

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Politics BA Politics with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UBAPOLTC_C (part-time) UUBAPOLT_C (full-time) UUBFPOLT_C (full-time with foundation year) UBFPOLTC_C (part-time with foundation year)
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	L290/LL2F (with foundation year)
6	Home Departments	Department of Politics
7	Exit Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education in Politics Diploma of Higher Education in Politics
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	4 years part-time, 3 years full-time 4 yrs full-time with FY, 6 yrs part-time with FY
9	Mode of Study	Part Time and Full time
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details (or not applicable)	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Statement	Politics and International Relations

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>BA Politics:</p> <p>The BA Politics equips students with the tools to understand the nature of Politics in the modern world. It is taught with an emphasis on the interdisciplinary nature of the study of politics, drawing on history, sociology, economics, anthropology, human geography and psychology as well as politics. It also recognises the close connection between theoretical and empirical approaches, rejecting the artificial distinction that is often made between political theory and political science.</p> <p>Students are provided with a strong grounding in British politics in years 1 and 2, but from the beginning are encouraged to think about Politics in comparative and international perspective. There is also a stress on the idea of politics as a practice, an activity engaged in not just by politicians, but by many different kinds of actors and institutions in modern societies.</p> <p>BA Politics with Foundation Year:</p> <p>For the BA Politics with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year provides students the opportunity to explore their interests and build on their study skills, and on successful completion of the Foundation Year, students may progress onto year one of the programme. The final three years (full-time) or 4 years (part-</p>

	time) of the 'with foundation year' programme route is the same as the 3 or 4 year BA programmes and students who successfully complete a degree programme with foundation year are awarded the same final degree title as students on the other BA degree routes.
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p> <p>The UCAS tariff is set at 120-128 points. The UCAS tariff score is applicable if students have recently studied a qualification that has a UCAS tariff equivalence. Students who fail to achieve this level may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.</p> <p>We welcome applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of qualifications, knowledge and previous work experience. We may waive formal entry requirements based on judgement of academic potential.</p> <p>BA Politics with Foundation Year</p> <p>This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Politics but who do not currently meet the entry criteria for direct entrance onto the degree. Applicants will often be invited for interview to discuss their interests and future plans, and to assess their needs and aptitudes. For those students who already have Level 3 qualifications the expectation is that they will have qualifications equivalent to 48 UCAS tariff points. Given that students on the foundation year will be enrolled on degree programmes, applicants will be offered a place only if there is significant evidence to suggest they have the ability to complete the full degree.</p>
16	<p>Learning Outcomes</p> <p>Foundation Year:</p> <p>Students will have acquired:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A foundational understanding of the different disciplines offered by the School of Social Science, History and Philosophy 2. A foundational understanding of some key concepts in those disciplines 3. Key academic reading, writing, research and assessment skills appropriate to the study of those disciplines 4. An understanding of other key learning skills required for university-level study and knowledge of how to access support at Birkbeck to develop these. <p>All modes of study:</p> <p>On successful completion of this programme a student will be expected to be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate knowledge of politics in a number of different societies, • Employ comparative analysis in the study of political institutions and practices across different societies and regions. • Demonstrate a developed knowledge of various theories of politics drawn from political science, political theory and other disciplines in the social sciences. • Recognise the importance of political practice and how this shapes and is shaped by large scale political institutions and processes. • Demonstrate developed skills of enquiry and analysis in politics and social science.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Demonstrate a capacity to communicate clearly ideas and arguments about politics both orally and in writing. • Where appropriate, employ skills developed in the course of study in public and vocational settings.
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Various teaching and learning methods are used on the degree. Most teaching takes place in lectures and seminars, employing a variety of methods such as small group work, student presentations, debates, guest speakers and so on. Other forms of teaching are used where appropriate, including field-trips, the use of film, etc. In line with other teaching in the Department, extensive use is made of audio-visual facilities and web-based learning tools such as Moodle.</p> <p>A mix of assessment strategies is used. Level 4 modules employ a combination of short essays and in-class tests. Assessment at levels 5 and 6 is through coursework (essays), small-scale assessment tests (for example, political blogging, writing policy briefs) and examinations. Where essays are used they are compulsory, but essay marks only count towards the final module mark if they improve on the exam mark. This means that essays can be treated as formative exercises, enabling students to obtain feedback but not jeopardising their opportunity to get a good result for the module in the exam. Written feedback on essays is provided within three weeks of submission, and students have the opportunity to clarify any feedback by contacting their lecturers and seminar leaders.</p>
18	<p>Programme Structure</p> <p>BA Politics:</p> <p>Students take four level 4 modules, two in the first year and two in the second on the full-time version of the programme. These ensure that they have an introductory grasp of the degree content and are equipped with the general knowledge and skills required for an honours degree in Politics. Compulsory level 5 modules cover the subjects of British and comparative political institutions and applied politics, while the level 6 core module in Social and Political Theory ensures that graduates have achieved a high level of training in the theoretical bases of political science. Options enable students to pursue particular interests related to Politics, including the application of theory to topical issues (Challenges in Contemporary Politics), the in-depth study of countries' and regions' political systems (American Politics and Foreign Policy, Comparative European Politics), and political economy and social policy (Capitalism, Social Relations and Social Policy).</p> <p>BA Politics with Foundation Year:</p> <p>Students in the BA Politics with Foundation year take 120 credits at Level 3 in the foundation year(s). There are four core modules:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City 2. Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge 3. Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP 4. Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy

	Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BA Politics with Foundation Year (which is the same as the routes without foundation years.)
--	---

4 year part-time programme**Year 1**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	FFPO956S4	Comparative Government	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO139S5	Transformations in Modern Politics	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO140S4	Surveying Political Research	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO137S4	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	POSO003S5	Contemporary British Politics	30	Compulsory

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO143S5	Challenges in Contemporary Politics	30	Compulsory
5/6		Option module	30	Optional
6	POSO013S6	Social and Political Theory	30	Compulsory

Year 4

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6	POSO017S6	Level 6 option OR dissertation	30	Optional

3 year full-time programme**Year 1**

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	FFPO956S4	Comparative Government	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO139S5	Transformations in Modern Politics	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO143S5	Challenges in Contemporary Politics	30	Compulsory

Year 2

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO140S4	Surveying Political Research	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO137S4	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	POSO003S5	Contemporary British Politics	30	Compulsory
5/6		Level 5 or 6 option	30	Optional

Year 3

Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	POSO013S6	Social and Political Theory	30	Compulsory
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6	POSO017S6	Level 6 option OR dissertation	30	Optional

BA Politics with Foundation Year (Full-time 4 years)				
Foundation Year 0				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	FFPO956S4	Comparative Government	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO139S5	Transformations in Modern Politics	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO143S5	Challenges in Contemporary Politics	30	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO140S4	Surveying Political Research	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO137S4	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	POSO003S5	Contemporary British Politics	30	Compulsory
5/6		Level 5 or 6 option	30	Optional
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	POSO013S6	Social and Political Theory	30	Compulsory
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6	POSO017S6	Level 6 option OR dissertation	30	Optional
BA Politics with Foundation Year (Part-time 6 years)				
FOUNDATION Year (0a)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	CASE002S3	Fundamentals of Study: Learning through the Global City	30	Core
3	CASE001S3	Breaking Boundaries of Knowledge	30	Core
FOUNDATION Year (0b)				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
3	SSSS001S3	Crossing Borders: Studying in SSHP	30	Core
3	SSSS002S3	Contemporary Global Issues: Approaches in Social Science, History and Philosophy	30	Core
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	FFPO956S4	Comparative Government	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO139S5	Transformations in Modern Politics	30	Compulsory

Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO140S4	Surveying Political Research	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO137S4	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	POSO003S5	Contemporary British Politics	30	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO143S5	Challenges in Contemporary Politics	30	Compulsory
5		Option module	30	Optional
6	POSO013S6	Social and Political Theory	30	Compulsory
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6		Level 6 option	30	Optional
6	POSO017S6	Level 6 option OR dissertation	30	Optional

19	Regulations
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Admissions This programme adheres to the College Admissions Policy http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/admissions-policy.pdf Credit Transfer Accredited Prior Learning will be considered in line with the College Policy on Accredited Prior Learning http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/documents/accreditation-prior-learning.pdf Programme Regulations This programme adheres to the College Common Awards Scheme http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/policies/regulations Programme Specific Regulations (or not applicable) N/A

20	Student Attendance Framework – in brief
	<p>The full version of the 'Student Attendance Framework' is available http://www.bbk.ac.uk/mybirkbeck/services/rules/Attendance-Framework.pdf .</p> <p>Principle Consistent and regular student attendance in class (or equivalent) promotes and affords student success. Inconsistent and irregular attendance is less likely to result in student success and is consistent with lower marks and degree classifications being achieved and awarded.</p> <p>Attendance expectation Birkbeck, University of London expects you to consistently attend all timetabled sessions, including lectures, seminars, group and individual tutorials, learning support sessions, workshops, laboratories, field trips, inductions and demonstrations.</p> <p>E-Registers</p>

	All Birkbeck students are issued with student cards. Students are expected to take them to classes and to assessment venues and to present them to a member of staff if requested. This is for the purpose of identifying Birkbeck students.
--	--

21	Student Support and Guidance
	All Birkbeck students have access to a range of student support services, details can be found on our website here: http://www.bbk.ac.uk/student-services

22	Methods of Enhancing Quality and Standards
	<p>The College has rigorous procedures in place for the monitoring and enhancing its educational provision. This includes regular monitoring of programmes drawing on feedback from various sources including external examiner's reports, student feedback, student achievement and progression data. In addition, departments are reviewed every four to five years through the internal review process that includes external input.</p> <p>For more information please see the Academic Standards and Quality website http://www.bbk.ac.uk/registry/about-us/operations-and-quality .</p>

23	Programme Director	Dr Edwin Bacon
24	Start Date (<i>term/year</i>)	PT – Oct 2011 FT – Oct 2012
25	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2011
26	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2011
27	Date(s) updated/amended	September 2020