

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA (Hons) International Governance and Public Policy
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	4 years
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Beijing Foreign Studies University Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not Applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)/China Ministry of Education
Tuition Fees	Tuition Fee for Years 1, 2, and 4 at BFSU* Tuition Fee for Year 3 at Keele (based on fees for students entering Year 3 in Academic Year 2026/27): £18,200**

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.

* In reference to Section D (Fees) of your Student Agreement; the tuition fees payable for years 1, 2 and 4 of your programme will be set by and subject to the terms of Beijing Foreign Studies University. The tuition fee for these years will be communicated to you by BFSU and you are responsible for paying the fees to BFSU when due. For 2026/27 this is expected to be 86,000RMB.

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

2. What is a Dual Award programme?

NB: this award is part of a dual parchment arrangement where upon successful completion students also receive, in addition to the Keele award, a BA Diplomacy awarded by Beijing Foreign Studies University.

This joint programme is a dual award collaboration between Keele University and Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). Students who successfully complete the joint programme as described in this Programme Specification will be awarded a BA (Hons) in International Governance and Public Policy from Keele University and also a BA in Diplomacy from BFSU. This Programme Specification describes the award details for the BA (Hons) International Governance and Public Policy from Keele University. The programme is unique and has been jointly designed to draw on the teaching and research strengths of both Keele and BFSU. Both universities contribute modules to the programme and the main teaching language is English, although a small number of non-credit bearing BFSU modules will be taught in Mandarin. Students spend the first two years at BFSU where they are given a solid foundation in English language and an introduction to international relations and diplomacy before they spend the third year at Keele and then the final year at BFSU.

3. Overview of the Programme

The programme has been developed jointly between Keele and BFSU for students who want to specialise in the study of international issues in politics, business and law. It is particularly appropriate for students from China and other Asian countries who aspire to a career in international organisations or diplomatic services where use of English is expected. A key feature of the programme is that successful graduates of this programme will have gained invaluable experience of living and studying in two cultures, they will be able to demonstrate proficiency in Mandarin and English, and will have attributes suitable for a wide variety of potential careers in the international sphere.

The BA International Governance and Public Policy is an interdisciplinary programme combining elements of two subjects: international relations and diplomacy and international law. This combination of academic subjects enables students to understand the major political and legal aspects of how international processes are organised and governed. International governance refers to the processes, rules and practices that govern the relationships between national governments and other groups, such as international governmental organisations (e.g. the United Nations), and non-governmental organisations, such as environmental and human rights groups. Public policy describes the intra- and inter-organisational processes at work in relations between governments and international organisations, such as the International Court or World Trade Organization. The study of public policy involves understanding the regulations and laws that these bodies make. Students learn about how decisions are made collectively to solve international problems; they also learn to assess effectively different explanations of policy-making on international issues such as climate change, terrorism, security policy, and economic development.

The major discipline in this degree programme is international relations (IR). International relations is based on a range of other disciplines in the social sciences: politics, sociology and (international) law, and the humanities - primarily history. The political aspect of the subject analyses the distribution of resources. In examining the related questions of power, order, justice, conflict and legitimacy in the interaction of people, ideas and institutions, international relations is, however, different to other approaches to politics. Most analysis of national politics includes a study of what governments do, but because there is no government at the international level, international relations focuses on relations between states. IR explores the patterns of conflict and cooperation between states, international organisations and non-state actors such as civil society groups, which make up the international political system.

International governance, as a subject, includes transnational trade, economic diplomacy and the system of rules that enable the global economy to function. By broadening the field of study beyond the core areas of international relations, the course examines how global interdependence is reshaping the global order, and how international law regulates business and the global economy. This degree enables students to develop a wide-ranging understanding of international contexts and processes and has a focus on international governance and public policy at its core. This makes it distinct from the study of international relations as a single subject. This combination of subjects is designed to enable graduates to apply knowledge of international processes in ways that will be suitable for professional careers in many kinds of international organisations, within China and beyond.

Overview of the Programme Structure

The first year of the degree concentrates on developing English Language skills as well as the independent study and research skills expected of university students. Students will also study introductory modules on global politics and business and management (in English) and undertake a small number of modules (non-Keele credit bearing) which are compulsory for all university students in China (in Mandarin).

In the second year students study international relations in more depth including modules that address major debates, such as whether states act mainly out of self-interest; how the economy shapes global politics; and how knowledge of modern history deepens our understanding of how international politics has changed. Students therefore gain a foundation in the key debates in both international relations. English language modules help students prepare for the year at Keele, using academic material from the main subjects to develop students' skills in the ways needed to study successfully in the United Kingdom.

In the meantime, students will also study modules offered by BFSU in Chinese political thinking and political system as well as its foreign policy. These modules will give the students a general understanding of the domestic political context and origins as to where and how China is engaging in world affairs. These modules will be offered either in English or bilingual format so as to give the students an enhanced exposure to an English-language environment.

In the third year students move to Keele University and will be integrated into its existing modules. The year at Keele is important not only for its academic content but in giving students experience of working in a different cultural context. Because they have already studied Keele modules at BFSU, the methods and approach to study will already be familiar but the programme includes a module in using English for Academic Purposes to support students in the transition into an English-language UK university. Through weekly close reading, discussion and critique, accompanied by writing and research exercises, this module will enable students to develop and

practise the high-level academic skills that will enhance their learning.

International relations modules in this year address the roles and functions of international institutions, organisations and regimes in creating international governance and also examine the principles of foreign policy and diplomacy, comparing cases across history and states. A module on international law and public policy uses examples such as the question of which wars are illegal to explain how international law works in practice and a module from political science introduces students to the debates about how governments interact with business, trade unions and others to make public policy within nation-states. Finally, students will be able to choose between an advanced discussion of public international law and further training in Data Analysis in Social Sciences.

In the fourth year, taught in Beijing, students deepen their knowledge of selected topics in international relations by studying subjects which reflect the specialist expertise and active research interests of members of staff from Keele and BFSU. In this year students will improve their knowledge in modules offered by BFSU in both international organisation theories and debates in UN peace and sustainable development. Students will also learn English reading and translation skills, which are practical and necessary in their future desired career in international organisations and international affairs.

Students must carry out independent research and write a dissertation on a topic that is related to international governance and public policy. They work under the guidance of two supervisors who have appropriate expertise in the topic chosen by the student. Workshops during the third year at Keele will help to prepare students for the dissertation and they will be allocated a Keele supervisor and decide on their topic before they return to China. Once in Beijing they will be allocated a second supervisor who they will meet face to face during the autumn semester. Both the Keele and the Beijing supervisors will provide feedback on a portfolio plan for the dissertation before the final version is submitted. The ability to do independent research is an important skill in many professions and successful completion of the dissertation provides evidence of this.

Also in this year students select two modules from a choice of five. There are two modules on issues that are a source of major tension in international politics: Politics of Development and Global Governance of Peace and Security. Or they can replace one of these two modules with a work placement module, which will be arranged in the summer when students return to Beijing. In the final semester, modules from BFSU address the practical dilemmas in policy-making that diplomats face and zoom in on the region of East Asia to study its geopolitical dynamics. The written dissertation will be assessed for the Keele award. In addition to this, BFSU will organize an oral defence of the students' dissertation and give its award to those who successfully pass the oral defence.

We encourage students to take an active role in the learning process and to explore the debates surrounding current issues on the agendas of international organisations such as the United Nations, non-governmental organisations such as Greenpeace, and the national government agencies involved in foreign policy. This ensures that the content of the programme remains relevant to students as it utilises on-going real-life cases to bring out essential features of international governance and public policy.

4. Aims of the programme

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

- Develop a range of cognitive, inter-cultural and social skills appropriate for working in fields such as diplomatic services, international governmental organisations and international business in China and other countries;
- Develop English language skills and practical diplomacy skills to a level that is appropriate for entry level professional work in international organisations based in China or abroad;
- Investigate questions of international governance and the nature of decision making on international matters;
- Develop knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of international political analysis, international business and law;
- Apply appropriate concepts, approaches and methods from international relations, international business and international law;
- Be aware of the contested nature of many of these concepts and approaches and appreciate the particular challenges of academic inquiry on international issues;
- Relate the academic study of international relations to international policy matters of public concern.

5. What you will learn

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

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

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

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

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Analyse and evaluate different interpretations of global political ideas, institutions, events and issues;
- Conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship from international relations and law.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply the personal and inter-personal skills necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in global issues;
- Use English and Mandarin at a level appropriate to working in a professional role in international organisations.

[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, environmental and ethical responsibility**. You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

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

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

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their 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 governance and how they may be used in the course of seminars and tutorials to analyse a variety of contemporary international issues.
- **Seminars, tutorials and online discussions** provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered in international governance, and to present their own ideas to members of staff and other students.
- **Interactive lectures, seminars, tutorials and web-based activities** encourage students to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from a member of staff.
- Undertaking a **research dissertation** with the support of an experienced and active researcher allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them.

7. Teaching Staff

Three groups of staff teach on this programme: 1) staff from Keele University, who design and moderate all the Keele modules across the four years of the programme and teach the third year at Keele; 2) Keele Associate Tutors in China, who deliver the Keele modules taught in the first two and final years and 3) staff from Beijing Foreign Studies University who teach the state compulsory modules in the first year and the BFSU modules in the second and fourth years.

Keele modules are co-ordinated in Beijing by internationally qualified academic staff, recognised for their expertise in the areas of International Relations, Politics, International Law and English for Academic Purposes. Staff teaching on this programme are associate tutors of Keele University and attached to Keele's School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Language Centre and the School of Law. The BFSU modules will be taught by staff from the School of International Relations and Diplomacy, who all have rich experience in both teaching and research at both undergraduate and graduate level. All BFSU teaching staff in this programme have education or learning experience overseas and are able to teach either in English or bilingually.

All English Language teachers based at Keele are qualified to British Council Accreditation TEFLQ level. The English Language Programme Director based in China will also be qualified to TEFLQ level; English Language teachers based in China will be qualified to British Council TEFLI level as an absolute minimum.

The teaching staff at both universities is comprised of professors, senior lecturers and lecturers. Nearly all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in international relations, law or a closely related subject in the social sciences. They are almost all active researchers whose work across many different aspects of international governance and public policy has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals. The work of some members of current staff has been used directly in shaping policy in their areas of expertise at the national and international levels.

Both Keele University and BFSU will attempt to minimise changes to core teaching teams. 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. Keele University and BFSU 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 at both universities.

At BFSU you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the beginning of September and end of December, with examinations in January, followed by a winter vacation (including Chinese New Year). The second semester teaching begins in early March and finishes in June, followed by examinations.

At Keele, the schedule for the first semester is similar to BFSU, beginning in late September with teaching until mid-December and examinations in January. The second semester usually begins in the fourth week in January with nine or ten weeks of teaching before an Easter vacation and then two or three weeks of teaching in late April and May. This is followed by an examination period in May.

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. Students must complete 480 credits across the four years with 120 credits in each year.

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

- Compulsory credit bearing 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 (in the third

and fourth year of the programme).

- State compulsory modules, which do not carry Keele credits. These are studied in the first year. Examples include: Moral and Legal Education; Contemporary History of China; Basics of Marxism; Socialist Theories with Chinese Characteristics and Mao's Thoughts; Physical Education.

An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

For further information on the content of modules currently offered by Keele see:

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Foundation Year	120	0	0
Level 4	118	0	0
Level 5	105	0	0
Level 6	81	37	37

NB - that credits are 120 - but show as if 118 - this is because evision does not allow the modules from BFSU to be recorded as 7.5 - and shows them as if they were 7 credits.

NB - that evision rounds credits down from 7.5 to 7 - so as with level 4 - although it appears as 118 credits, the real overall value is 120, as students take 4 modules from the BFSU taught programme at 7.5 credits (three compulsory and one optional).

Module Lists

Foundation Year

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Becoming a Social Scientist	SSC-00001	15	Semester 1
General English	ENL-00068	30	Semester 1-2
Academic Study and Seminar Skills	ENL-00074	30	Semester 1-2
Academic English Proficiency	ENL-00085	30	Semester 1-2
Global Political Sociology	BFS-00002	15	Semester 2

plus Chinese State compulsory modules (non-credit bearing)

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Principles of Political Science	BFS-10013	7	Semester 1
Contemporary Chinese Foreign Policies	BFS-10015	7	Semester 1
Academic English for International Governance 1	ENL-10044	15	Semester 1
The Changing World: A History of International Relations since 1945	PIR-10043	15	Semester 1
Securing Global Order	PIR-10060	15	Semester 1
Contemporary Chinese Government and Politics	BFS-10009	7	Semester 2
History of Chinese Political Thoughts	BFS-10017	7	Semester 2
Introduction to International Relations	PIR-10041	15	Semester 2
Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE)	PIR-10058	15	Semester 2
US Government and Politics	PIR-10083	15	Semester 2

NB that under c.6 credits listed as 7 are in fact 7.5

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Academic English for International Governance 2	ENL-20005	15	Semester 1
Public International Law 1	LAW-20114	15	Semester 1
International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	PIR-20085	15	Semester 1
Social Science Methods	SSC-20007	15	Semester 1
Environmental Politics and Policy	PIR-20067	15	Semester 2
Why Policy Changes	PIR-20068	15	Semester 2
Foreign Policy	PIR-20090	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Public International Law 2	LAW-20116	15	Semester 2
Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis	SSC-20009	15	Semester 2

In Semester 2, students choose either a) Data analysis in social sciences, SSC-20009; b) Public International Law LAW-20116

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Administration	BFS-30003	7	Semester 1
Political Science Research Methods	BFS-30012	7	Semester 1
Dissertation in International Governance and Public Policy	BFS-30010	30	Semester 1-2
Translation Practice in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs	BFS-30014	7	Semester 2
Diplomacy: Theory and Practice	PIR-30153	15	Semester 2
Environmental Political Economy	PIR-30156	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Work Experience	BFS-30001	15	Semester 1
Politics of Development	PIR-30147	15	Semester 1
Global Governance of Peace and Security	PIR-30164	15	Semester 1
UN Peace Operations and Sustainable Development: Theory and Practice	BFS-30004	7	Semester 2
East Asian Politics and Foreign Policies	BFS-30008	7	Semester 2

Of the optional module in Semester 1, please pick two 15 credit modules from a) Politics of Development (PIR-30147) b) Global Governance of Peace and Security (PIR-30164) or c) Work Experience/Internship (BFS-30001)

Of the optional module in Semester 2, please pick one 7.5 credit modules from a) East Asian Politics and Foreign Policies (BFS-30008) or b) UN Peace Operations and Sustainable Development: Theory and Practice (BFS-30004)

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.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Appreciate the nature and significance of international governance practices and policy	Global Political Sociology - BFS-00002 UN Peace Operations and Sustainable Development: Theory and Practice - BFS-30004 US Government and Politics - PIR-10083 International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085
Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the origins and evolution of the international political system and the elements of continuity and change in it associated with accelerating globalisation	Contemporary Chinese Government and Politics - BFS-10009 The Changing World: A History of International Relations since 1945 - PIR-10043 Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE) - PIR-10058 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085
Understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of international relations, and international law	Principles of Political Science - BFS-10013 Public International Law 1 - LAW-20114 Public International Law 2 - LAW-20116 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Foreign Policy - PIR-20090 Politics of Development - PIR-30147 Diplomacy: Theory and Practice - PIR-30153
Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations, and international law to the analysis of policies, practices and issues in the global arena	UN Peace Operations and Sustainable Development: Theory and Practice - BFS-30004 Foreign Policy - PIR-20090 Diplomacy: Theory and Practice - PIR-30153 Global Governance of Peace and Security - PIR-30164 Becoming a Social Scientist - SSC-00001 Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis - SSC-20009

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Analyse and evaluate different interpretations of global political ideas, institutions, events and issues	Contemporary Chinese Foreign Policies - BFS-10015 History of Chinese Political Thoughts - BFS-10017 East Asian Politics and Foreign Policies - BFS-30008
Conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship from international relations and law	Dissertation in International Governance and Public Policy - BFS-30010 Political Science Research Methods - BFS-30012 Social Science Research Methods and Data Analysis - SSC-20009

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Apply the personal and inter-personal skills necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in global issues	Work Experience - BFS-30001 Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Administration - BFS-30003 General English - ENL-00068 Academic Study and Seminar Skills - ENL-00074 Academic English Proficiency - ENL-00085 Academic English for International Governance 1 - ENL-10044 Academic English for International Governance 2 - ENL-20005 Social Science Methods - SSC-20007
Use English and Mandarin at a level appropriate to working in a professional role in international organisations.	Translation Practice in Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs - BFS-30014 General English - ENL-00068 Academic Study and Seminar Skills - ENL-00074 Academic English Proficiency - ENL-00085 Academic English for International Governance 1 - ENL-10044 Academic English for International Governance 2 - ENL-20005

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

Honours Degree	480 credits	You will require at least 120 credits each at Levels 3, 4, 5 and 6
Diploma in Higher Education	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits each at Levels 3, 4 and 5
Certificate in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits each at Levels 3 and 4
Certificate in Foundation Year Studies	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at Level 3

In addition to the above, students must pass additional non-Keele credit bearing modules as required by the Chinese Ministry of Education. Details of these modules are provided by BFSU.

The degree classification will be based on marks from the final two years of the programme, using only the marks identified in this programme specification as Keele University modules.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as students 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 students did not understand and help them to improve their performance. Keele will set the assessment for the Keele modules and BFSU modules will set the assessment for the BFSU modules. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on this programme:

- **Unseen Examinations** test students' knowledge of the relevant aspects of each subject. Examinations

require students to answer questions by writing a number of short essays.

- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition they allow students to demonstrate their ability to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of referencing.
- **Reviews** and **Critiques** of other scholars' work test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them.
- **Bibliographic Exercises** require students critically to evaluate the arguments of scholars in addition to summarising the key points of specific texts as they assemble a short annotated bibliography of published materials that they judge to be especially useful in addressing a set question or solving a particular problem.
- **Research Design Projects and Associated Research Papers** allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question and identify an appropriate research methodology as part of the task of designing and implementing a research strategy to enable them to address the research question effectively.
- **Oral Presentations and Group Presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, as well as their ability to communicate what they know orally and visually. When delivered by groups of students, they also test students' ability to work effectively as members of a team.
- **Portfolios** may consist of a range of different pieces of work while usually also including evidence of students' critical reflection on the development of their own learning.

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess students' achievement of learning outcomes. Students will also be assessed formatively to enable them to monitor their own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how students can improve the quality of their work, is also provided on all summative assessments and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions. All summative assessment on Keele modules will be moderated and overseen by the module coordinator or another appropriately qualified member of staff at Keele University. This includes the work assessed in the first two years and the final year when modules are taught by Keele-employed staff in China.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

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.

12. Accreditation

This programme is not professionally accredited.

13. University Regulations

A) Exemptions: None

Keele's and BFSU's academic regulations will apply to students enrolled on this programme.

To successfully meet the Keele criteria to progress to the next level (year) of study, students must achieve 120 credits at their current level of study to meet eligibility criteria to progress, in line with Keele's [Regulation D2: Progression and Classification Rules](#). Credits are assigned to modules contributed by Keele and BFSU at each level of study (with the exception of Level 5). To achieve a module pass mark, students must demonstrate they have met relevant requirements of each module as determined by Keele for Keele modules, and BFSU for BFSU modules. For Keele modules, students must demonstrate they have met the learning outcomes in their assessed work and met each module's pass threshold (normally 40%) as set out in the individual module specifications.

B) Variations

Variation 1: The programme deviates from Regulation D5:

There is a variation to Regulation D5: Module Condonement and Compensation. Condonement can be applied to Keele and BFSU subject modules only and cannot be applied to English language and study skills modules.

Condonement can be applied to subject modules provided by Keele and BFSU but does not apply where the failed module includes a mark classed as a 'qualified' fail. To obtain a Keele award, students must achieve 120 credits at each level of study, with all 120 Keele credits at level 5 and 90 Keele credits at level 6 used in the degree classification. Only Keele credits are used in the degree classification for the Keele award.

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/>

15. How are students supported on the programme?

- There will be a programme management office on the BFSU campus specifically for the joint programme to act as a first port of call for all student queries.
- 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 has access to an Academic Mentor/advisor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress.
- Academic Mentors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning.
- At BFSU, students have access to all student services facilities available on campus, such as career advice, mental health support and finance advice. Students have full access to the Student Service Centre on campus which will offer support and service in student loans and registration affairs. BFSU also offers student business incubators as well as career counselling and internship opportunities. BFSU also have campus clinics providing medical services to students. During the year at Keele, students will have access to the full range of specialist health, welfare and financial services located in the Student Services Centre. The International Student Support section in the Student Services Centre provide 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 staff from Keele and BFSU teaching on the International Governance and Public Policy Programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment. Staff can also be contacted electronically. Telephone or video calls can be arranged with staff based at Keele on request.

16. Learning Resources

Learning resources available to students on the Joint Programme include:

- Extensive collections of international relations, management and law materials relevant to undergraduate study, held in the Keele University Library. These materials include books, journals and government publications. Much of this material is accessible online to the students on the Joint Programme and can be accessed in person during the year spent at Keele;
- A virtual learning environment (VLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by Keele University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.
- The webspaces created in the VLE for each individual module host material tailor-made to support 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.
- At BFSU, students have access to all library resources, including books, journals and all major databanks in international relations, politics, diplomacy and country studies. BFSU also boasts a large collection of books in dozens of foreign languages and through cross-library borrowing services students can also access library resources in other universities as well as the National Library. The newly finished library building offers comfortable and modern study environments for all students. The campus network service will provide students with a high-speed internet service to get easy access to online learning resources.

17. Additional Costs

Activity	Estimated Cost (updated in September 2025)
UK Visa Cost	£ 524
immigration health surcharge	£ 388 per 6 months of UK permission granted
Living expenses for Year 3 at Keele	approx. £1,136 per month
Return Travel to the UK for Year 3	approx. £ 760

* students who do not reach the required English language proficiency at the end of Year 2 may be required to undertake a pre-sessional English course at Keele at their own expense. Under the UKVI requirements students who need to undertake a Pre Sessional English course will require a UKVI IELTS (SELT) and have to apply for a separate UK student (Tier 4) Visa for the Pre Sessional Course at their own additional cost. Acceptance to and costs depend on the length of the required pre-sessional which can be found here:

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

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, printing and hire or purchase of gowns for graduation.

18. Quality management and enhancement

As this is a collaborative programme, the responsibility for quality and academic standards for the programme is shared by both universities. The following processes for monitoring, review and enhancement of the programme apply:

Joint:

- The Joint Management Committee, the Joint Steering Committee, the Joint Board of Studies, Student Staff Voice Committee and the Joint Examination Board will ensure oversight over the joint aspects of the programme.
- Individual modules and the International Governance and Public Policy Programme as a whole are reviewed every year at Keele in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year and as part of Keele University's Annual Programme Review process.

In addition:

at Keele University:

- The Education Committee of the School of Humanities and Social Sciences is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities.
- The programme will be reviewed formally and in full every five years as part of the University's Revalidation process.
- Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on modules takes place every year using a standard Keele set of evaluation questions.
- An external examiner (a senior members of academic staff from another university) will be responsible for:
 - Approving examination questions
 - Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
 - Overseeing examination board procedures
 - External Examiner(s): Further information can be found at: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/>

at BFSU:

- The Academic and Teaching Affairs Department of BFSU is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement of all courses and modules offered in different schools and departments. Every semester the inspectors appointed by the Academic and Teaching Affairs Department will hear classroom teaching randomly and report on the teaching quality. All syllabus and exams and assessment records will be filed for future inspections.
- At the end of every semester, student will complete an online evaluation and feedback on the quality of learning on the course and modules through a standard questionnaire.
- Every five years the Ministry of Education will conduct an assessment and review of undergraduate teaching at BFSU.

19. 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)

https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-politics-and-international-relations-23.pdf?sfvrsn=a271a881_6

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

d. MoE Undergraduate Programme Catalogue 2024:

http://www.moe.gov.cn/srcsite/A08/moe_1034/s4930/202403/W020240319305498791768.pdf

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 17 April 2026

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1	2025/26	HEIDI WANG-KAEDING	23 September 2025	
2	2024/25	HEIDI WANG-KAEDING	23 September 2025	Programme lead updated
1	2024/25	BRIAN DOHERTY	12 June 2024	
1.2	2023/24	HEIDI WANG-KAEDING	14 November 2023	
1.1	2023/24	BRIAN DOHERTY	14 November 2023	Updated Level 6 dissertation module to the correct credit value
1	2023/24	HEIDI WANG-KAEDING	09 February 2023	
1.2	2022/23	BRIAN DOHERTY		Version submitted in error
1.1	2022/23	HEIDI WANG-KAEDING	07 October 2022	1) Level 5 semester 2 optional modules change into PIR-20062 (International Relations of Eurasia: Challenges of Globalisation and Geopolitics), PIR-20067 (Environmental Politics and Policy), and PIR-20081 (The Politics of the European Union) 2) Level 6 modules per request by the partner university compulsory modules changed to 'Methodology of Political Science' (BFS-30002) and Diplomacy and Foreign Affairs Administration (BFS-30003). The former compulsory module 'UN Peace Operations and Sustainable Development' (BFS-30004) is made optional. To give students more choices, BFSU adds 'East Asian Politics and Foreign Policies' (BFS-30008).
1	2022/23	HEIDI WANG-KAEDING	28 January 2022	
1	2021/22	BRIAN DOHERTY	27 May 2021	Amendments to compulsory modules at BFSU at Level 4, and optional modules at Levels 5 and 6.
1	2020/21	BULENT GOKAY	20 December 2019	
1	2019/20	BULENT GOKAY	20 December 2019	