

Programme Title: BA International Relations



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of award and field of study:	BA International Relations
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	3 academic years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	UBAF-QMPOLI1, USINR, L250
QAA Benchmark Group:	Politics and International Relations
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

### Programme outline

The programme covers the broad themes and theories associated with the study of international relations, such as the state system, development, security, conflict and globalisation. You'll be taught by world-class academics with distinctive expertise in their fields of research, including European, American, Latin American, African and Middle Eastern politics. You'll study international relations through the lens of both historical and contemporary examples, from the 1870s 'Scramble for Africa' through to the Cold War, the origins of the War on Terror, the global financial crisis and the Arab Spring, and learn how to apply theories to reflect on their relevance. You'll be introduced to political concepts, theories, ideologies and analysis in your first year.

As you progress in your studies you'll choose from a wide range of module options, covering national and global issues.

### Aims of the programme

The programme aims to:

- Provide students with a coherent, wide-ranging and intellectually stimulating programme including themes and issues in international relations, theories of international relations, international political economy, IR and security, development, nationalism and national identity, cosmopolitanism, and comparative politics including regional specialisms.

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- Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of methodological approaches.
- Enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement and to undertake independent research tasks.
- Develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
- Provide a basis for further study in International Relations or related disciplines.

**What will you be expected to achieve?**

Students who successfully complete the programme will achieve the following learning outcomes:

- Detailed understanding of key principles, concepts, theories and research methods in Politics, Political Theory and International Relations;
- The ability to apply these frameworks to understand contemporary political phenomena; and
- The ability to think critically and independently, to reason, to evaluate and deploy evidence, to draw appropriate conclusions, and to make persuasive arguments, in writing and orally.

**Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19**

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking
- multi- and inter-disciplinarity
- international perspectives
- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:

A 1	The nature of politics including a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of international relations and international politics
A 2	Understanding of historical and contemporary political phenomena, including political texts, issues and problems within the field of study
A 3	Knowledge and application of appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the field of international relations

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of international relations
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B 2	Apply knowledge and understanding, selecting and using established techniques and a range of sources to evaluate texts, issues and problems in the field of study
B 3	Select appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to a range of issues within the field of study

Attributes:	
C 1	Identify and critically evaluate appropriate information in specific contexts in a self-directed way, and reflect on how this might be used and adapted to different contexts
C 2	Work independently, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self organisation and time management
C 3	Establish a skills and learning agenda through negotiation, participation and communication in group discussions
C 4	Develop a global perspective and reflect on how this might be adapted to local contexts
C 5	Develop a reasoned argument and synthesise information, and communicate this clearly and effectively
C 6	Select and use information, including from IT sources
C 7	Exercise critical judgement and self-reflection on their own learning, and to use this to adapt to new situations in professional settings

### How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with SPIR's Education Strategy and statement of educational principles, which support excellent, inclusive and innovative teaching practice aimed at fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students. Our strategy is informed by QMUL's 2030 strategy.

Teaching takes a number of forms:

- lectures
- seminars
- workshops
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work.

Learning is supported by:

- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMPlus and online reading lists
- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Research methods training

### How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include: written coursework; examinations; presentations; and the final-year dissertation.

**How is the programme structured?**

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

Year1 (level 4)  
 Compulsory:  
 -POL106 Introduction to International Relations (30 credits)  
 -POL110 Thinking Politically: Introduction to concepts, theories and Ideologies (30 credits)  
 -POL105 Political Analysis (30 credits)  
 -POL113 Politics in Action (15 credits)

Optional:  
 -POL108 Background to British Politics (15 credits)  
 -OR POL109 Global Histories (15 credits)  
 -OR: 15 Level 4 credits from another School

Year 2 (level 5)  
 Compulsory:  
 -POL251 - International Relations Theory (30 credits)

At least 60 credits from:  
 -POL247 Modernity: Theories of the State, Economy and Society (30 credits)  
 -POL256 War in World Politics (15 credits)  
 -POL258 The International Politics of Security (15 credits)  
 -POL259 Politics of International Law (15 credits)  
 -POL261 Power in Global Governance (15 credits)  
 -POL255 Colonialism, Capitalism and Development (15 credits)  
 -POL257 The International Politics of the Developing World (15 credits)

Optional:  
 -An additional 30 Level 5\* credits from SPIR including a maximum of 30 credits outside SPIR.  
 \* Language electives may be taken at Level 4 (max 30 credits).\*\*

Year 3  
 Compulsory:  
 -POL318 - Dissertation in Politics/International Relations (45 credits).  
 Remaining 75 credits to be taken at Level 6 within SPIR; optionally, students may take a maximum of 30 Level 6\* credits in other Schools, for a total of 120 credits.  
 \* Language electives may be taken at Level 5 (max 30 credits).\*\*

\*\* Students who decide to take language electives at different levels of study must ensure that during the course of their programme they obtain at least 90 credits at each of level of study, i.e. Level 4, 5 and 6.

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Introduction to International Relations	POL106	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Thinking Politically: Introduction to concepts, theories and ideologies	POL110	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Political Analysis	POL105	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Politics in Action	POL113	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Background to British Politics	POL108	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Histories	POL109	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
15 credits at level 4 from outside SPIR		15	4	Elective	1	

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 2

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
International Relations Theory	POL251	30	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Modernity: Theories of the State, Economy and Society	POL247	30	5	Elective	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Colonialism, Capitalism and Development	POL255	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
War in World Politics	POL256	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
The International Politics of the Developing World	POL257	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
The International Politics of Security	POL258	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Politics of International Law	POL259	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Power in Global Governance	POL261	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
30 credits at level 5 from SPIR		30	5	Elective	2	

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
max 30 credits at level 5 from outside SPIR			5	Elective	2	

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation in Politics/IR	POL318	45	6	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
75 credit at level 6 within SPIR		75	6	Elective	3	
Up to 30 credits at level 6 in approved modules from other schools		30	6	Elective	3	

### What are the entry requirements?

AS/A-level: Typical grades required: ABB at A-level. Excluded subjects: General studies and critical thinking.  
 International Baccalaureate: Subjects and grades: 32 points overall, with 6,5,5 in Higher Level subjects.  
 Vocational and other qualifications: The College accepts a wide range of qualifications such as; Access and Foundation programmes, vocational awards, Irish Leaving Certificate, Scottish Highers and other Baccalaureates. Further information on our entry requirements.  
 Admission is based on academic merit and on the proven ability of the applicant to achieve success on their chosen programme of study. Every application to Queen Mary is considered on its individual merits with personal statement and reference taken into consideration.

### How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The programme is monitored through the Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC), with student representatives, chaired by the Senior Tutor and the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) chaired by the Directors of Education (DE). Issues arising from student evaluations (both mid-year and end of module) are fed into the TLC through the DE. External examiners oversee assessment and marking procedures; this is handled by the Chair of Exams. The programme is evaluated in the Annual Programme Review.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year. Each school/institute operates a Teaching and Learning Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main

document of reference for this process is the Student Experience Action Plans (SEAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

### **What academic support is available?**

The School runs induction and welcome back meetings at the start of each semester, to update students on School/QM policies and advise them on their studies.

Each student is assigned a dedicated Advisor throughout their years of study to assist them in choosing their modules and advising them on their studies. The School has a dedicated Senior Tutor to deal with Extenuating Circumstances, the Senior Tutor is assisted by the Student Support Manager and Student Support Officer.

To assist with their final year project students are assigned a supervisor whose research matches the topic/subject they wish to focus on.

### **How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?**

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.

Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:

- Finding out if you have a specific learning difference like dyslexia
- Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
- Arranging DSA assessments of need
- Examination access arrangements
- Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
- Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
- Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
- Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
- Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

### **Programme-specific rules and facts**

N/A

### **Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills**

The subject specific skills developed by this programme prepare students for a wide range of employment opportunities, including careers in the civil service, journalism, political research, social work, local and national government and third-sector organisations. The transferable skills developed by this programme also help to prepare students for work in diverse other sectors, including finance and banking, management training, PR and advertising. The programme also builds academic skills essential for further study, including MSc and research degrees, and professional qualifications in law and teaching. Additionally in year 3 students have access to internship modules (in the Parliament and/or civil society organisations) offered alongside preparatory coursework that can help establish career pathways while still in the final year of their degree.

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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Helen Murray

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

David Williams

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by  
School / Institute Education Committee:**

Jan 22

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught  
Programmes Board:**