

Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For Academic Year 2026/27

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics, and Economics BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics, and Economics with International Year (see Annex for details) BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics, and Economics with Entrepreneurship Year (see Annex for details) BA (Hons) Philosophy, Politics, and Economics 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 Entrepreneurship Year, 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)	n/a
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	<p>UK students:</p> <p>Fee for 2026/27 is £9,790*</p> <p>International students:</p> <p>Fee for 2026/27 is £18,200**</p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for either the work placement year or entrepreneurship year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee</p>

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

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

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

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

The BA Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (PPE) programme at Keele is designed to equip you with the skills and knowledge to approach complex societal challenges from multiple perspectives. You will develop critical thinking skills, analytical rigour, and a global outlook, enabling you to tackle pressing contemporary issues such as climate change, the future of democracy, artificial intelligence, and the evolving nature of work. Throughout the programme, you will gain expertise in philosophical reasoning, political analysis, and economic evaluation. The course places a strong emphasis on governance and ethical issues, ensuring that you develop a deep understanding of how decisions are made and their broader societal impact. You will engage with a range of specialist topics, including political economy, comparative political analysis, ethical philosophy, and economic theory, all taught by expert academics in the field.

Experiential learning is embedded throughout your studies. You will have opportunities to apply your knowledge through interdisciplinary problem-solving projects, including a final-year, problem-based learning project where you will work with an external organisation on a real-world challenge. You will also benefit from Keele's expanding programme of experiential learning, including placements, study abroad opportunities, and guest lectures from leading experts. Your learning experience will be enriched by innovative teaching and assessment methods, including video and podcast production, which will help you develop transferable skills in communication, research, and problem-solving. You will also be encouraged to participate in seminars and workshops with visiting speakers, allowing you to explore contemporary debates and network with professionals in the field.

By studying PPE at Keele, you will graduate with a strong foundation in interdisciplinary thinking, research skills, and the ability to critically engage with key societal challenges. These skills will prepare you for a wide range of careers in government, policy-making, business, law, education, technology, the charity sector, and beyond.

Four-Year Programmes in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics

Students have the opportunity to engage in experiential learning through various pathways that enhance their academic and professional development. These opportunities allow students to immerse themselves in different cultural, professional, or entrepreneurial environments, gaining valuable hands-on experience beyond the classroom. A year-long study abroad programme enables students to experience education in an international setting, broadening their global perspective while deepening their subject knowledge in a different cultural context. For those seeking professional experience, a structured placement provides the chance to work in a real-world environment, applying academic learning to industry practice, developing key skills, and gaining insights into future career pathways. Students interested in entrepreneurship can spend a year within Keele's Innovation Hub, focusing on developing their own business ideas in a supportive and creative setting. This hands-on experience allows for practical skill-building and the opportunity to bring innovative concepts to life. These experiential learning opportunities empower students to apply their knowledge in meaningful ways, enhancing their academic journey and preparing them for future success.

4. Aims of the programme

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

- Gain a broad understanding of the disciplines of philosophy, politics, and economics in some depth
- Develop the knowledge and skills both for in-depth understanding of practical problems and policy matters of public concern from philosophical, economic, and political perspectives, and for formulation of proposals in response to them
- Apply core skills in different modes of communication, critical thinking, interdisciplinary insight, different ethical frameworks, policy and economic analysis, and awareness of global significance to become civically engaged agents of change
- Acquire the knowledge and skills for conduct of your own research, exercising appropriate levels of scholarship
- Foster a capacity to think critically and independently
- Cultivate a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to your intellectual, vocational and personal development
- Develop independence and self-confidence in your work and the ability to cooperate with others

5. What you will learn

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

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

Subject knowledge and understanding

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

- Analysis and debates concerning current frontier issues in philosophy, ethics, and political science, evaluating different interpretations of political and economic issues.
- The nature of political systems, power distribution, and socio-economic contexts, applying key theoretical approaches to analyse political institutions, ideas, and public policies.
- The significance of market functions, economic actors, and government interventions while applying analytical, empirical, and software-based methods to real-world data.
- Critical assessments of diverse perspectives, the conduct of independent research, and application of appropriate investigative and analytical techniques across philosophy, politics, and economics.

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- Identify key arguments in philosophical, political, and economic texts, evaluate theories, and apply them to contemporary issues while exercising critical judgment.
- Formulate research questions, select appropriate methodologies, and gather, interpret, and analyse data from primary and secondary sources, including statistical and econometric tools.
- Clearly communicate ideas through various formats, construct reasoned arguments, and present policy analysis effectively using scholarly conventions, including the Harvard referencing system.
- Investigate, analyse, and propose solutions to complex social, political, and economic problems, integrating theoretical and empirical perspectives.
- Manage personal learning, engage with academic materials, and apply advanced reasoning and formal tools to deepen understanding across disciplines.

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- Utilise information technology, including spreadsheet and audiovisual tools, to analyse, retrieve, and present quantitative and qualitative data effectively.
- Express ideas clearly and fluently across various formats, including written, verbal, and multimedia communication.
- Work effectively in groups to achieve shared objectives, demonstrating cooperation and problem-solving skills.
- Conduct research using social science methodologies and apply critical thinking to address complex issues.
- Work autonomously with initiative, self-organisation, and time management to develop as an independent, reflective learner.

Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social, 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:

- **Lectures** accompanied by suggested reading for independent study, intended to provide a core framework of subject knowledge on which a systematic understanding of major principles and key theoretical approaches can be built. Most lecturers employ presentation software such as MS PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations. Some lecture classes may feature activities such as mock auctions, quizzes that involve voting, or other interactive activities. Lectures and associated readings are the main conduits for the dissemination of subject-based material
- **Tutor-led seminars** where students contribute to or lead a discussion in more depth on key topics. Some tutorials and seminars involve presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams). Seminars and tutorials provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered, to present their own ideas, to develop critical thinking and permit the reflective individual expression of their understanding
- **Problem-based tutorials** (often based on scenarios rooted in the real world) in which students are expected to offer answers or solutions to previously provided problems, but which also offer opportunity for students to direct specific questions to tutors and develop a better understanding of the issues in question. Tutor-led seminars and problem-based tutorials aim to develop students' analytical and critical thinking, give opportunities for problem-solving, presentations and the conduct of teamwork and as such contribute towards the fulfilment of a variety of learning outcomes related to subject knowledge, subject-related skills, and generic skill development
- **Interactive workshops** where students work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer, and reflect on their own learning. Workshops encourage students to reflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from staff
- **Practical, computer laboratory-based classes** where students acquire the hands-on subject-related and generic skills associated with describing, analysing and interpreting business data
- **Directed independent study** where students are referred to specific materials from textbooks, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the printed media and appropriate sources deployed on the web. When combined with lectures, independent study is an integral part of developing proper understanding of key concepts, approaches, and debates in the field. Other opportunities for directed independent study are available in our computer laboratories, which are equipped with Bloomberg information terminals and Sage accounting software, allowing students to interact with real-world data and situations. Directed independent study, making use of a variety of resources such as own library, Library facilities, the University's virtual learning environment (KLE) and the wider Internet, promotes subject knowledge; subject-related skills such as analytical thinking and problem solving; and generic skills such as self-management, the conduct of independent scholarly and research work, and IT literacy
- Students may undertake **web-based self-study** exercises using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE gives students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools and permits the use of online discussion, quizzes and 'blogs' in teaching and learning whilst permitting students to develop improved IT knowledge
- Students may also be asked to research and find information independently, which may extend to undertaking an **independent research project** under the supervision of an experienced tutor. The **final year dissertation module** provides the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project and then implementing it independently. Undertaking a research dissertation with the supervision and support of experienced and active researchers from our staff allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them. Students will also have an opportunity to engage in a problem-based learning project, where you will work with an external partner to apply what you have learned from your interdisciplinary course of study to a real-world, contemporary issue.

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

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

7. Teaching Staff

The programme is taught by three staffing groups: in the School of Humanities and Social Sciences, the Politics and International Relations team and the Philosophy team, and in Keele Business School, the Accounting and Finance Group. Each maintain a strong commitment to excellence and innovation in teaching and scholarly work.

Nearly all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in philosophy, politics, economics, or a closely related subject in the social sciences. The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in universities in the UK, continental Europe, North America and Australasia. All members of staff in the Faculty of Business, Law, Humanities and Social Sciences complete appropriate training as part of their induction to university teaching, and most are members or associates of the Higher Education Academy and/or have a formal teaching qualification.

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

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having 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 on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

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

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

Global Challenge Pathways

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

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. For more information about our Global Challenge Pathways please visit:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/>

Modern Languages or Certificate in TESOL

Alternatively, you could choose to study modules with the University Language Centre. The Language Centre offers three pathways; The Language Specialist, The Language Taster, and The Trinity Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Language (TESOL). Language Centre modules are available separately for students at Levels 4 and 5. At Level 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 Level 4 and 5 students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/languagecentre/languagecentreoptions/>

For Level 6 students please visit: <https://www.keele.ac.uk/students/academiclife/global-challenge-pathways/>

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

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

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	105	15	15
Level 5	105	15	15
Level 6	15	105	105

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Philosophy as Reason and Wonder	PHI-10030	30	Semester 1
Making Sense of Politics	PIR-10069	30	Semester 1-2
Becoming a Social Scientist	SSC-10001	15	Semester 1-2
Sustainability and the Global Economy	ECO-10039	30	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Nietzsche's Death of God	PHI-10024	15	Semester 1
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
Social Sciences at Work	SSC-20005	15	Semester 1-2
Labour Economics and The Future of Work	ECO-20065	30	Semester 2
Environmental Philosophy and Technology	PHI-20034	30	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Social Sciences Placement	SSC-20001	15	Semester 1-2
Contemporary Business Ethics Debates	MAN-20209	15	Semester 2

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Engaged Social Science	SSC-30005	15	Semester 1

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Parliamentary Studies	PIR-30160	15	Semester 1
The Dark Side of Politics	PIR-30174	30	Semester 1
Dissertation	ECO-30057	30	Semester 1-2
PHILOSOPHY DISSERTATION - ISP	PHI-30025	30	Semester 1-2
Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP	PIR-30130	30	Semester 1-2
Work Placement for Social Sciences Final Year Students	SSC-30003	15	Semester 1-2
Challenge Project for PPE	SSC-30009	30	Semester 1-2
Economic growth strategies and policies	ECO-30067	30	Semester 2
Digital Showcase	MAN-30183	15	Semester 2
Evaluating Science with Philosophy	PHI-30040	30	Semester 2
Practical Philosophy	PHI-30042	15	Semester 2

Level 6 Module Rules

All students must take one and only one of either:

- 1) SSC-30009 Challenge Project for PPE
- 2) PIR-30130 Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP
- 3) PHI-30025 Philosophy Dissertation - ISP
- 4) ECO-30057 Dissertation (Economics)

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

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.

In Year 1 (Level 4) and Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in elective modules together with other outcomes not stated here. In Year 3 (Level 6) the stated outcomes are achieved by taking any of the modules offered in each semester.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Engagements with major philosophers and ethical theories, exploring different philosophical divisions (logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy) and their historical and global interconnections.	All philosophy modules
Analysis and debates concerning current frontier issues in philosophy, ethics, and political science, evaluating different interpretations of political and economic issues.	All philosophy and politics modules
The nature of political systems, power distribution, and socio-economic contexts, applying key theoretical approaches to analyse political institutions, ideas, and public policies.	All politics modules
The significance of market functions, economic actors, and government interventions while applying analytical, empirical, and software-based methods to real-world data.	All economics modules
Critical assessments of diverse perspectives, the conduct of independent research, and application of appropriate investigative and analytical techniques across philosophy, politics, and economics.	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Identify key arguments in philosophical, political, and economic texts, evaluate theories, and apply them to contemporary issues while exercising critical judgment	All modules
Formulate research questions, select appropriate methodologies, and gather, interpret, and analyse data from primary and secondary sources, including statistical and econometric tools	Becoming a Social Scientist - SSC-10001 All economics modules
Clearly communicate ideas through various formats, construct reasoned arguments, and present policy analysis effectively using scholarly conventions, including the Harvard referencing system	All modules
Investigate, analyse, and propose solutions to complex social, political, and economic problems, integrating theoretical and empirical perspectives	All politics and economic modules
Manage personal learning, engage with academic materials, and apply advanced reasoning and formal tools to deepen understanding across disciplines	All modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Utilize information technology, including spreadsheet and audiovisual tools, to analyse, retrieve, and present quantitative and qualitative data effectively	All modules
Express ideas clearly and fluently across various formats, including written, verbal, and multimedia communication	All modules
Work effectively in groups to achieve shared objectives, demonstrating cooperation and problem-solving skills	Sustainability and the Global Economy - ECO-10039 Philosophy as Reason and Wonder - PHI-10030 Making Sense of Politics - PIR-10069 SSC-10001
Conduct research using social science methodologies and apply critical thinking to address complex issues	Becoming a Social Scientist - SSC-10001 SSC-10001
Work autonomously with initiative, self-organization, and time management to develop as an independent, reflective learner	All modules

Level 5

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Clearly communicate ideas through various formats, construct reasoned arguments, and present policy analysis effectively using scholarly conventions, including the Harvard referencing system	All modules
Investigate, analyse, and propose solutions to complex social, political, and economic problems, integrating theoretical and empirical perspectives	All politics and economic modules
Manage personal learning, engage with academic materials, and apply advanced reasoning and formal tools to deepen understanding across disciplines	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Identify key arguments in philosophical, political, and economic texts, evaluate theories, and apply them to contemporary issues while exercising critical judgment	All modules
Formulate research questions, select appropriate methodologies, and gather, interpret, and analyse data from primary and secondary sources, including statistical and econometric tools	Social Sciences at Work - SSC-20005

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Engagements with major philosophers and ethical theories, exploring different philosophical divisions (logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy) and their historical and global interconnections.	All philosophy modules
Analysis and debates concerning current frontier issues in philosophy, ethics, and political science, evaluating different interpretations of political and economic issues.	All philosophy and politics modules
The nature of political systems, power distribution, and socio-economic contexts, applying key theoretical approaches to analyse political institutions, ideas, and public policies.	All politics modules
The significance of market functions, economic actors, and government interventions while applying analytical, empirical, and software-based methods to real-world data	All economics modules
Critical assessments of diverse perspectives, the conduct of independent research, and application of appropriate investigative and analytical techniques across philosophy, politics, and economics.	All modules
Utilize information technology, including spreadsheet and audiovisual tools, to analyse, retrieve, and present quantitative and qualitative data effectively	All modules
Express ideas clearly and fluently across various formats, including written, verbal, and multimedia communication	All modules
Work effectively in groups to achieve shared objectives, demonstrating cooperation and problem-solving skills	Environmental Philosophy and Technology - PHI-20034 Global Democracy under Threat: Resilience or Retreat? - PIR-20116
Conduct research using social science methodologies and apply critical thinking to address complex issues	Social Sciences at Work - SSC-20005
Work autonomously with initiative, self-organization, and time management to develop as an independent, reflective learner	All modules

Level 6

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Engagements with major philosophers and ethical theories, exploring different philosophical divisions (logic, metaphysics, epistemology, ethics, and political philosophy) and their historical and global interconnections.	All philosophy modules
Analysis and debates concerning current frontier issues in philosophy, ethics, and political science, evaluating different interpretations of political and economic issues.	All philosophy and politics modules
The nature of political systems, power distribution, and socio-economic contexts, applying key theoretical approaches to analyse political institutions, ideas, and public policies	All politics modules
The significance of market functions, economic actors, and government interventions while applying analytical, empirical, and software-based methods to real-world data	All economics modules
Critical assessments of diverse perspectives, the conduct of independent research, and application of appropriate investigative and analytical techniques across philosophy, politics, and economics.	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Identify key arguments in philosophical, political, and economic texts, evaluate theories, and apply them to contemporary issues while exercising critical judgment	All modules
Formulate research questions, select appropriate methodologies, and gather, interpret, and analyse data from primary and secondary sources, including statistical and econometric tools	Engaged Social Science - SSC-30005 Dissertation for PPE
Clearly communicate ideas through various formats, construct reasoned arguments, and present policy analysis effectively using scholarly conventions, including the Harvard referencing system	All modules
Investigate, analyse, and propose solutions to complex social, political, and economic problems, integrating theoretical and empirical perspectives	All politics and economic modules
Manage personal learning, engage with academic materials, and apply advanced reasoning and formal tools to deepen understanding across disciplines	All modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	Module in which this is delivered
Utilize information technology, including spreadsheet and audiovisual tools, to analyse, retrieve, and present quantitative and qualitative data effectively	All modules
Express ideas clearly and fluently across various formats, including written, verbal, and multimedia communication	All modules
Work effectively in groups to achieve shared objectives, demonstrating cooperation and problem-solving skills	The Dark Side of Politics - PIR-30174
Conduct research using social science methodologies and apply critical thinking to address complex issues	Engaged Social Science - SSC-30005 Dissertation for PPE
Work autonomously with initiative, self-organization, and time management to develop as an independent, reflective learner	All modules

9. Final and intermediate awards

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

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

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

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

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

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive

feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge, as well the student's ability to empathise with philosophical problems and develop responses to them based upon the literature. 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;
- **Research design projects** and associated **research papers** allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question and identify an appropriate research methodology as part of the task of designing and implementing a research strategy to enable them to address the research question effectively. This is a key academic skill in learning to understand different approaches to asking particular questions and learning how to go about finding answers to these questions, which demands understanding of how evidence should be evaluated and interpreted
- **Oral presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, as well as their ability to communicate what they know orally and visually
- **Reviews and critiques** of other scholar's work test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them
- **Group presentation**, where you collaborate with a group of fellow students and present your findings to other students on the module and the module tutor, testing students' ability to work effectively as members of a team
- **Individual report**, where you produce a document that sets out your response to the task, including your recommendations and conclusions
- **Podcast and video blogs** are a contemporary, innovative and engaging way for students to organise their understanding and present it to peers and assessors
- **Portfolios** and **worksheets** may consist of a range of different pieces of work to demonstrate your engagement with and understanding of a topic, while often also including evidence of students' critical reflection on the development of their own learning. They also allow the development of specific academic skills and allow students to apply them in realistic scenarios
- **Work placement reflection** on work placement activity and development of employability skills

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

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

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

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: 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)	17.0%	83.0%	0%
Year 3 (Level 6)	7.2%	92.8%	0%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/>

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

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

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/>

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 tutors and co-ordinators provide support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on assessments submitted and more general feedback on examinations.
- Support is also available from the director of the Programme and the School office. An annual module fair is organised to help students with module choices.
- Every student is allocated to an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing, and advising on, students' academic progress.
- Student Voice Representatives provide a focus for issues at module and year level to be raised.
- The University's Student Services Centre is the 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.
- Additional help for struggling students is available through the Support to Study policy.

- The International Student Support section in the Student Services Centre provides specialist help and advice to international students on visa and immigration matters, information about working and assistance with any personal or academic issues that might arise during their time at Keele.
- 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.
- Whilst students will be expected to find their own placements, Keele Business School and the School of Humanities and Social Sciences have placement officers who will assist in providing support throughout the placement process. In addition to this, students undertaking the placement degree programme will be provided with an academic tutor based at Keele. Support offered will ensure the appropriateness of the placement prior to starting the Placement Year, and email/telephone/face-to-face contact throughout the placement at regular intervals.

All members of teaching staff on the programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment.

16. Learning Resources

Teaching takes place in a variety of lecture theatres and tutorial rooms almost all of which have appropriate audio-visual equipment, internet access, electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in 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 materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library: these materials include books, journals and government publications. Much of this material is also accessible online for Keele students from anywhere in the world.
- 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.
- A number of Interactive Study Skills Resources also on the KLE, in particular for assistance with understanding plagiarism, how to properly reference, and tips for note-taking.
- Electronic Access to Periodicals Resource: another support module created especially within the KLE for students, which enables them more easily to make full use of the over 650 academic journals relevant to their degree programmes that are electronically available to Keele students free of charge.
- Copies of set texts are available in the campus library with an increasing number available as e-books.
- SAGE accounting software is installed in a variety of PC labs in the Business School and campus library and Bloomberg information terminals are available in the Business School building.
- Most modules have electronic resource lists generated using Talis Aspire, a software package that allows students to access electronic journal articles, websites and other resources by clicking on links in a single document.
- Students taking the Entrepreneurship Year will be directed and supported by our Entrepreneurs in Residence.

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.

Entrepreneurship Year

Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with Entrepreneurship Year' degree programme or to transfer onto the 4-year 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. To be eligible for the entrepreneurship year, students must have a good University attendance record. They must also have passed all Year 1 and Year 2 Semester 1 assessments. Students must have met the progression requirements to proceed to their final year of study prior to commencing a placement. Students will be required to put forward a proposal, give a short presentation and attend an interview prior to being accepted onto this module. Barred combinations: Placement Year and International Year.

Students wishing to take the entrepreneurship 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 Entrepreneurship Placement Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the Entrepreneurship 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.

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.

18. Additional Costs

Optional costs

There may be optional costs that students can choose to incur to enhance their learning experience. These are not required to complete the course. Details of these optional costs are outlined below to help you plan accordingly.

Students who opt to take our work-based placement modules at level 5 and 6 may be expected to pay travel costs (usually one day weekly) to their placement.

Optional 4-week US Summer School trip:

Estimated maximum total cost (after taking into account Turing scheme funding): £820 for Widening Access students; £1675 for other students. (Estimated maximum cost of £2220 (£950 for flights; £1250 for accommodation; £20 for visa waiver application) to be sourced by student, in addition to usual subsistence costs. Based on 2025 figures, Turing funding is expected to reimburse student costs to a value of approximately £1400 for Widening Access students, and approximately £545 for other students.)

Students who take one of our optional Work Placement modules, or our Work Placement year, may need to apply for a Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) check, if they plan to work with e.g. schools and charities. The

current costs for a DBS check are detailed on the additional costs webpage:

<https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/tuitionfeesandfunding/undergraduatetuitionfees/additionalcosts>

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%.

Students may also incur general expenses related to university study, such as for printing, textbooks and other materials. Students who undertake a placement may be responsible for additional costs, such as travel, accommodation, and subsistence costs. For further information, please refer to the [additional costs](#) information.

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:

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (2023):

<https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-politics-and-international-relations-23.pdf>

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Economics (2023): [https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-economics-](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-economics-23.pdf)

[23.pdf](https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/sbs/sbs-economics-23.pdf)

QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Philosophy (2025): <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/the-quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-philosophy>

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

21. Annex - Entrepreneurship Year

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics with Entrepreneurship Year

Entrepreneurship Year summary

The aim of this module is to provide students with the opportunity to start to develop their business ideas into a live enterprise project. The students are given a minimum of 30 weeks (full time work equivalent) and maximum of 12 months in Keele's incubator space and support from the Entrepreneurs in Residence and academic staff. This will take place between Level 5 and Level 6. Students will be required to put forward a proposal, give a short presentation and attend an interview prior to being accepted onto this module.

Barred combinations: Placement Year and International Year.

Entrepreneurship Year Programme Aims

- Create an innovative business venture and critically evaluate its potential viability.
- Demonstrate understanding of the barriers to start-up enterprise growth and success.
- Evaluate and apply a range of strategic decisions to maximise the viability of the start-up.
- Reflect on their own entrepreneurial knowledge, skills, behaviour and learning process.
- Develop a professional CV and portfolio that they can use when applying for employment.

Entry Requirements for the Entrepreneurship Year

Admission to the Entrepreneurship Year is subject to successful application, which involves a short presentation and interview. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with entrepreneurship year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the entrepreneurship year will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Passed all Year-1 modules and Year-2 Semester 1 assessments.
- 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 Entrepreneurship Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the entrepreneurship 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 more than one of the following: Entrepreneurship Year, International Year, Work Placement Year.

Student Support, Assessment and Study Hours

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

- This module enables you to spend a minimum of 30 weeks (full-time equivalent work) but can be longer, in the University's incubator hub with support from the entrepreneurs in residence and academics. You will learn tools and techniques which will help you to build your idea into a new venture and hopefully into a new business.
- Activities will include attendance at workshops, networking events and one-to-one supervision.

Assessment

- Portfolio weighted 100%, maximum 3000 words. Portfolio of activities undertaken, review of workshops attended and progress report on the development of the new business at the end of the year of activity.

Study Hours

- 10 hours - scheduled learning and teaching activities - which include workshops.
- 140 hours - guided independent study.
- 1,050 hours - students will be expected to be active in the incubation hub for a MINIMUM of 30 weeks equivalent of full-time work (this is roughly equivalent to a standard university teaching period). The activity can continue for up to 12 months, providing the necessary assessments are submitted and passed for progression into the final year (FHEQ Level 6).

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 'Entrepreneurship Year' module (MAN-30075)

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

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

22. Annex - International Year

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics with International Year

International Year Programme

Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

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

International Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with:

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

Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

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. Design, plan and critically evaluate research projects with respect to Philosophy and/or Politics and/or Economics, recording relevant information accurately and systematically and be able to reflect on a range of sources in a critical manner.
5. Integrate, apply and develop enhanced principles relating to the analysis of Philosophy and/or Politics and/or Economics, to recognise, describe and explain cultural phenomena across national boundaries and reflect critically upon problems relating to contemporary society and culture.

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.

23. Annex - Work Placement Year

BA Philosophy, Politics and Economics with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

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

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

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

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

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

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

Entry Requirements for the 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:

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

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

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

Regulations

Students registered for the '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 (MAN-30075)
- 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: 01 April 2026

Previous documents

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