

BA (Hons)

International Relations

UCAS code L240

Entry requirements

A level: ABB

Study mode

Full-time

Duration

3 years

Apply by: **13 January 2027**Starts on: **27 September 2027**

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.

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.

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 |
|--|---------|
| COMPARATIVE POLITICS (POLI107) | 15 |
| FOUNDATIONS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI104) | 15 |
| FOUNDATIONS IN POLITICS (POLI109) | 15 |
| STUDYING POLITICS SUCCESSFULLY: SKILLS AND METHODS (POLI103) | 15 |

| Optional modules | Credits |
|--|---------|
| INTRODUCTION TO BRITISH POLITICS (POLI101) | 15 |
| WARFARE, POLITICS AND SOCIETY IN THE GREEK WORLD (CLAH104) | 15 |
| POWER, BELIEF AND IDENTITY: MEDIEVAL AND EARLY MODERN WORLDS, C. 500–1600 CE (HIST115) | 15 |
| NORTHERN IRELAND BEFORE THE 'TROUBLES': FROM PARTITION TO CIVIL RIGHTS AND ARMALITES (IRIS107) | 15 |
| BRITISH POLITICS IN COMPARATIVE PERSPECTIVE (POLI102) | 15 |
| PEOPLE, POWER AND POLITICS: APPROACHES TO MODERN BRITISH HISTORY C. 1880–2016 (HIST116) | 15 |
| UNDERSTANDING MODERN EUROPE (HIST117) | 15 |
| IRELAND'S BATTLE OF IDEAS (IRIS114) | 15 |
| INTRODUCTION TO POLITICAL THEORY (POLI105) | 30 |

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

Modules

| Optional modules | Credits |
|---|---------|
| INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS (POLI225) | 15 |
| SECURITY IN A GLOBALISED WORLD (POLI231) | 15 |
| POLITICS OF INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS (POLI251) | 15 |
| AMERICAN POLITICS AND SOCIETY (POLI205) | 15 |
| COMPARATIVE POLITICS OF THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (POLI215) | 15 |
| DEVOLUTION IN THE UK (POLI227) | 15 |
| DEMOCRATISATION AND POLITICAL CHANGE (POLI235) | 15 |
| BRITISH PARTY POLITICS (POLI239) | 15 |
| INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL COMMUNICATION AND PUBLIC SPEAKING (POLI252) | 15 |
| GENDER AND FEMINIST POLITICS: CORE CONCEPTS AND THEORIES (POLI257) | 15 |

| Optional modules | Credits |
|--|---------|
| INTRODUCTION TO DATA SCIENCE FOR POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (POLI264) | 15 |
| INTRODUCTION TO QUALITATIVE AND INTERPRETIVE RESEARCH DESIGN (POLI266) | 15 |
| GLOBAL NEWS, MEDIA AND WAR (COMM213) | 15 |
| "DOES THE NATION MATTER?" THE BASQUES' WILL TO PERSIST IN THE GLOBAL CULTURE (HISP218) | 15 |
| PLACEMENT YEAR PREPARATION (HLAC220) | 15 |
| ITALY, AFRICA AND THE MEDITERRANEAN: FROM THE FASCIST EMPIRE TO THE PRESENT (ITAL225) | 15 |
| GLOBAL PUBLIC SPACES: RESISTANCE, JUSTICE AND HERITAGE (MODL230) | 15 |
| CRITICAL APPROACHES TO TRANSNATIONAL SECURITY (POLI203) | 15 |
| INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL ECONOMY (POLI209) | 15 |
| FOREIGN POLICY ANALYSIS AND INTERNATIONAL CRISES (POLI236) | 15 |
| POLITICS IN ACTION (POLI200) | 15 |
| THINKING ABOUT POLITICS (POLI218) | 15 |
| POPULISM (POLI223) | 15 |
| BRITISH POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES (POLI237) | 15 |
| PUBLIC ETHICS (POLI260) | 15 |

| Optional modules | Credits |
|---|---------|
| BRITISH FOREIGN POLICY (POLI263) | 15 |
| THE POLITICS OF 'RACE' AND MARGINALISATION (POLI265) | 15 |
| CONTEMPORARY SEXUAL POLITICS (POLI270) | 15 |
| POLITICAL ECONOMIES OF GLOBALISATION (ENVS264) | 15 |
| THE GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC: POLITICS, CULTURE, MEMORY (GRMN220) | 15 |

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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 and **POLI343** 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 to **POLI342** module take **POLI401** (Dissertation). Students cannot take both **POLI342** and **POLI343**.

POLI401 is a 'year-long' module and represents 15 credits in each semester. There is an application process for this module. Students cannot register directly for this module

Modules

| Optional modules | Credits |
|---|---------|
| POSTCOLONIAL GEOGRAPHIES (ENVS334) | 15 |
| CONTEMPORARY PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES (POLI304) | 15 |
| AFRICA-CHINA RELATIONS IN A CHANGING GLOBAL ORDER (POLI305) | 15 |
| SOLIDARITY, ACTIVISM AND BORDERS IN THE EU (POLI308) | 15 |
| ELECTORAL BEHAVIOUR AND DATA ANALYTICS (POLI322) | 15 |
| FROM THE IRA TO THE FAR RIGHT: UNDERSTANDING POLITICAL VIOLENCE IN THE CONTEMPORARY WORLD (POLI324) | 15 |
| CONSERVATIVE AND LABOUR THINKERS (POLI326) | 15 |
| CONSERVATIVE THINKERS (POLI327) | 15 |
| LOCAL PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI343) | 45 |
| POLITICS AND THE BRAIN (POLI346) | 15 |
| THE PUZZLE OF CIVIL WAR (POLI353) | 15 |
| CONFLICT AND POLITICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND (POLI815) | 15 |
| POLITICS OF THE ENVIRONMENT (ENVS325) | 15 |
| BUILDING BETTER WORLDS (ENVS387) | 15 |
| CONTEMPORARY LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS (LATI307) | 15 |

| Optional modules | Credits |
|---|---------|
| HUMANITARIAN ACTION IN COMPLEX EMERGENCIES (POLI306) | 15 |
| PUBLIC POLICY: AN ADVANCED INTRODUCTION (POLI310) | 15 |
| POLITICS OF DEVELOPMENT (POLI314) | 15 |
| THEORIES OF POVERTY AND WEALTH (POLI316) | 15 |
| INTERNATIONAL INTERVENTION (POLI321) | 15 |
| THE THEORY AND PRACTICE OF RHETORIC IN BRITISH POLITICS (POLI323) | 15 |
| CONTEMPORARY POLITICS OF NATIONALISM (POLI332) | 15 |
| COMPARATIVE PEACE PROCESSES (POLI336) | 15 |
| LOCAL GOVERNMENT IN THE UK (POLI337) | 15 |
| PARLIAMENTARY PLACEMENT SCHEME (POLI342) | 45 |
| GENDER AND GLOBAL POLITICS (POLI349) | 15 |
| PROBLEMS IN POLITICAL THEORY (POLI352) | 15 |
| MEDIA AND HUMAN RIGHTS (COMM317) | 15 |
| DISSERTATION (POLI401) | 30 |

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alignment with our research strengths. The course content currently shown on this page reflects the programme as it is running in September 2026. This page will be updated for students beginning in September 2027 by 1 September 2026 at the latest.

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.

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 to 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 Learning Framework

At Liverpool, we take a distinctive approach to education through the Liverpool Learning Framework. This means teaching that is engaging, inclusive and designed to help you succeed during your studies and beyond.

You'll develop specialist subject knowledge alongside the skills employers value most, including:

- Digital fluency
- Confidence
- Global citizenship

Our curriculum is characterised by the three Liverpool Hallmarks:

- Research-connected teaching – learning informed by the latest ideas and discoveries
- Active learning – taking part, applying knowledge and learning by doing
- Authentic assessment – assessments designed around real-world tasks and challenges

We also embed key priorities across our curriculum, including AI literacy, employability, and sustainability, helping you prepare for the future and make a positive impact in the world.

We're committed to creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment where every student can thrive.

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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 – £10,050

Year in industry fee – £2,010

Year abroad fee – £1,508 (applies to year in China)

International fees

Full-time place, per year – £27,000

Year in industry fee – £1,955

Year abroad fee – £13,500 (applies to year in China)

The UK fees shown are for the academic year 2027/28. The international fees shown are for the academic year 2026/27 and will be subject for change for the academic year 2027/28. Please be advised that tuition fees may increase each year for both UK and international students. For UK students, this will be subject to the government's regulated fee limits.

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.](#)

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.

A levels

ABB

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

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.

GCSE

4/C in English and 4/C in Mathematics

BTEC Level 3 National Extended Diploma

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

International Baccalaureate

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

Irish Leaving Certificate

H1, H1, H2, H2, H2, H3

Scottish Higher/Advanced Higher

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

Welsh Baccalaureate Advanced

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

Access

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

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.

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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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.

IELTS

6.5 overall, with no component below 5.5

TOEFL iBT

If you took a TOEFL test on or before 20 January 2026, you'll need 88 overall, with minimum scores of listening 17, writing 17, reading 17 and speaking 19. If you took a TOEFL test from 21 January 2026 onwards, when a new scoring system was introduced, you'll need 4.5 overall, with 4 or above in all components. TOEFL Home Edition not accepted.

Duolingo English Test

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

Pearson PTE Academic

61 overall, with no component below 59

LanguageCert Academic

70 overall, with no skill below 60

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.

Cambridge IGCSE First Language English 0990

Grade 4 overall, with Merit in speaking and listening

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.

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.

Cambridge ESOL Level 2/3 Advanced

176 overall, with no paper below 162

International Baccalaureate English A: Literature or Language & Literature

Grade 5 at Standard Level or grade 5 at Higher Level

International Baccalaureate English B

Grade 7 at Standard Level or grade 6 at Higher Level

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.

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 or online |
| 5.5 overall, with no more than one component at 5.0 | 10 weeks | On campus or online |
| 5.5 overall, with no component below 5.0 | 12 weeks | Online |
| 5.0 overall, with no component below 5.0 | 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 at 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.

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