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Employ concepts and theories to analyse events and situations beyond their original context	Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 All option module also meet this learning outcome.

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Develop their skills of scholarly discussion and exposition of complex ideas	Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Research Methods - SOC-20046 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written form	Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Research Methods - SOC-20046 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Critically review their own written work to ensure that structure and length is appropriate to the assessment brief.	Why Policy Changes - PIR-20068 Power to the People: understanding the origins of Western politics - PIR-20079 Globalisation and its Discontents - SOC-20043 Research Methods - SOC-20046 All option modules also meet this learning outcome.
Evaluate a range of strategies and methods for answering research questions or testing hypotheses	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Construct strategies and methods for problem solving and answering specific question	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Draw appropriate conclusions from numerical data presented in tables and / or charts and use charts and graphs to display numerical data effectively	Research Methods - SOC-20046
Locate, review, and evaluate literature and provisional research on a single topic, the proposed research methods, and an appropriate theoretical framework	Research Methods - SOC-20046

Level 6

At the end of Level 6 (Year 3) students should be able to:

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate systematic understandings of key aspects of social and political life using the tradition of social and political thought	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Demonstrate knowledge of advanced social and political theory and ability to apply theoretical ideas creatively beyond their original context	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Demonstrate knowledge of complex social and political theory and identify possible directions for future theoretical and empirical research in the social and political sciences	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Demonstrate the ability to apply knowledge of concepts, theories and methods used in the study of the social and political sciences to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Demonstrate in-depth 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	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Demonstrate independence in defining problems and developing their expertise in interpreting and evaluating research within the particular areas of the social and political sciences	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all options modules at Level 6.
Weigh the relative merits of competing theoretical explanations and draw conclusions on the basis of reasoned argumentation	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Evaluate the increasing complexity of social and political knowledge and demonstrate the ability to apply ideas in an appropriate manner that recognises the contingency of theoretical explanation	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6
Critically assess the relative merits of a range of social and political theories and recognise the contingency of explanation within the social and political sciences	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Critically evaluate primary source material, synthesise arguments, and present discussions in written form	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Construct a range of strategies and methods for answering research questions and testing hypothesis	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Locate, review and evaluate literature on a particular research topic and an appropriate theoretical framework	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.
Use ethical guidelines in the design and execution of research	Dissertation - ISP - SOC-30028 This learning outcome is also met by all option modules at Level 6.

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in 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.

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:

- Essays provide students with the opportunity to formulate arguments and develop ideas using evidence obtained from library research or other valid sources. As such, the essay assessment enables students to develop their research skills, which involve the ability to sort legitimate from illegitimate source materials, and other academic conventions, such as citation and referencing.
- Unseen examinations test students' knowledge of a particular subject, their understanding of ideas and theories, their ability to mobilise theories and concepts beyond the first context, and centrally their ability to formulate a coherent argument in a limited amount time.
- Reports enable students to learn how to organise and distil information into a clear and coherent written format and consequently develop their employability skills in this area.
- Reflexive Reports require students to write a reflexive account of their experience of a module explaining the content of lectures, seminar discussions, and their own personal and academic development. The purpose of this assessment is to encourage students to reflect on their own experiences in order to become more successful learners able to think about their own progress, strengths, and weaknesses.
- 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.

- Book Reviews test students' ability to summarise the key points of scholarly work and evaluate the arguments of particular authors in light of the tradition of work in the social and political sciences.
- The Research Proposal requires students to develop an independent research project and think through theoretical problems surrounding methodology and practical concerns relating to, for example, availability of sample, financial restrictions, and time limits. Again, this form of assessment is key to the development of independent research skills and a portfolio of employability skills.
- Oral Presentations assess students' subject knowledge and understanding. They may also test their ability to work effectively as members of a team, to communicate what they know orally and visually, and to reflect on these processes as part of their own personal development.
- Posters enable students to present material in visual form on the basis that it is important that students have the capacity to make use of visual aids to communicate ideas. The poster format enables students to synthesise visual and written material to analyse a particular area of social and political study.
- The Dissertation allows students to undertake a significant piece of their own research under supervision by a research-active member of staff and make use of their theoretical and practical learning on the programme to formulate this significant piece of work.

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

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	15%	85%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	14%	86%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	12%	88%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. University Regulations

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

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

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

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:
<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

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.

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) 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 and seminar group leaders are responsible for providing support for learning on the modules and in the seminar 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.
- The University has a team of life and learning developers based in Student Services who are responsible for supporting students and enhancing their ability to access the curriculum and everything else that the University has to offer throughout their time at Keele.
- 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 Student Services for additional help in relation to health, disability, welfare, finance and careers.
- 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.
- All members of teaching staff on the Social and Political Sciences programme are available to see students during weekly office hours and at other times by appointment.

16. Learning Resources

- Social and Political Sciences is taught in teaching rooms equipped with computers, internet access and 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 social and political sciences materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. 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, digitised readings 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.
- All modules have electronic resource lists generated using Talis Aspire, a software package that allows students to access online journal articles, digitised readings, websites and other resources by clicking on links in a single document.
- 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.

17. 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.

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 in the Annex for the International Year.

18. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this programme.

19. Quality management and enhancement

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

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the 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.
- 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 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 annual programme review.
- Findings related to the 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 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 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 Statements: Sociology (2019) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-sociology.pdf?sfvrsn=6ee2cb81_4 and Politics and International Relations (2019) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-politics-and-international-relations.pdf?sfvrsn=73e2cb81_5
- c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

21. Annex - International Year

Social and Political Sciences 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.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance- an average of 60% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 54% across all Level 5 modules with no module fails. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account.
- 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)

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 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:

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 with the Social and Political Sciences will be able to:

- Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments;
- Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation;
- Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
- Integrate, apply and develop enhanced principles relating to political analysis;
- Recognise, describe and explain cultural phenomena across national boundaries and reflect critically upon problems relating to contemporary politics, society and culture.

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

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 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.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 11 February 2021

Previous documents

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