Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2025/26

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with International Year (see Annex for details) BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement 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)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Fee for 2025/26 is £9,535* **International students:** Fee for 2025/26 is £17,700** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

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

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

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

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus exclusively on studying Politics and International Relations (IR) and gain valuable academic expertise and professional skills, thus allowing you to become a changemaker in society. In line with Keele's learning strategy and Keele's graduate attributes, our single honours degree in Politics and IR entails active social learning through interactive and experiential teaching, while working with you to develop your skills and personal effectiveness through authentic, inclusive, and diverse modes of assessments.

3. Overview of the Programme

Politics and International Relations is the study of power at the local, national, regional, and global levels. You will explore how politics and policy are made, how democracy functions, and the many challenges democratic regimes face. This includes environmental politics and inequalities, inter-state relations, global international organizations, global civil society, and political economy. You will examine how politics at all levels shape everyday lives.

During the degree, you will delve into how politics works and how the global order is being challenged and redefined. You will study in-depth the politics and international relations of the West, the global majority world, and key regions within it. You will investigate phenomena such as power and inequality, race and decolonization, environmental change, global development, security and conflict, foreign policy, sovereignty and migration, gender, identity and activism, war, terrorism, genocide, and political violence.

Politics and International Relations bring together personal, local, regional, and global aspects of power, order, conflict, violence, and justice. We encourage students to take an active role in the learning process. Throughout the degree, you can develop your understanding of how to examine world politics and participate in real-world opportunities like crisis simulations, model United Nations, devising activist strategies for change, making funding proposals, participating in genocide-prevention workshops, and writing case study analyses and policy reports. You will have opportunities to meet practitioners in the field, discuss your ideas, develop your analytical, research, and practical skills, choose to take a work placement or study abroad, and write an independent research dissertation in an area of your passion and interest.

Studying at university can be daunting and challenging. Therefore, the Politics and IR degree is structured to enable you to gradually build, improve, and strengthen your academic and professional skills. We offer year-long and team-taught modules, catering to diverse learning styles with varied assessments, allowing you to learn, enrich your knowledge, and build the necessary expertise and experience.

Our degree is built on three main themes, one for each year of your 3-year degree: Year 1 focuses on Understanding Politics and IR, Year 2 focuses on Making a Difference in the World, and Year 3 focuses on the Future of Politics and IR. You can opt for a study abroad or work placement year between years 2 and 3, choose a study abroad semester during year 2, or opt for a work placement module in years 2 and 3.

In the first year, you will gain a strong understanding of the foundations of Politics and IR and develop academic and professional skills. Our second-year modules will build on your first-year expertise while equipping you with new ways to apply your knowledge and learn to be a leader and changemaker through immersive learning opportunities. Our third-year modules focus on the future of Politics and IR by analysing and seeking solutions to key global challenges, allowing you to demonstrate your expertise and explore your passions through an independent research project.

By the end of the degree, you will understand the world around you, comprehend how world politics shapes your future, and learn how to make a difference in an ever-changing world. This will enable you to enter the workplace with the confidence, knowledge, and skills you need.

4. Aims of the programme

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

- Investigate and critically analyse how Politics and IR function, including but not limited to the interaction of people, ideas and institutions, government and the governing of society, relations between states, diplomacy, war and peace, international organizations, security and geopolitics.
- Investigate and critically analyse key issues in contemporary Politics and international relations such as gender and identity, the changing security and development landscape, the politics of the global south and urgent global challenges, questions around legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, mediation, governance and decision-making.
- Appreciate how power is used to create and reproduce patterns of privilege and in/exclusion, and how these structures and patterns are resisted and challenged.
- Develop a critical and evidence-based understanding of how the discipline is shaped and how knowledge is produced, questioning and subjecting to rigorous analysis not only the diverse world in which they live but also the concepts and theories constructed to understand this.
- Develop expertise in leadership and how to effect change in political environments.
- Build understanding of, and empathy and respect for diverse perspectives, preparing you for the

workplaces of the future.

- Interrogate the ways in which domestic and world politics functions according to Eurocentric and racial worldviews through a critical and decolonizing approach to (world) politics.
- Build expertise in the international politics of regions in world politics.
- Investigate questions of domestic and international order and the nature of decision-making on domestic and international matters.
- Develop knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of (international) political theories and (international) political analysis.
- Relate the academic study of Politics and International Relations to (international) policy matters of public concern, linking academic theory to the practices of domestic and foreign policy and political behaviour at the domestic and international level.
- Develop your academic and professional skills through authentic, inclusive, and diverse modes of assessment, thus allowing you to become a changemaker and an informed citizen in a changing society.

5. What you will learn

The programme ILOs follow Keele's 4 Graduate Attributes (academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, social and ethical responsibility) and entail Keele's 4 main curriculum themes (inclusivity, digital capability, external engagement, and active learning (I-D-E-A)).

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

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

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of:

- The political and international system and its operations as well as the factors accounting for political change, focusing on students' own role in becoming informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in Politics and IR
- Concepts, theories and methods used in the discipline and being able to apply these to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour
- Different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them, the contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them
- The inherent contestability of the concepts of power and democracy, and the vocabulary of political debate
- The origins and evolution of the international political system and the elements of continuity and change associated with accelerating globalisation.
- Key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics and international relations
- The politics of the global south and emerging identities
- Security, development, and future challenges in world politics
- War, peace, terrorism, and political violence
- Gender, identity, and activism
- Threats, risks, and opportunities for cooperation in global politics

Subject-specific skills

- Successful students will be able to:
- Critically evaluate the key institutions, systems, themes, and concerns in domestic and world politics
- Critically analyse historical and contemporary developments in domestic and world politics, with a view to making an ethical change in (world) politics
- Construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement to engage with debates, concepts and empirical findings
- Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence
- Identify, interpret and apply appropriate methods of data collection and analysis
- Critically interrogate the politics of the non-western world
- Critically analyse major sources of divisions, conflict and the possibility of peace in (world) politics
- Critically engage with emerging identities and the role of gender in (world) politics
- Critically interrogate current and future trends in global in/security, including major risks and threats
- Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems
- Conduct independent research in the field of (world) politics, both individually and in groups
- Apply complex ideas, theories, and approaches to historical and contemporary issues in (world) politics
- Identify a suitable a topic for research; develop and evaluate research questions and hypotheses; systematically search for and identify the most relevant literature; and assess and analyse the ethical implications of research and enquiry

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Understand and demonstrate leadership skills, and understand and demonstrate how to effect change in workplace situations
- Apply a variety of methodological and data analysis skills to the study of politics and international relations
- Demonstrate their academic and professional skills in a variety of ways, thus equipping them for the post-degree workforce
- Develop and demonstrate ethical awareness and personal effectiveness that is crucial in today's changing society and that will make them active and informed citizens
- Apply the personal and interpersonal skills necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in domestic and global politics
- Effectively communicate through a variety of formats in speech and in writing to different internal and external audiences and to create and produce information and media in an innovative manner
- Use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information
- Interpret, analyse, apply and present numerical, textual and other forms of data
- work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner able to complete tasks efficiently
- Collaborate with others to achieve common goals and to pursue research projects across a range of issues using methods grounded in social science

Keele Graduate Attributes

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

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme follow Keele Learning Principles and the Politics and IR programme Learning Strategy. They follow the logic of scaffolding and thus 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).
- **Workshops** in which practitioners share their knowledge and expertise with students.
- **Independent study** based on directed reading from textbooks, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, print media and appropriate sources deployed on the world wide web.
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE) and Microsoft Teams. The KLE and MS Teams are accessible to all students on and off campus and provide easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs.
- During the **dissertation** module in Politics and International Relations in the 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.
- **Simulations and experiential teaching** whereby during tutorials, seminars and extracurricular activities students have the opportunity to simulate real IR situations such as UNSC decision-making, Crisis Simulations and more.

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

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

- Lectures and independent study allow students to gain a systematic understanding of key theoretical approaches to International Relations and of fundamental concepts employed in the discipline, and 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 politics and international relations responsibly, and to present their own ideas to members of staff and other students using an appropriate medium of communication.
- Interactive lectures, seminars, workshops, 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.
- Participating in simulations allows students to experience real scenarios, pushing them to apply their knowledge and skills to an immanent issue in world politics.

7. Teaching Staff

In the School, the core teaching staff currently comprises a number of professors, senior lecturers and lecturers. Nearly all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in Politics, International Relations, or a closely related subject in the social sciences. As members of the University's Research Centre for the School of the Social Sciences and as members of the Institute for Social Inclusion, and the Institute for Sustainable Futures, teaching staff are all active researchers whose work cuts across many different aspects of Politics and International Relations. The teaching staff have published their scholarship in books, research monographs and leading international journals, while regularly actively participating at international conferences. The work of some members of staff has been used directly in shaping policy in their areas of expertise at the national and international levels.

The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in universities in the UK, continental Europe and North America. Current teaching staff contributing to the Politics and International Relations degree have completed training as part of their induction to University teaching and most have fellowships (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 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 based on 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

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

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules

Global Challenge Pathways

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

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Level 4. At Levels 5 and 6 they are included within the Global Challenge Pathways.

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

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

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

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

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For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	**Max**
Level 4	75	45	45
Level 5	90	30	30
Level 6	45	75	75

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Making Sense of Politics	PIR-10069	30	Semester 1-2
Understanding contemporary world politics	PIR-10075	30	Semester 1-2
Becoming a Social Scientist	SSC-10001	15	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Exploring Political Inequalities	PIR-10071	30	Semester 1-2
Decolonizing World Politics: Power and Inequality	PIR-10077	30	Semester 1-2
Regional Studies in World Politics: The International Relations of the Middle East, Africa and East Asia	PIR-10079	30	Semester 1-2
The Global News Desk	PIR-10073	15	Semester 2
British Politics: Welfare, Economy and Society	PIR-10081	15	Semester 2

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat?	PIR-20116	30	Semester 1
Building a Better World Part 1	PIR-20120	15	Semester 1
Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis	SSC-20003	30	Semester 1-2
Building a Better World Part 2	PIR-20122	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Social Sciences at Work	SSC-20005	15	Semester 1
Social Science Methods	SSC-20007	15	Semester 1
Environmental Politics and Policy	PIR-20067	15	Semester 2
Foreign Policy	PIR-20090	15	Semester 2
Elections, Voters and Public Opinion	PIR-20118	15	Semester 2
Gender, Identity and Activism	PIR-20124	30	Semester 2
Public Policy and How To Make It	PIR-20126	15	Semester 2
Social Sciences Placement	SSC-20001	15	Semester 2

Level 5 Module Rules

For students taking Semester Abroad in semester two, an alternative 15-credit Research Methods module (SSC-20007 Social Science Methods) will be taken instead of SSC-20003.

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP	PIR-30130	30	Semester 1-2
Engaged Social Science	SSC-30005	15	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Dark Side of Politics	PIR-30174	30	Semester 1
Global Futures: Environment, Security and Development	PIR-30176	30	Semester 1-2
Global Challenges: War, Terrorism and Global Violence	PIR-30178	30	Semester 1-2
Advanced Professional Placement in Social Sciences	SSC-30003	15	Semester 1-2
Parliamentary Studies	PIR-30160	15	Semester 2
Genocide and Death in World Politics	PIR-30180	15	Semester 2
Building A Better Future	PIR-30182	30	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

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Recognize the distinctive features of Politics and IR as disciplines and their relation to other disciplines	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Define and work with key concepts in (international) political theory and (international) political analysis	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Recognise and evaluate the major factors shaping the evolution of the modern (international) political system	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Describe and distinguish between a range of theoretical perspectives in Politics and IR, recognizing their respective virtues	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Interpret and distinguish between a range of primary and secondary sources in Politics and IR	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Employ research evidence, other data and some basic IR and political theories in developing arguments and making judgements about IR and political issues	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics and IR and be able to apply these to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different interpretations of (international) political ideas, institutions, events and issues, developing an ability to critically evaluate these interpretations	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the inherent contestability of the concepts of power and democracy, and the vocabulary of political debate	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics and IR, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the normative and positive foundations of political ideas	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Apply concepts and theories used in the study of Politics and IR to the analysis of political ideas and practices and policy issues in the global arena	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Critically Interrogate the North-South Divide in world politics and the virtue in applying a decolonization approach	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Critically evaluate the key institutions, systems, themes, and concerns in (world) politics.	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Identify, summarize and evaluate the main points of key secondary texts in Politics and IR and be able to appraise the logic of argumentation in key texts	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement to engage with debates, concepts and empirical findings	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Build your skills as a student of the social sciences	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Use the library and electronic sources to locate primary and secondary sources in Politics and IR or pertinent cognate disciplines	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Make coherent arguments based on evidence and analysis	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Present written work in Politics and IR in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of citation and referencing	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Use IT for the retrieval and presentation of information (including, where appropriate, numerical data) in support of ideas and arguments	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written format	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Communicate orally information, ideas and arguments effectively to a variety of audiences informally and formally through oral presentation	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Work with others, demonstrating the capacity to plan, share goals, cooperate and collaborate with other members of a team	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Analyze problems in order to identify their essential elements and devise solutions	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Acquire, assess, organize and engage with a wide variety of sources as part of the practice of research	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Carry out research using a range of textual and electronic resources	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist
Reflect on and plan their own learning by accepting and acting appropriately on feedback	Making Sense of Politics Understanding Contemporary World Politics Becoming a Social Scientist

Level 5

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Evaluate a range of relevant ideas about conflict and conflict- resolution in terms of their applicability to the analysis of particular conflicts	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Analyze key problems in international relations and international security, in particular in the post-Cold War period, integrating theoretical concepts and empirical material	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Investigate and critically analyse key issues in contemporary (world) politics such as human rights, democratic norms, and, the increasing use of AI and quantum technologies in security and military apparatuses, the politics of the global south and emerging insecurities.	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Analyse, interpret and critically evaluate the treatment by different authors of a range of themes in Politics and International Relations	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors accounting for (international) political change, focusing on their own role in becoming informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in politics	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and methods used in the study of Politics and IR and be able to apply these to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them, the contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them also from a global perspective	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues, developing an ability to critically evaluate these interpretations in both domestic and global contexts	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the inherent contestability of the concepts of power and democracy, and the vocabulary of political debate	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour in both domestic and global contexts	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Interpret and distinguish between different theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of international relations and politics, international organizations, global peace, democracy, diplomacy and war	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Evaluate a range of relevant ideas about conflict and conflict- resolution in terms of their applicability to the analysis of particular conflicts	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Combine theoretical and empirical material in order critically to evaluate how security problems are framed and addressed	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Critically analyse historical and contemporary developments in (world) politics, with a view to making a change in the world	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement to engage with debates, concepts and empirical findings	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Identify, interpret and apply appropriate methods of data collection and analysis	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Analyse, interpret, and critically evaluate secondary materials and some primary source materials regarding politics and international relations	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Conduct independent research in order to identify, locate, and retrieve appropriate paper and electronic materials to supplement module reading lists	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Evaluate and make use of abstract theories in analyzing and resolving problems	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in written form	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in oral form	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Demonstrate your academic and professional skills in a variety of ways, while developing and demonstrating ethical awareness and personal effectiveness that is crucial in today's changing society and that will make you an active and informed citizen.	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Interpret, analyse, apply and present numerical, textual and other forms of data	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis
Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner able to complete tasks efficiently	Building a Better World Parts I and II Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis

Level 6

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Recognize, interpret and critically evaluate theories, concepts and research in defined areas, some of which are at the forefront of politics and international political theory and international political analysis	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Describe and make critical judgements about developments in current areas of research in Politics and International Relations	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Communicate ideas effectively and fluently informed by contemporary research in Politics and International Relations in both orally and in writing	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the factors accounting for political change, focusing on their own role in becoming informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in Politics and IR	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of concepts, theories and methods used in the study of Politics and IR and be able to apply these to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them; the contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them in both domestic and global contexts	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues, developing an ability to critically evaluate these interpretations	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the inherent contestability of the concepts of power and democracy and the vocabulary of political debate in both domestic and global contexts	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of Politics and IR, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour in both domestic and global contexts	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the normative and positive foundations of political ideas	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Apply complex ideas, theories, and approaches to contemporary issues in (world) politics.	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Apply a variety of methodological skills to both the subject of Politics and IR and beyond	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Apply established theories and methods of inquiry in the discipline to understanding and resolving new and unfamiliar problems in their study of Politics and International Relations	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Construct reasoned arguments, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement to engage with debates, concepts and empirical findings	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Identify, interpret and apply appropriate methods of data collection and analysis	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Identify, investigate, analyze, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Identify a suitable a topic for research; develop and evaluate research questions and hypotheses; systematically search for and identify the most relevant literature; and assess and analyze the ethical implications of research and enquiry	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
Demonstrate academic and professional skills in a variety of ways, thus preparing for the post-degree workforce.	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Manage your own learning making use of appropriate International Relations materials	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Formulate research questions and identify appropriate research strategies to address them, as part of undertaking an independent research project	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Work productively in structured and largely unstructured contexts, exercising initiative and personal responsibility	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Make decisions and plan activity in uncertain and unpredictable contexts	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Work independently, exercising initiative and effective time management	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Undertake appropriate further training of an academic, professional or practical nature	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Formulate research questions and identify appropriate research strategies to address them, as part of undertaking an independent research project	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Understand and demonstrate the leadership skills necessary to effect change in the communities in which they live and in workplace situations	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Effectively communicate through a variety of formats in speech and in writing to different internal and external audiences and to create and produce information and media in an innovative manner	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Interpret, analyse, apply and present numerical, textual and other forms of data	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner able to complete tasks efficiently	Dissertation in Politics and IR
Collaborate with others to achieve common goals and to pursue research projects across a range of issues using methods grounded in social science	Engaged Social Science
Develop and demonstrate the ethical awareness and personal effectiveness that is crucial in today's changing society and that will make them active and informed citizens	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science
Engage with external partners and develop their networking skills, engaging with and presenting information to external partners as required	Dissertation in Politics and IR Engaged Social Science

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject.
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

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

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

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** 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 to evaluate critically 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.
- **Blogs, Vlogs and Posters** allow students to develop and strengthen their digital, presentational and creative skills, which are crucial in today's workforce.
- **Reflective papers** allow students to reflect on particular readings and/or in-class exercises and/or current events, thus building their capacity as independent and creative thinkers.

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)	17.7%	82.3%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	17.1%	82.9%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	13.1%	86.9%	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'.

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?

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.

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students

- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

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: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

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 an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in International Relations.
- Academic Mentors 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 coordinated by the University's Student Services, located in the Student Services Centre.
- The International Student Support section in the Student Support Services website 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.
- 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 Politics and International Relations programmes 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 Politics and International Relations materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. Built up over nearly 40 years of delivering Politics and 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 the Social Sciences host material tailor-made to support Politics and International Relations 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.
- 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 programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

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

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

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Work Placement Year

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

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

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

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

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.

Other opportunities

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 and International Relations 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 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 Revalidation 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 Statement: Politics and International Relations (2023) hhttps://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-politics-and-international-relations

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

21. Annex - International Year

Politics and International Relations 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 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

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

Student Support

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

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

Learning Outcomes

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

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. ADD subject-specific ILOs

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

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

Regulations

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

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

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

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

Additional costs for the International Year

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

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

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

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

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Politics and International Relations with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

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

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

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

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

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

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

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

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

The criteria to be applied are:

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

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

Student Support

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

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

Learning Outcomes

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

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

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

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

Regulations

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

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

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

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

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

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

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

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

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

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

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

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 09 May 2025

Previous documents

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