

Programme Specification

1	Awarding body	University of London
2	Teaching Institution	Birkbeck College
3	Programme Title(s)	BA Global Politics and International Relations BA Global Politics and International Relations with Foundation Year
4	Programme Code(s)	UUBAGLPR_C (full-time), UBAGLPIR_C (part-time) UUBFGLPR_C (full-time with Foundation Year) UBFGLPIR_C (part-time with Foundation Year)
5	UCAS code	L219/ L292 (with Foundation Year)
6	Home Department	Department of Politics
7	Exit Award(s)	Cert HE Politics and International Studies Dip HE in Global Politics and International Relations
8	Duration of Study (number of years)	3 years full-time, 4 years full-time with Foundation Year, 4 years part-time, 6 years part-time with Foundation Year
9	Mode of Study	FT x PT x DL
10	Level of Award (FHEQ)	6
11	Other teaching depts or institution	N/A
12	Professional, Statutory Regulatory Body(PSRB) details	N/A
13	QAA Benchmark Group	Politics and International Relations

14	Programme Rationale & Aims
	<p>BA Global Politics and International Relations: This programme aims to provide students with the main theoretical, conceptual and empirical skills required for understanding and explaining contemporary global politics and international relations. Its compulsory modules focus on: the history of the state and the international system, the contemporary international political and economic system, the major theories of global politics and international relations, and the relationship between war and global social relations. In line with the interdisciplinary nature of the Department of Politics, the programme draws on a wide range of resources from political theory and philosophy, political science, and the traditions of political and historical sociology.</p> <p>BA Global Politics and International Relations with Foundation Year: For the BA Global Politics and International Relations with Foundation Year programme, the purpose of the Foundation Year is to prepare students for successful completion of their undergraduate degree. The Foundation Year (one year FT or two years PT) provides</p>

	<p>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 PT or FT programmes. The curriculum for the 'with foundation year' programme after the completion of the foundation year modules is the same as the full-time or part-time BA programme. Students who successfully complete the versions of the degree programme 'with foundation year' are awarded the same final degree title as students on the full-time or part-time degree routes.</p>
15	<p>Entry Criteria</p>
	<p>Students who have recently taken A-level qualifications will require CCC-ABB at A-Level (or UCAS tariff points 96 - 128). Students who fail to achieve these grades may still be considered for entry if they demonstrate the required level of intellectual commitment and potential.</p> <p>Birkbeck welcomes 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 or consider alternative qualifications based on judgement of academic potential.</p> <p>BA Global Politics and International Relations with Foundation Year</p> <p>This programme is designed for people who can demonstrate the ability and motivation to complete the BA Global Politics and International Relations 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:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - understand and employ the main concepts and theories used in the analysis of global politics, globalisation and international relations;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - critically examine arguments concerning the nature of the 'global' and the 'international' and the relationship between the two; - understand the major transformations that have taken place in the international political and economic system in the modern period, and evaluate various explanations of these transformations; - understand and critically assess the relationship between the state and the international system, as well as the role played by war in international politics; - demonstrate a clear awareness of the importance of the relationship between theory and empirical evidence in the study of politics; - demonstrate proficiency in the employment of key analytical skills in the study of politics; - use the skills developed in the programme for vocational and personal purposes, and potentially in further academic study.
17	Learning, teaching and assessment methods
	<p>Teaching takes place in lectures and seminars. In seminars, a variety of methods are employed to engage students, including student presentations (individual and group), small group discussions, debates and so on. Lectures are supported by a detailed coursebook for each module that indicates relevant reading and guides further private study. Web-based resources are used to facilitate access to reading and other course materials.</p> <p>Assessment is through coursework (essays) and examinations. 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	Programme Description
	<p>Foundation Year: Students in the BA Global Politics and International Relations 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 <p>Students who successfully pass all modules with grades of 40% or higher may progress onto Year one of BA Global Politics and International Relations with Foundation Year.</p> <p>BA Global Politics and International Relations: Across the programme, students take three compulsory skills modules in the autumn term of years 1, 2 and 3 (The Study of Politics, Governing by Numbers and Political Research: A Critical Approach). At level 4, compulsory modules include How the West Was Made: Transformations in Global Politics, Democracy and Authoritarianism, Conceptualising Politics, and Introduction to International Relations: Theory and History. At level 5, students take compulsory modules including Liberalism and Its Discontents and International Relations and Foreign Policy I & II. The level 6 compulsory modules are War and Modern Society I & II. Students take various options at levels 5 and 6, including the possibility of taking modules outside the Department. In the final year, students may elect to take a 30 credit dissertation.</p>

Indicative list of options	
Level 5:	
SSPO160H5	Gender in the Global Political Economy
SSPO161H5	Race in the Global Political Economy
SSPO168H5	Contemporary British Politics
SSPO183H5	Politics in the Middle East
Level 6:	
SSPO162H6	Issues in European Political Economy
SSPO177H6	The United States in Global Politics: Theories and Histories
SSPO178H6	The Domestic Politics of US Foreign Policy
SSPO181H6	The Rise of the Modern Food System
SSPO182H6	The Politics of the Global Food System
SSPO163H6	Classic Texts
SSPO164H6	Contemporary Social and Political Theory
SSPO184H6	Political Economy in the Middle East
SSPO189H6	Politics and the Arts (Level 6)
SSPO218H6	Parliamentary Studies: Power, role and influence
SSPO219H6	Parliamentary Studies: representation and reform

¹⁹ Programme Structure				
Part Time – 4 years				
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	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global History	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	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
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Political Research	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option

Year 4				
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		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Dissertation* (optional 30 credit dissertation, or appropriate 30 credit option, or two 15 credit options).	30	Option
Full Time – 3 years				
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	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global History	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO172H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy 1: diplomacy	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO173H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy II	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Political Research	30	Compulsory
6	SSPO174H6	War and Modern Society I	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO175H6	War and Modern Society II	15	Compulsory
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Dissertation* (optional 30 credit dissertation, or appropriate 30 credit option, or two 15 credit options).	30	Option

BA Global Politics and International Relations 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	SSPO170H4	Introduction to International Relations: History and Theory	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO171H4	Structures and Issues in Global Politics	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global History	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO172H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy 1: diplomacy	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO173H5	International Relations and Foreign Policy II	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Political Research	30	Compulsory
6	SSPO174H5	War and Modern Society I	15	Compulsory
6	SSPO175H5	War and Modern Society II	15	Compulsory
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Dissertation* (optional 30 credit dissertation, or appropriate 30 credit option, or two 15 credit options).	30	Option

BA Global Politics and International Relations 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)				
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	SSPO170H4	Introduction to International Relations: History and Theory	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO171H4	Structures and Issues in Global Politics	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO152H4	How the West was Made: Transformations in Global History	15	Compulsory
4	SSPO153H4	Democracy and Authoritarianism	15	Compulsory
Year 2				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
5	SSPO151S5	Governing by Numbers	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	SSPO154H4	Political Ideologies and Imaginaries	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO155H4	Conceptualising Politics	15	Compulsory
Year 3				
Level	Module Code	Module Title	Credits	*Status
6	SSPO220S6	Doing Political Research	30	Compulsory
5	SSPO158H5	Liberalism and Its Discontents	15	Compulsory
5	SSPO159H5	Liberal Order and Disorder	15	Compulsory
5		Option	15	Option
5		Option	15	Option
Year 4				
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		Option	15	Option
6		Option	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Option*	15	Option
6		Dissertation* (optional 30 credit dissertation, or appropriate 30 credit option, or two 15 credit options).	30	Option

Year of entry: 2022/23



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	Jason Edwards
21	Start Date <i>(term/year)</i>	PT – pre 2008; FT – Oct 2012
22	Date approved by TQEC	Pre 2008
23	Date approved by Academic Board	Pre 2008
24	Date(s) updated/amended	November 2021