



UNIVERSITY OF  
LIVERPOOL

BA (Hons)

# International Relations

UCAS code L240

## Entry requirements

A level: ABB

## Study mode

Full-time

## Duration

3 years

Apply by: **14 January 2026**

Starts on: **28 September 2026**

## About this course

Studying International Relations brings a focus on power, authority, citizenship, conflict and cooperation in the world around us, it is an opportunity to engage with politics on an international scale and to think deeply about the changing world.

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## Introduction

Current international trends are interpreted in a historical perspective yet with a view to future directions and likely developments. Politics affects all our lives and with a deeper understanding you can join in conversations that address key issues.

You will have the opportunity to learn from internationally recognised scholars and to hear about their cutting edge research examining a wide range of aspects of international relations. You will explore political ideas, systems and processes, learn to question and to challenge, how to collect data, develop knowledge, construct arguments and communicate your findings in different ways.

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## What you'll learn

- Key features of international relations and politics
- Ability to investigate and analyse questions of international concern
- Critical evaluation of political events, ideas and institutions using a variety of methodologies and approaches
- Principles of academic writing and speaking
- Opportunity to undertake a work placement
- Application of the academic study of politics to questions of public concern and the ability to communicate with both specialist and non-specialist audiences

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# Course content

Discover what you'll learn, what you'll study, and how you'll be taught and assessed.

## Year one

In year one you will take Foundations in politics and Foundations in international politics, Comparative Politics and a study skills module Studying Politics Successfully: Skills and Methods that will aid you in developing all the tools you need to study International Relations effectively throughout your degree programme. You will also have the option to take either British Politics or Political Theory modules and a final 30 credits to study courses elsewhere in the University such as languages which can be an excellent companion to an International Relations degree.

Students take 30 credits of required modules and 30 credits of optional modules in each semester.

Students must take *either* **POLI101** and **POLI102** *or* **POLI105**.

**POLI105** is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester.

Additional optional modules from Open Languages may be taken up to a maximum of 30 credits.

## Modules

Compulsory modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS (POLI107)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>FOUNDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI104)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS (POLI109)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>STUDYING POLITICS SUCCESSFULLY: SKILLS AND METHODS (POLI103)</u></a>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>BRITISH POLITICS I (POLI101)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>WARFARE, POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN THE GREEK WORLD (CLAH104)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>POWER, BELIEF AND IDENTITY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN WORLDS, C. 500-1600 CE (HIST115)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>NORTHERN IRELAND BEFORE THE 'TROUBLES': FROM PARTITION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND ARMALITES (IRIS107)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>BRITISH POLITICS II (POLI102)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>MODERN BRITAIN: DEMOCRACY, WAR, AND MODERNITY (HIST116)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>UNDERSTANDING MODERN EUROPE (HIST117)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>IRELAND'S BATTLE OF IDEAS (IRIS114)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY (POLI105)</u></a>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Year two

In year two you will select from a pool of modules including International organisations, International political economy, Security in a globalised world, Foreign analysis and world politics, and Politics of international Human Rights as well as having the choice of a wide variety of modules that deal with the international political sphere. These include, but are not limited to American politics and society, Regimes and their consequences, and Gender and Feminist politics: core concepts and theories.

Students take 60 credits of optional modules in each semester.

Students must take 45 credits of specifically International Relations modules across the year.

**POLI200** is subject to an appropriate placement being sourced. Students cannot register directly for this module.

Registration onto **HLAC220** is only for students planning to undertake a work placement year.

## Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (POLI225)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>SECURITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD (POLI231)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>UK GENERAL ELECTIONS AND REFERENDUMS SINCE 1945 (POLI204)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY (POLI205)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (POLI215)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>THINKING ABOUT POLITICS (POLI218)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL CHANGE (POLI235)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>BRITISH PARTY POLITICS (POLI239)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>SUBSTANTIVE REPRESENTATION (POLI244)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING (POLI252)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>GENDER AND FEMINIST POLITICS: CORE CONCEPTS AND THEORIES (POLI257)</u></a>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI259)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>ROME IN THE LATE REPUBLIC (CLAH268)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>GLOBAL NEWS, MEDIA AND WAR (COMM213)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>"DOES THE NATION MATTER?" THE BASQUES' WILL TO PERSIST IN THE GLOBAL CULTURE (HISP218)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CRITICAL APPROACHES TO TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY (POLI203)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI209)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS AND INTERNATIONAL CRISES (POLI236)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI251)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>POLITICS IN ACTION (POLI200)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>POPULISM (POLI223)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>BRITISH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (POLI237)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>INTRODUCTION TO PEACE AND CONFLICT STUDIES (POLI247)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>PUBLIC ETHICS (POLI260)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY (POLI263)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>THE POLITICS OF 'RACE' AND MARGINALISATION (POLI265)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CONTEMPORARY SEXUAL POLITICS (POLI270)</u></a>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>POLITICAL ECONOMIES OF GLOBALISATION (ENVS264)</u>	15
<u>THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: POLITICS, CULTURE, MEMORY (GRMN220)</u>	15
<u>ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN: DECOLONIAL PERSPECTIVES (ITAL225)</u>	15

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Year three

In year three modules are available on Identity in contemporary international politics; World politics and the world economy, Comparative peace processes and Africa-China relations in a changing global order. You can also choose from a range of modules that don't have an explicit international dimension.

Students take 60 credits of optional modules in each semester.

**POLI342**, **POLI343** and **POLI354** are subject to a suitable placement being sourced. Students cannot register directly onto these modules.

There is an application process for **POLI342** and **POLI343**. Students accepted onto **POLI342** module take **POLI401** (Dissertation). Students cannot take both **POLI342** and **POLI343**.

**POLI339** is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester. There is an application process for this module. Students cannot register directly onto this module

**POLI401** is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester.

## Modules

Optional modules	Credits
<u>CONTEMPORARY PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES (POLI304)</u>	15

Optional modules	Credits
<u>SOLIDARITY, ACTIVISM AND BORDERS IN THE EU (POLI308)</u>	15
<u>COMPARATIVE ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR (POLI322)</u>	15
<u>FROM THE IRA TO THE FAR RIGHT: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324)</u>	15
<u>EU AS AN INTERNATIONAL ACTOR (POLI328)</u>	15
<u>LOCAL PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI343)</u>	45
<u>POLITICS AND THE BRAIN (POLI346)</u>	15
<u>STRATEGIC STUDIES IN CONFLICTS AND TERRORISM (POLI347)</u>	15
<u>THE PUZZLE OF CIVIL WAR (POLI353)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF PARTICIPATION AND CIVIC SPACE (POLI354)</u>	15
<u>CONFLICT AND POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (POLI815)</u>	15
<u>POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325)</u>	15
<u>POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES (ENVS334)</u>	15
<u>BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387)</u>	15
<u>CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS (LATI307)</u>	15
<u>IMMIGRATION AND THE STATE (POLI302)</u>	15
<u>HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES (POLI306)</u>	15
<u>PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310)</u>	15



Optional modules	Credits
<a href="#"><u>POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (POLI314)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>THEORIES OF POVERTY AND WEALTH (POLI316)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RHETORIC IN BRITISH POLITICS (POLI323)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>CONTEMPORARY POLITICS OF NATIONALISM (POLI332)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES (POLI336)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UK (POLI337)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>PARLIAMENTARY PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI342)</u></a>	45
<a href="#"><u>GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>RELIGION, FREEDOM AND EQUALITY (POLI350)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS (COMM317)</u></a>	15
<a href="#"><u>POLITICAL BROADCASTING (RADIO) (POLI339)</u></a>	30
<a href="#"><u>DISSERTATION (POLI401)</u></a>	30

Programme details and modules listed are illustrative only and subject to change.

## Combined degree

## Choosing this subject as a combined degree

You will explore international political ideas, systems and processes and learn how to collect data, develop knowledge and construct arguments.

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## Teaching and assessment

### How you'll learn

Research-connected teaching is initiated in the first year with introductions to quantitative, qualitative, theoretical, and critical methodologies, which are then embedded in second- and third-year modules so that students can evaluate and apply the methodologies to construct their own analyses. Though our lectures are interactive, our seminars, workshops, computer lab sessions, dissertations, and placements form the core of our active learning approach.

### How you're assessed

We use a rich variety of assessment methods to develop students' various skills. Essays, exams, and presentations enable students to practice core academic writing and speaking skills, while innovative assessments such as blog posts, reflective logs, group projects, podcasts, radio broadcasts and speeches expand our authentic assessment, enabling students to deploy transferable skills in various formats. Digital fluency is also developed in different ways, including sourcing relevant material, using online learning platforms and tools, producing audio and visual materials, word processing and statistical analysis.

### Liverpool Hallmarks

We have a distinctive approach to education, the Liverpool Curriculum Framework, which focuses on research-connected teaching, active learning, and authentic assessment to ensure our students graduate as digitally fluent and confident global citizens.

The Liverpool Curriculum framework sets out our distinctive approach to education. Our teaching staff support our students to develop academic knowledge, skills, and understanding alongside our **graduate attributes**:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three **Liverpool Hallmarks**:

- Research-connected teaching

- Active learning
- Authentic assessment

All this is underpinned by our core value of **inclusivity** and commitment to providing a curriculum that is accessible to all students.

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# Careers and employability

An International Relations degree from the University of Liverpool offers you the chance to develop a variety of transferrable skills, such as critical thinking, problem solving, written and verbal communication, teamwork, confidence and digital fluency.

Our graduates progress to a range of careers including local government, political parties, NGOs, charities and human rights organisations, civil and diplomatic services, market research, media and communications and public relations.

Previous employers include:

- Dell
- Pricewaterhouse Coopers
- The National Trust
- The British Council
- The Independent.

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# Fees and funding

Your tuition fees, funding your studies, and other costs to consider.

## Tuition fees

### UK fees (applies to Channel Islands, Isle of Man and Republic of Ireland)

Full-time place, per year – £9,535

Year abroad fee – £1,385 (applies to year in China)

### International fees

Full-time place, per year – £24,100

Year abroad fee – £12,050 (applies to year in China)

Fees are for academic year 2025/26.

Tuition fees cover the cost of your teaching and assessment, operating facilities such as libraries, IT equipment, and access to academic and personal support. [Learn more about paying for your studies.](#)

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## Additional costs

We understand that budgeting for your time at university is important, and we want to make sure you understand any course-related costs that are not covered by your tuition fee. This could include buying a laptop, books, or stationery.

Find out more about the [additional study costs](#) that may apply to this course.

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# Entry requirements

The qualifications and exam results you'll need to apply for this course.

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## A levels

ABB

Applicants with the Extended Project Qualification (EPQ) are eligible for a reduction in grade requirements. For this course, the offer is **ABB** with **A** in the EPQ.

You may automatically qualify for reduced entry requirements through our contextual offers scheme. Based on your personal circumstances, you may automatically qualify for up to a two-grade reduction in the entry requirements needed for this course. When you apply, we consider a range of factors – such as where you live – to assess if you're eligible for a grade reduction. You don't have to make an application for a grade reduction – we'll do all the work.

Find out more about [how we make reduced grade offers](#).

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## T levels

T levels considered in a relevant subject.

Applicants should contact us by [completing the enquiry form on our website](#) to discuss specific requirements in the core components and the occupational specialism.

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## GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

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## BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

Applications encouraged. BTEC applications are encouraged. We evaluate each BTEC application on its merits.

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## International Baccalaureate

32 points overall with no score less than 4 or pass the IB Diploma plus 6,5,5 in 3 HL subjects.

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## Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H3

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### **Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher**

AAB in Advanced Highers, combinations of Advanced Highers and Scottish Highers are welcome

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### **Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced**

B in the Welsh Baccalaureate, plus AB at A level.

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### **Access**

Pass relevant Access to HE Diploma with 45 Level 3 credits with 33 at Distinction and 12 at Merit.

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### **International qualifications**

Select your country or region to view specific entry requirements.

If you hold a bachelor's degree or equivalent, but don't meet our entry requirements, you could be eligible for a Pre-Master's course. This is offered on campus at the [University of Liverpool International College](#), in partnership with Kaplan International Pathways. It's a specialist preparation course for postgraduate study, and when you pass the Pre-Master's at the required level with good attendance, you're guaranteed entry to a University of Liverpool master's degree.

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## **English language requirements**

You'll need to demonstrate competence in the use of English language, unless you're from a [majority English speaking country](#).

We accept a variety of [international language tests](#) and [country-specific qualifications](#).

International applicants who do not meet the minimum required standard of English language can complete one of our [Pre-Sessional English courses](#) to achieve the required level.

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### **IELTS**

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

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### **TOEFL iBT**

88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

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### **Duolingo English Test**

125 overall, with speaking, reading and writing not less than 105, and listening not below 100

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### **Pearson PTE Academic**

61 overall, with no component below 59

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### **LanguageCert Academic**

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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### **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0500**

Grade C overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking and listening. Speaking and listening must be separately endorsed on the certificate.

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### **Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990**

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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### **Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0510/0511**

0510: Grade B overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0511: Grade B overall.

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### **Cambridge IGCSE Second Language English 0993/0991**



0993: Grade 6 overall, with a minimum of grade 2 in speaking. Speaking must be separately endorsed on the certificate. 0991: Grade 6 overall.

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**Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced**

176 overall, with no paper below 162

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**International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature**

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

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**International Baccalaureate English B**

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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**Pre-sessional English**

Do you need to complete a Pre-sessional English course to meet the English language requirements for this course?

The length of Pre-sessional English course you'll need to take depends on your current level of English language ability.

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**Pre-sessional English in detail**

If you don't meet our English language requirements, we can use your most recent IELTS score, or [the equivalent score in selected other English language tests](#), to determine the length of Pre-sessional English course you require.

Use the table below to check the course length you're likely to require for your current English language ability and see whether the course is available on campus or online.

Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
6.0 overall, with no component below 5.5	6 weeks	On campus

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Your most recent IELTS score	Pre-sessional English course length	On campus or online
5.5 overall, with no component below 5.5	10 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no more than one component below 5.5, and no component below 5.0	12 weeks	On campus and online options available
5.5 overall, with no component below 4.5	20 weeks	On campus
5.0 overall, with no component below 4.5	30 weeks	On campus
4.5 overall, with no more than one component below 4.5, and no component below 4.0	40 weeks	On campus

If you've completed an alternative English language test to IELTS, we may be able to use this to assess your English language ability and determine the Pre-sessional English course length you require.

Please see our guide to [Pre-sessional English entry requirements](#) for IELTS 6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5, for further details.

## Alternative entry requirements

- If your qualification isn't listed here, or you're taking a combination of qualifications, [contact us](#) for advice
- If you are returning to learning, have had a disrupted education or are switching career pathways, the one-year [Go Higher diploma](#) qualifies you to apply for University of Liverpool arts, humanities and social sciences programmes

- [Applications from mature students](#) are welcome.

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