

## Programme Specification: Undergraduate

### For students starting in Academic Year 2023/24

#### 1. Course Summary

<b>Names of programme and award title(s)</b>	BA or BSc (Hons) International Relations BA or BSc (Hons) International Relations with International Year (see Annex for details) BA or BSc (Hons) International Relations with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
<b>Award type</b>	Combined Honours
<b>Mode of study</b>	Full-time
<b>Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award</b>	Level 6
<b>Normal length of the programme</b>	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
<b>Maximum period of registration</b>	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
<b>Location of study</b>	Keele Campus
<b>Accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Not applicable
<b>Regulator</b>	Office for Students (OfS)
<b>Tuition Fees</b>	<p><b>UK students:</b> Fee for 2023/24 is £9,250*</p> <p><b>International students:</b> Fee for 2023/24 is £17,700** <i>or £18,800** (if combined with a laboratory-based Principal Subject)</i></p> <p>The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee</p> <p>The fee for the work placement 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/>

\*\* 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

## 2. What is a Combined Honours programme?

*NB:* Students who study their two Principal subjects in humanities and/or social science subjects will be awarded the degree of Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) (BA Hons). All students who study a science Principal subject are candidates for the degree of Bachelor of Science (with Honours) (BSc Hons) irrespective of their second Principal subject.

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

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

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

## 3. Overview of the Programme

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

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

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

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

## 4. Aims of the programme

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

- Investigate questions of international order and the nature of decision making on international matters
- Develop knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of international political theory and international political analysis
- Apply the concepts, approaches and methods of the discipline
- Be aware of the contested nature of many of these concepts and approaches and appreciate the particular challenges facing inquiry in the discipline of International Relations, thinking critically about these concepts

- and approaches
- Relate the academic study of International Relations to international policy matters of public concern, linking academic theory to the practices of foreign policy and political behaviour at the international level
- Acquire a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, personal and vocational development

## 5. What you will learn

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

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

### Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

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

### Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

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

### Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

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

### Keele Graduate attributes

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

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

## 6. How is the programme taught?

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

- **Traditional lectures** where the lecturer provides students with a framework for reading and independent study. Most lecturers employ presentation software such as Microsoft PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations in the lecture hall
- **Interactive learning** in large classes where students have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning
- **Tutorials and seminars** in which key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part in, and occasionally to lead, these discussions, either individually, or as part of a small team.

Some tutorials and seminars consist largely of presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams)

- **Independent study** based on directed reading from textbooks, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the printed media and appropriate sources deployed on the worldwide web
- **Web-based learning** using the Keele Learning Environment (KLE). The KLE is accessible to all students on and off campus and provides easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs
- For those who take their **dissertation** double module in International Relations in their final year, the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project and then independently implementing it with supervision and support from a member of staff

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

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

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

## 7. Teaching Staff

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

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

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

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

## 8. What is the structure of the Programme?

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

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

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;

- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules;
- Global Challenge Pathways (students studying at Level 6 in 2023/24 may take electives instead) - a choice of modules from different subject areas within the University that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

Students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Alternatively, a language module or an additional optional module can be taken instead. Information about Global Challenge Pathways can be found after the module lists for Level 5.

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

Year	Compulsory	Optional		Electives	
		Min	Max	Min	Max
Level 4	30	15	30	0	15
Level 5	30	15	30	0	15
Level 6	0	45	60	0	15

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

## Module Lists

### Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Changing World: A History of International Relations since 1945	PIR-10043	15	Semester 1
Introduction to International Relations	PIR-10041	15	Semester 2

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
10 Problems of Philosophy	PHI-10010	15	Semester 1
Small Text, Big Thoughts	PHI-10020	15	Semester 1
Why Politics Matters	PIR-10038	15	Semester 1
Justice, Authority and Power	PIR-10045	15	Semester 1
The politics of sustainability	PIR-10047	15	Semester 1
Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE)	PIR-10058	15	Semester 1
Social and Political Theory	SOC-10029	15	Semester 1
Sound and Society	MUS-10114	15	Semester 2
How To Think	PHI-10011	15	Semester 2
Debates in American Politics	PIR-10039	15	Semester 2
Modern Democracies	PIR-10055	15	Semester 2
Securing Global Order	PIR-10060	15	Semester 2

*NB: Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Information on GCPs is shown under the Level 5 modules below.*

### **Language modules**

Students on this programme will also be able to study language modules offered by the Language Centre, as part of a Global Challenge Pathway. You can enrol on either a Modern Language module [more information available at this [link](#)] (Semester 1 only) or Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-10053).

If you choose a Modern Language, 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 GCP the following academic year.

### **Level 5**

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Contemporary International Relations Theory	PIR-20076	15	Semester 1
International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	PIR-20085	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
U.S Government and Politics	PIR-20071	15	Semester 1
British Government and Politics	PIR-20074	15	Semester 1
African Politics (Level 5)	PIR-20092	15	Semester 1
The International Politics of the Middle East: A Century of War and Diplomacy	PIR-20094	15	Semester 1
Interdisciplinary Perspectives on Wicked Problems	NAT-20007	15	Semester 1-2
INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS OF EURASIA: Challenges of Globalisation and Geopolitics	PIR-20062	15	Semester 2
The Practice of Politics	PIR-20065	15	Semester 2
Freedom and Equality	PIR-20066	15	Semester 2
Environmental Politics and Policy	PIR-20067	15	Semester 2
Why Policy Changes	PIR-20068	15	Semester 2
The Politics of the European Union	PIR-20081	15	Semester 2
Foreign Policy	PIR-20090	15	Semester 2

### Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs)

Students at Level 4 and Level 5 in 2023/24 have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module in each year of the degree. Students at Level 5 will continue the Global Challenge Pathway they started at Level 4.

Global Challenge Pathways offer students the chance to fulfil an exciting, engaging route of interdisciplinary study. Choosing a pathway, students will be presented with a global issue or 'challenge' which directly relates to societal issues, needs and debates. They will be invited to take part in academic and external facing projects which address these issues, within an interdisciplinary community of students and staff. Students completing a Global Challenge Pathway will receive recognition on their degree certificate.

<b>Digital Futures</b>	<p>The Digital Futures pathway offers you the opportunity to become an active contributor to current debates, cutting-edge research, and projects with external partners, addressing both the exciting potential and the challenges of disruptive digital transformation across all spheres of life.</p> <p>Part of a diverse and interdisciplinary pathway community, you will engage in exciting, impactful collaborative project work in innovative formats. Engaged in real-world scenarios, you will use digital technology and creativity to promote inclusive, empowering, and sustainable change at local and global levels.</p> <p><b>Level 4 Module: A digital life: challenges and opportunities (GCP-10005)</b></p> <p><b>Level 5 Module: Digital World - People, Spaces, and Data (GCP-20005)</b></p>
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<b>Climate Change &amp; Sustainability</b>	<p>Through the Climate Change &amp; Sustainability pathway you will develop the skills, understanding and drive to become agents of change to tackle climate change and wider sustainability challenges.</p> <p>You will work with international partners to explore climate change and sustainability in different international contexts; lead your own projects to drive real change in your communities; and be part of educating others to help achieve a more sustainable future.</p> <p><b>Level 4 Module: Climate Change and Sustainable Futures: Global Perspectives (GCP-10009)</b></p> <p><b>Level 5 Module: Climate Change and Sustainability: Action and Activism (GCP-20009)</b></p>
<b>Social Justice</b>	<p>Students on this pathway will embark on a reflective journey drawing upon decolonising, feminist, and ethical perspectives on social justice, forging transformative outputs as agents of change.</p> <p>You will enter a dialogue with local, national, and international partners from Universities, NGOs, International Human Rights Committees. You will engage with key societal challenges, for example Covid 19 as a social crisis with impact on gender and racial identities. The pathway will allow you to monitor and critically evaluate policies and human rights treaties, and produce and disseminate digitally fluent, international and sustainable project findings.</p> <p><b>Level 4 Module: Reflections on Social Injustices, Past and Present (GCP-10003)</b></p> <p><b>Level 5 Module: Strategic Interventions for Social Justice (GCP-20003)</b></p>
<b>Enterprise &amp; the Future of Work</b>	<p>If we are to achieve the promise of Sustainable Development Goals, solve the climate crisis and take advantage of the changes that the digital revolution provide, we need to understand the power of enterprise and prepare for future contexts of work, creativity and disruption.</p> <p>Supporting you to be part of future-facing solutions, this pathway will give you the ability to make judgements on the utilisation of resources, labour and capital. It will support you in developing creative, original thinking, allowing you to collaborate on projects that persuade and effect change, setting you up to thrive in future environments of work and innovation.</p> <p><b>Level 4 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work (GCP-10007)</b></p> <p><b>Level 5 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Collaborate to Innovate (GCP-20007)</b></p>
<b>Global Health Challenges</b>	<p>By taking the global health challenge pathway you will develop solutions to improve the health and quality of life for particular people and communities, engaging with these groups to co-design interventions.</p> <p>This pathway will provide you with skills that go beyond a focus on health and will allow you to develop your ability to work in a team and lead change in society. The knowledge, skills and work experience will complement your core degree and enhance your career opportunities and graduate aspirations.</p> <p><b>Level 4 Module: Key concepts and challenges in global health (GCP-10001)</b></p> <p><b>Level 5 Module: Using Evidence to Improve Global Health (GCP-20001)</b></p>



**Languages & Intercultural Awareness**

An understanding of language and culture opens the doorway to understanding what happens, why it happens and how you can make a difference. Why learn Russian now? How will an understanding of intercultural values impact on global development? How can you use English to work your way around the world? Importantly - how do language and culture impact on the UN Sustainability Goals?

The Languages and Intercultural Awareness pathway offers you four distinct strands.

The Language Specialist: Become a specialist in one of our languages and graduate with a degree title that includes '... with competency in (Language)'.  
The Language Taster: Explore a new language every year

The Certificate in TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages): Train to teach English as a Foreign Language, gain a globally recognised teaching qualification and work with asylum seekers and refugees.

The Intercultural Explorer: Explore cultural practices around the world and discover how the power of language and culture can be forces for breaking down barriers and achieving intercultural understanding, but how they can also be used to create political and social barricades.

**Modules available:**

**The Language Specialist:**

Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences).

**The Language Taster:**

Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences)

**The Certificate in TESOL:**

ENL-10053 TESOL 1

ENL-20007 TESOL 2

**The Intercultural Explorer:**

ENL-10057 The stories we live by

ENL-20009 Who do you think you are?

Information on Global Challenge Pathways can be found here:

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

**Language modules**

You can enrol on the continuing Modern Language module [more information available at this [link](#)] (Semester 1 only) or the continuing TESOL (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-20007).

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

**Level 6**

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Blue Economy: sustainable futures with an ocean focus	ESC-30108	15	Semester 1
The Missing Dimension : Conspiracies, Spying and International Relations	PIR-30025	15	Semester 1
The Extreme Right in Western Europe	PIR-30119	15	Semester 1
Human Rights: Concepts, Norms and Identities	PIR-30126	15	Semester 1
Israel/Palestine: Key Debates and Issues	PIR-30151	15	Semester 1
Parliamentary Studies	PIR-30160	15	Semester 1
Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP	PIR-30130	30	Semester 1-2
Music, Conflict and Social Change	MUS-30049	15	Semester 2
Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	PIR-30114	15	Semester 2
Policing International Order	PIR-30118	15	Semester 2
Modern Russia	PIR-30142	15	Semester 2
Contemporary Democratic Theory	PIR-30150	15	Semester 2
The Rise of China	PIR-30162	15	Semester 2

If you choose to specialise in this subject in your final year you will study the following modules:

<b>Compulsory modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP	PIR-30130	30	Semester 1-2

<b>Optional modules</b>	<b>Module Code</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Period</b>
The Missing Dimension : Conspiracies, Spying and International Relations	PIR-30025	15	Semester 1
The Extreme Right in Western Europe	PIR-30119	15	Semester 1
Parliamentary Studies	PIR-30160	15	Semester 1
The Rise of China	PIR-30162	15	Semester 1
Understanding Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism	PIR-30114	15	Semester 2
Policing International Order	PIR-30118	15	Semester 2
Human Rights: Concepts, Norms and Identities	PIR-30126	15	Semester 2
Contemporary Democratic Theory	PIR-30150	15	Semester 2
Israel/Palestine: Key Debates and Issues	PIR-30151	15	Semester 2

**Language modules:** You can enrol on a Modern Language module (Semester 1 or Semester 2).

## Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes

place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

## Level 4

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

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Recognise the distinctive features of IR as a discipline and its relation to other disciplines	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Define and work with key concepts in international political theory and international political analysis	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041
Recognise and evaluate the major factors shaping the evolution of the international political system	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Describe and distinguish between a range of theoretical perspectives in IR, recognising their respective virtues	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Apply concepts and theories used in the study of IR to the analysis of political ideas and practices and policy issues in the global arena	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041
Critically evaluate the concept of the state, its practices, and its different sites of practice	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Identify various perspectives on how state power is enabled and may be challenged	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Recognise the distinctions between global and local dimensions of everyday life and their political implications	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Use the library and electronic sources to locate primary and secondary sources in IR or pertinent cognate disciplines	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Identify, summarise and evaluate the main points of key secondary texts in IR and be able to appraise the logic of argumentation in key IR texts	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Interpret and distinguish between a range of primary and secondary sources in IR	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Employ research evidence, other data and some basic IR theories in developing arguments and making judgements about IR issues	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041
Make coherent arguments based on evidence and analysis	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041
Present written work in IR in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of citation and referencing	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Use IT for the retrieval and presentation of information (including, where appropriate, numerical data) in support of ideas and arguments	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Communicate ideas and arguments effectively in written format	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041
Communicate orally information, ideas and arguments effectively to a variety of audiences informally and formally through oral presentation	Securing Global Order - PIR-10060 Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041
Work with others, demonstrating the capacity to plan, share goals, cooperate and collaborate with other members of a team	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Analyse problems in order to identify their essential elements and devise solutions	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Acquire, assess, organize and engage with a wide variety of sources as part of the practice of research	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Carry out research using a range of textual and electronic resources	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060
Reflect on and plan their own learning by accepting and acting appropriately on feedback	Introduction to International Relations - PIR-10041 Securing Global Order - PIR-10060

## **Level 5**

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Analyse key problems in international relations and international security, in particular in the post-Cold War period, integrating theoretical concepts and empirical material	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076
Analyse, interpret and critically evaluate the treatment by different authors of a range of themes in International Relations	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076
Interpret and distinguish between different theoretical and empirical approaches to the study of international relations, global peace, conflict, and security	Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076 International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Evaluate a range of relevant ideas about conflict and conflict- resolution in terms of their applicability to the analysis of particular conflicts	Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076 International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085
Combine theoretical and empirical material in order critically to evaluate how security problems are framed and addressed	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076
Analyse, interpret, and critically evaluate secondary materials and some primary source materials regarding international relations	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076
Conduct independent research in order to identify, locate, and retrieve appropriate paper and electronic materials to supplement module reading lists	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Conduct independent research	Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076 International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085
Evaluate and make use of abstract theories in analysing and resolving problems	Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076 International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085
Effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in written form	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076
Effectively and fluently communicate complex arguments supported by appropriate evidence in oral form	International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy - PIR-20085 Contemporary International Relations Theory - PIR-20076

## **Level 6**

<b>Subject Knowledge and Understanding</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Recognise, interpret and critically evaluate theories, concepts and research in defined areas, some of which are at the forefront of international political theory and international political analysis	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Apply established theories and methods of inquiry in the discipline to understanding and resolving new and unfamiliar problems in their study of International Relations	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme

<b>Subject Specific Skills</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Describe and make critical judgements about developments in current areas of research in International Relations	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Communicate ideas effectively and fluently informed by contemporary research in International Relations (international political theory and international political analysis) both orally and in writing	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Manage their own learning making use of appropriate International Relations materials	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Formulate research questions and identify appropriate research strategies to address them, as part of undertaking an independent research project	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme

<b>Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)</b>	
<b>Learning Outcome</b>	<b>Module in which this is delivered</b>
Work productively in structured and largely unstructured contexts, exercising initiative and personal responsibility	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Make decisions and plan activity in uncertain and unpredictable contexts	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Work independently, exercising initiative and effective time management	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Undertake appropriate further training of an academic, professional or practical nature	All modules approved as part of the International Relations Principal Programme
Formulate research questions and identify appropriate research strategies to address them, as part of undertaking an independent research project	Dissertation in International Relations or other Principal Subject  Several student-oriented optional modules involve students delivering a research paper addressing a question that they have identified themselves

## 9. Final and intermediate awards

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

<b>Honours Degree</b>	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6  You must accumulate a minimum of 135 credits in each Principal Subject (270 credits in total), with at least 45 credits at each level of study (Levels 4, 5 and 6) in each of two Principal Subjects (90 credits per year). Your degree title will be 'subject X and subject Y'.  If you choose to study one Principal subject in your final year of study a minimum of 90 credits in that subject is required. Your degree title will be 'subject X with subject Y'.
<b>Diploma in Higher Education</b>	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
<b>Certificate in Higher Education</b>	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

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

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

## 10. How is the Programme Assessed?

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

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

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

## 11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

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

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

## Activity

	<b>Scheduled learning and teaching activities</b>	<b>Guided independent Study</b>	<b>Placements</b>
<b>Year 1 (Level 4)</b>	14%	86%	0%
<b>Year 2 (Level 5)</b>	14%	86%	0%
<b>Year 3 (Level 6)</b>	8%	92%	0%

## 12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

## 13. University Regulations

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

### English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will sit a diagnostic language assessment. Using this assessment, 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

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here:

<http://www.keele.ac.uk/ga/accreditationofpriorlearning/>

## 15. How are students supported on the programme?

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

- Module coordinators and tutorial group leaders provide support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. They also give individual feedback on in-course assessments and more general feedback on examinations.
- Every student is allocated to an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing and advising on students' academic progress in International Relations and on their other Principal Programme.
- Academic Mentors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services, located in the Student Services Centre.
- The International Student Support section in the Student Services Centre provides specialist help and advice to international students on visa and immigration matters, information about working and assistance with any personal or academic issues that might arise during their time at Keele
- The Life and Learning Team within Student Services can provide additional help with skills for studying at University level.
- Students for whom English is not their first language are offered language classes, facilities and services by the University's Language Centre. In addition to credit-bearing modules on English for academic study, students also have access to one-to-one tutorials for individual help and advice, and to a wealth of resources for self-study and practice
- All members of teaching staff on the International Relations Programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment

## 16. Learning Resources

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

The learning resources available to students on the Programme include:

- The extensive collection of International Relations materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library. Built up over nearly 40 years of delivering International Relations at this level, these materials include books, journals and government publications. Much of this material is also accessible online to Keele students from anywhere in the world with a University username and password.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) which provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.
- The web spaces created in the KLE for each individual module taught by the School host material tailor-made to support International Relations and Politics students. They contain a wealth of electronically accessible materials giving often interactive guidance on almost all aspects of study, including: finding and evaluating sources of information; planning and writing essays, research papers and dissertations; acknowledging sources appropriately using the Harvard system; working with others in groups and teams, and preparing and delivering oral presentations.
- The Life and Learning Team within Keele's Student Services can provide additional help with skills for studying at University level.

## 17. Other Learning Opportunities

### Study abroad (semester)

Students on the 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.

## **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.

## **Enhanced Degree: With Language Competency/With Advanced Language Competency**

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

## **18. Additional Costs**

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

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

## **19. Quality management and enhancement**

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

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

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

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

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

## 20. The principles of programme design

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

- a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:  
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code>
- b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (2015) <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=international%20relations&wordsMode=AllWords>
- c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: <http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations>

## 21. Annex - International Year

### International Relations with International Year

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

<p><b>International Year Programme</b></p> <p>Students registered for this Combined Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the Combined Honours programme in both their principal subjects, providing that they meet the progression criteria outlined in this document. Students accepted onto the International Year programme will have an extra year of study at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.</p> <p>Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the Combined Honours programme without the International Year and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.</p> <p>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.</p>
<p><b>International Year Programme Aims</b></p> <p>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:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject</li><li>2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially</li></ol>
<p><b>Entry Requirements for the International Year</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The criteria to be applied are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 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)</li><li>• 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)</li></ul> <p>Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.</p>
<p><b>Student Support</b></p>

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

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutors, in line with recommended 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.

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

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

### **Course Regulations**

Students registered for the International 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 to be studied on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

### **Additional costs for the International Year**

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

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

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

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

## **22. Annex - Work Placement Year**

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

## Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent, work placement), 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 and Year-2 Semester 1 modules
- 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 organisation at around the 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. Understand the variety of ways in which skills developed during the study of Social Sciences can be deployed in non-academic contexts
2. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context through a SWOT analysis, design learning outcomes, and reflect on their own progress throughout the module
3. Articulate their placement experiences effectively and critically reflect on their enhanced skill set in front of an audience
4. Understand the aims and priorities, as well as the strengths and possible limitations, of an external organisation and complete tasks as directed
5. Reflect on and critically evaluate their learning from the work placement, showing evidence that they have researched their sector and evaluated the effectiveness of their activities with this in mind

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

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

### **Regulations**

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

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

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

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

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

### **Additional costs for the Work Placement Year**

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: [www.gov.uk](http://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:** 22 August 2023

### ***What's Changed***

Withdrawal of modules due to low sign-up (PIR-20089 Elections, Voters, PIR-30147 Politics of Development, PIR-30152 Britain and War since 1945)

### **Previous documents**

<b>Version No</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Owner</b>	<b>Date Approved</b>	<b>Summary of and rationale for changes</b>
1	2023/24	MORAN MANDELBAUM	11 August 2023	
1.1	2022/23	EDWARD MCCAULEY	04 August 2022	Removal of optional module PIR-30164
1	2022/23	BECKY RICHARDS	11 May 2022	
1	2021/22	BECKY RICHARDS	05 March 2021	
1	2020/21	NAVEED SHEIKH	18 December 2019	
1	2019/20	NAVEED SHEIKH	18 December 2019	