

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London				
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College				
3	Programme Title(s)	BA History and International Relations				
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAHSIR_C Full-time UBAHISIR_C Part-time				
5	UCAS code (if applicable)	VL1F				
6	Home Department	History, Classics and Archaeology				
7	Exit Award(s)	Dip HE, Cert HE				
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years FT, 4 years PT				
9	Mode of Study	FT	X	PT	X	DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6				
11	Other teaching depts or institution	Politics				
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A				
13	QAA Benchmark Group	History				

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>This programme builds on the current collaboration between the departments of History, Classics and Archaeology and Politics at masters level. It meets the rising demand to study the history of the twentieth century alongside international relations. Students are taught by academics across two research-active departments. The course examines the global evolution of international relations, with an emphasis on in-depth historical studies supported by political and sociological analysis.</p>

15	Entry Criteria
	<p>For students who have recently taken qualifications with UCAS tariff equivalence, the UCAS tariff score is 104-120 points (A-levels: BCC-BBB). 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>

16	Learning Outcomes
	<p>Students completing the BA History and International Relations will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. acquired knowledge of the history of states and the evolution of international relations 2. developed an understanding of state systems globally, including countries and regions beyond Europe; 3. extended and developed their analytical, evaluative and critical capacities 4. developed transferable skills, including the ability to take responsibility for their own learning, learning how to learn, making oral and written presentations, planning and producing written assignments in accord with basic scholarly standards, working independently and in

	groups, managing their time effectively and, where they have so chosen, using information technology relevant to their areas of study.
17	<p>Learning, teaching and assessment methods</p> <p>Lecturers provide an overview of issues relevant to the subject being studied. Seminars mix tutor-led instruction with group discussion. They allow students to explore issues in depth and there is an expectation that all students will participate actively by reading recommended texts in advance and offering questions and viewpoints to the group. Where students work in areas related to their course, their experiences enrich discussion. Both lectures and seminars are used to develop subject knowledge and understanding, and to foster key analytical skills. The BA History and International Relations degree has been designed to guide and support students toward the attainment of the skills necessary to independent learning: by the end of their studies, students should be able to read critically, prioritise evidence, and present arguments coherently in written and oral forms.</p> <p>Teaching, learning and assessment modes are regularly reviewed in light of student feedback, student achievement, external examiners' reports, and peer monitoring. Students frequently consult staff outside formal teaching hours, often by email but also in person. Teaching is supported by comprehensive written guidance designed to support independent learning. A detailed coursebook for each module gives contact details of course tutors, describes intended learning outcomes and includes a course outline, schedule, recommendations for weekly reading, and essential information about course organization and assessment. Further materials are distributed in class, and guidelines on dissertations, revision and exam techniques are provided to students during the year.</p> <p>Assessment methods combine a mixture of essays, reports, book reviews, and other written work and unseen written examinations across the taught modules. Essays enable students to read around a particular facet of a subject in depth; examinations provide an opportunity to test students' grasp of a wide range of material within a reasonably short assessment procedure. All students must demonstrate basic proficiency in both examinations and coursework. Provision is made for students with learning difficulties, health issues, or disabilities that may affect their ability to complete coursework and examinations. The Department works closely with the Disability Office to enable all students to participate fully in our courses.</p>
18	<p>Programme Description</p> <p>The programme consists of 360 credits: 10 modules of 30 credits each and 4 modules of 15 credits each; or 8 modules of 30 credits each plus 4 modules of 15 credits each plus Writing the Past: Dissertation (60 credits). Students will take 120 credits at level 4, 120 credits at level 5, and 120 credits at level 6.</p> <p>Compulsory modules:</p> <p>Three are at level 4: The Study of Politics (30 credits), Introduction to International Relations: History and Theory (15 credits) and Structures and Issues in Global Politics (15 credits).</p> <p>Three compulsory modules are at level 5: Exploring the Past (30 credits), International Relations and Foreign Policy, I and International Relations and Foreign Policy, II (15 credits each). At each of these levels, the compulsory modules provide training in relevant study skills and essential disciplinary tools.</p>

<p>At level 6, students must take War and Modern Society, I and War and Modern Society, II (15 credits each).</p> <p>At level 4 study, students also must take two of three modules in History: The Early Modern World, The Modern World, and The Contemporary World. These introduce students to broad time periods, a wide range of geographical areas, and essential themes. They are taught by a mixture of lecture and seminar. The modules are assessed by a combination of exams, essays, book reports, and source analysis.</p> <p>Optional modules:</p> <p>At level 5, students also take an optional module in History and one in Politics.</p> <p>At level 6, students must take a choice of option modules from both disciplines. Among those choices is the dissertation in History and IR, and a choice of History documents-based 'Special Subject' modules. It should be emphasized that for this joint degree, these are available options and are NOT compulsory.</p> <p>There are a large variety of modules on offer within the degree, details of which are available from the department.</p>

19	Programme Structure			
Full Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO170H4	Introduction to International Relations: History and Theory	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO171H4	Structures and Issues in Global Politics	15	Compulsory
4		Level 4 option from History	30	Option
4		Level 4 option from History	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO172H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy 1: diplomacy	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO173H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy 2: policy and issues	15	Compulsory
5		Level 5 option from History	30	Option
5		Level 5 option from Politics	30	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO174H6	War and Modern Society, I	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO175H6	War and Modern Society, II	15	Compulsory
6		Level 6 option from History	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	Option

Part Time programme				
Year 1				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSPO017S4	The Study of Politics	30	Compulsory
4	SSPO170H4	Introduction to International Relations: History and Theory	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO171H4	Structures and Issues in Global Politics	15	Compulsory
4		Level 4 option from History	30	Option
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4		Level 4 option from History	30	Option
5	SSHC407S5	Exploring the Past	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO172H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy 1: diplomacy	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO173H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy 2: policy and issues	15	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6	SSPO174H6	War and Modern Society, I	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO175H6	War and Modern Society, II	15	Compulsory
5		Level 5 option from History	30	Option
5		Level 5 option from Politics	30	Option
Year 4				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
6		Level 6 option from History	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	Option
6		Level 6 option from either discipline	30	Option
Department of History Classics and Archaeology - Indicative Option Modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
4	SSHC413S4	The Early Modern World	30	Option
4	SSHC411S4	The Modern World	30	Option
4	SSHC412S4	The Contemporary World	30	Option
5	SSHC438S5	Contested nation: Germany 1871-1918 (level 5)	30	Option
5	SSHC433S5	The Ottoman Empire (level 5)	30	Option
5	SSHC505S5	Empires: Conquest and Decolonisation, from 1700 to Brexit	30	Option
6	SSHC228S6	A Hundred Years of the Russian Revolution, 1891-1991	30	Option
6	HICL197S6	Intimate Britain: Family, Society and Culture, 1832-1918	30	Option
6	HICL204S6	The Birth of a Superpower: China from 1900 to the Present Day	30	Option
6	SSHC242S6	The Cold War in Global Perspective	30	Option
6	HICL147S6	The Third Reich	30	Option

Department of Politics - Indicative Option Modules				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	Status
5	SSPO183H5	Politics in the Middle East	15	Option
5	SSPO160H5	Gender in the Global Political Economy	15 + 15	Option
5	SSPO161H5	Race in the Global Political Economy		
6	SSPO164H6	Contemporary Social and Political Theory	15+15	Option
6	SSPO163H6	Classic Texts		
6	SSPO181H6	The Rise of the Modern Food System	15+15	Option
6	SSPO182H6	The Politics of the Global Food System		
6	SSPO190H6	International Migration and Transnationalism I and II	15+15	Option
6	SSPO191H6			
6	SSPO185H6	Capitalism: histories and theories	15 + 15	Option
6	SSPO186H6	Capitalism and the Politics of Markets		
6	SSPO184H6	Political Economy in the Middle East	15	Option

Status*

CORE – Module must be taken and passed by student; COMPULSORY – Module must be taken, mark can be reviewed at sub-exam board; OPTIONAL – Student can choose to take this module

²⁰	Programme Director	Chandak Sengoopta
²¹	Start Date (term/year)	Autumn 2014
²²	Date approved by TQEC	Spring 2013
²³	Date approved by Academic Board	Summer 2013
²⁴	Date(s) updated/amended	20 April 2021