



UNIVERSITY OF  
PORTSMOUTH

# **COURSE SPECIFICATION**

## **BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS**

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## COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	BA (HONS) INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE. Ordinary
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U2068PYC
Mode of study	Full Time
Mode of delivery	Campus
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	September 2022 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, Sociology, Politics and International Relations
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	<a href="https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature">https://www.port.ac.uk/about-us/structure-and-governance/organisational-structure/our-academic-structure/faculty-of-humanities-and-social-sciences/school-of-area-studies-sociology-history-politics-and-literature</a>
Course webpage including entry criteria	<a href="http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/history-politics-and-social-studies/ba-hons-international-relations/">http://www.port.ac.uk/courses/history-politics-and-social-studies/ba-hons-international-relations/</a>
Professional and/or Statutory Regulatory Body accreditations	None
Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	Level 4,5,6

This course specification provides a summary of the main features of the course, identifies the aims and learning outcomes of the course, the teaching, learning and assessment methods used by teaching staff, and the reference points used to inform the curriculum.

This information is therefore useful to potential students to help them choose the right course of study, to current students on the course and to staff teaching and administering the course.

Further detailed information on the individual modules within the course may be found in the relevant module descriptors and the Course Handbook provided to students on enrolment.

Please refer to the [Course and Module Catalogue](#) for further information on the course structure and modules.

## Educational aims of the course

- To enable students to develop a sound knowledge and understanding of international relations
- To enable students to understand and apply key concepts, approaches and critiques within the field of International Relations and to develop an appreciation for its contested nature
- To enable students to develop knowledge of historical and contemporary international relations and to encourage critical thinking about a range of international political phenomena (including events, issues, change, values, ideas and institutions) in a global context
- To equip students with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and graduate employment in the context of changing labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and the knowledge required to maximise career and postgraduate study opportunities
- To provide a framework for students to follow a flexible, coherent programme of study, allowing them to develop specialist interests and knowledge in their main subject and in a minor subject via a Pathway.

This course offers subject Pathways in History, and in International Development, each with a different named exit award. A student who satisfies the Pathway requirements will qualify for the following named awards:

- BA (Hons) International Relations with History
- BA (Hons) International Relations with International Development

Pathways provide flexibility in the course by offering an academically coherent combination of modules in another subject area for a student to undertake alongside their main degree subject. All students apply for the Single Honours degree and follow a common curricula of core modules at level 4. All participating Single Honours degrees include 20 credit bridging modules for each Pathway. These modules cover essential material on the Single Honours, and also introduce students to the subject Pathways offered at Levels 5 and 6 through their interdisciplinary flavour. The Bridging modules enhance the experience of all students, regardless of whether they opt for a Pathway, by introducing them to related subject areas that complement the main degree subject.

A student chooses whether to continue on the Single Honours programme or join a Pathway when making their options choices for Level 5. In order to satisfy the requirements for the recommendation of the Pathway award a student must have been awarded 40 credits at level 5 and 40 credits in level 6 in subject Pathway units. A student who joins a Pathway at Level 5 but decides that they do not wish to remain on it, can return to the Single Honours Programme at Level 6, with the exception of those programmes subject to professional accreditation requirements.

## Course Learning Outcomes and Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies

The [Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education \(QAA\)](#) sets out a national framework of qualification levels, and the associated standards of achievement are found in their [Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#) document.

The Course Learning Outcomes for this course are outlined in the tables below.

### A. Knowledge and understanding of:

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
A1	<p>The world's division into multiple polities, drawing on the study of anarchy, security, economy, globalisation and the extent of - and explanations for - conflict and cooperation between states.</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> develop an appreciation of the complexity of the past and historical enquiry (<i>HI</i>); understand different concepts, theories and methods used in the study of International Development to the analysis of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts (<i>ID</i>).</p>		
A2	<p>The experiences of people across the globe in both historical and contemporary settings. Employing differing concepts, theories and methods, analysis of power relations, explanation of how power is used to create and reproduce patterns of privilege and in/exclusion, and study of how these structures and patterns are resisted and challenged.</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> how this affects International Development (<i>ID</i>); understand how people have existed, acted and thought in the always-different context of the past (<i>HI</i>)</p>		
A3	<p>Study of engagement below, above and beyond states in global public policy, foreign policy analysis, intergovernmental organisations and non-state actors including transnational corporations, transnational civil society groups, terrorist organisations and resistance movements</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> to understand arguments in pursuit of meaningful questions about the past and, by implication, the present and future (<i>HI</i>); changing political practices, processes and challenges of International Development policies and practices. (<i>ID</i>)</p>		
A4	<p>Key themes and concepts in International Relations to explore and discover the complex, controversial and contested nature of the field</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> understand the range of problems involved in the interpretation of complex, ambiguous, conflicting and often incomplete material (<i>HI</i>); key themes and concepts relevant for International</p>		

	Development ( <i>ID</i> )		
A5	<p>Different interpretations of world political events and issues</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b>, understanding the problems inherent in the historical record itself, (<i>HI</i>), the relations between human beings and their sociopolitical and ecological environments at local, national and global levels in relation to development challenges (<i>ID</i>)</p>	<p>These are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being covered</p>	<p>Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and group and individual work</p>

**B. Cognitive (Intellectual or Thinking) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Plan, execute and present an independent piece of work, in which qualities such as time management, problem solving and independence are evident, as well as interpretation and evaluation of the quality of evidence.	<p>These outcomes are primarily developed through seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor-led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, and simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being covered</p>	<p>Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and group and individual work</p>
B2	Construct reasoned argument, synthesising relevant information and exercising critical judgement		
B3	Understand and apply the principles of ethical research as well as demonstrate appropriate behaviour and academic practice.		
B4	Identify, investigate and solve problems through lateral thinking to develop solutions, thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts		
B5	Recognise and reflect on feedback to critically analyse and improve their work		

**C. Practical (Professional or Subject) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
C1	<p>Identify, interpret and apply appropriate methods of collecting, analysing and presenting data relevant to International Relations.</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> relevant to International Development (<i>ID</i>); know where and how to access relevant and precise historical knowledge (<i>HI</i>);</p>		
C2	<p>Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with the study of power, exploration and analysis of the contested nature of knowledge and understanding; study of differing approaches to the study of politics and of a range of key concepts, theories and methods. Critical evaluation of the strengths and weaknesses of contending approaches</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed</b> appreciate the range of problems involved in the interpretation of complex, ambiguous, conflicting and often incomplete material (<i>HI</i>); demonstrate a critical awareness of the diverse world in which they live, but also the concepts and theories constructed to understand this. (<i>ID</i>)</p>		
C3	<p>Engage critically with International Relations ideas, including normative and positive foundations of wider political ideas; the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change</p> <p><b>and where a pathway is followed;</b> critically and empathetically analyse primary sources, addressing questions of genre, content, perspective and purpose (<i>HI</i>); engage critically with the concept of power, including the contested nature of knowledge and understanding; approaches to the study of International Development and related disciplines (<i>ID</i>)</p>		

		These outcomes are developed primarily through lectures, seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and group and individual work
C4	Demonstrate an awareness of relevant theoretical and empirical perspectives and the ability to identify and apply them through an analysis of the contested nature of international political understanding  <b>and where a pathway is followed</b> to understand the ethical dimensions of historiography, historical study, writing and research ( <i>HI</i> ), Examine and evaluate different interpretations of issues and events relevant to the study of International Development ( <i>ID</i> ).	-led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the <b>topics being covered</b>	
C5	Examine and evaluate different interpretations of international political issues and events, and through this review and critically assess the literature on relevant topics in International Relations in order to engage with contending debates, concepts and empirical findings in the field		

**D. Transferable (Graduate and Employability) skills, able to:**

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Interpret, analyse, apply and present numerical, textual and other forms of data.		
D2	Effectively communicate through a variety of formats, and to different audiences; create and produce information and media in an innovative manner.		
D3	Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.		
D4	Evaluate the accuracy and reliability of sources, and use that knowledge to appropriately discuss and apply evidence.		

		These outcomes are developed primarily through seminars, tutorials, workshops, student and tutor led sessions, skills, discussion and knowledge-based classes, simulation exercises. Methods vary based on the topics being covered	Essays, exams, reports, portfolios, dissertation, presentations, infographics, projects, reports, seminar performance, briefing papers, creating documentaries and blog posts and group and individual work
D5	Manage their own learning and projects effectively in a timely and critical fashion while working individually and collectively and critically reflect on their own learning.		

## Academic Regulations

The current University of Portsmouth [Academic Regulations](#) will apply to this course. Support for Student Learning

The University of Portsmouth provides a comprehensive range of support services for students throughout their course, details of which are available at the [MyPortsmouth](#) student portal.

In addition to these University support services this course also provides support within the School from the Senior Tutor, Learning Development Tutors and Personal Tutorial system.

## Evaluation and Enhancement of Standards and Quality in Learning and Teaching

The University of Portsmouth undertakes comprehensive monitoring, review and evaluation of courses within clearly assigned staff responsibilities. Student feedback is a key feature in these evaluations, as represented in our [Policy for Listening to and Responding to the Student Voice](#) where you can also find further information.

## Reference Points

The course and outcomes have been developed taking account of:

- [University of Portsmouth Curriculum Framework Specification](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Strategy](#)
- [University of Portsmouth Code of Practice for Work-based and Placement Learning](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency UK Quality Code for Higher Education](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Qualification Characteristic Statements](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations](#)
- [Quality Assurance Agency Framework for Higher Education Qualifications](#)
- Vocational and professional experience, scholarship and research expertise of the University of Portsmouth's academic members of staff

## Disclaimer



The University of Portsmouth has checked the information provided in this Course Specification and will endeavour to deliver this course in keeping with this Course Specification. However, changes to the course may sometimes be required arising from annual monitoring, student feedback, and the review and update of modules and courses.

Where this activity leads to significant changes to modules and courses there will be prior consultation with students and others, wherever possible, and the University of Portsmouth will take all reasonable steps to minimise disruption to students.

It is also possible that the University of Portsmouth may not be able to offer a module or course for reasons outside of its control, for example, due to the absence of a member of staff or low student registration numbers. Where this is the case, the University of Portsmouth will endeavour to inform applicants and students as soon as possible, and where appropriate, will facilitate the transfer of affected students to another suitable course.

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## Document details

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