COURSE SPECIFICATION
BA (Hons) International Development

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COURSE SPECIFICATION

Course Title	International Development
Final Award	BA (Hons)
Exit Awards	CertHE, DipHE, Ordinary
Course Code / UCAS code (if applicable)	U2841PYC
Mode of study	Full Time
Mode of delivery	Campus, Sandwich (Optional)
Normal length of course	3 years, 4 years with placement
Cohort(s) to which this course specification applies	From September 2022 intake onwards
Awarding Body	University of Portsmouth
Teaching Institution	University of Portsmouth
Faculty	Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences
School/Department/Subject Group	School of Area Studies, Sociology, History, Politics and Literature
School/Department/Subject Group webpage	*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*
Course webpage including entry criteria	*BA (Hons) International Development	University of Portsmouth social-studies/ba-hons-international-development/*
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 acquire knowledge and understanding of a wide range of international development issues in the 21st century.
- To provide students with knowledge and understanding of the diversity of development experiences throughout the Global South using a range of appropriate disciplinary or interdisciplinary approaches.
- To equip students with the conceptual and theoretical knowledge and skills necessary to be able to critically appraise key approaches in contemporary development policy and practice.
- To enable students to acquire an informed sense of the similarities and differences between regions of the world, situated within a critical understanding of contemporary global development challenges, thus fostering cross-cultural and global perspectives.
- To equip students with a global perspective, fostering informed citizenship and promoting diversity and respect. This includes providing opportunities for international exchange and work placement, as well as fostering awareness of global ethical practice and social justice issues.
- To equip graduates with the necessary transferable skills for lifelong learning and flexibility in the context of changing, global labour markets.
- To provide students with the skills and knowledge required to maximise careers and postgraduate study opportunities.
- To provide opportunities for students to gain experience and skills relevant to employment (or further study) within the international development sector by choosing relevant work placement/work-based learning/study options.

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	Different concepts, theories and methods used in the study of International Development to the analysis of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts.	These outcomes are developed through a combination of lectures, seminars, workshops and tutorials/supervision sessions, and the provision of learning resources. Delivery method varies based on the topics being covered. Students also have the opportunity to develop these knowledge and understandings through optional placement and other work experiences. The curriculum is enhanced through opportunities to hear from external speakers who are invited to inform on specialist and current issues in the field.	A variety of assessments – coursework and exams - are used to demonstrate the achievement of these learning outcomes, appropriate to the particular knowledge and understanding that is being assessed. Coursework includes presentations, reports, simulations and portfolios.
A2	The changing political practices, processes and challenges of International Development policies and practices.		
A3	The relations between human beings and their sociopolitical and ecological environments at local, national and global levels in relation to development challenges.		

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
B1	Construct reasoned argument, synthesising relevant information and exercising critical judgement	These outcomes are developed through lectures, discussions (normally in seminars and workshops) and via supported independent learning (including training in research methods, and the completion of a major piece of independent research under supervision). The delivery method varies based on the topics being covered.	These outcomes are assessed via examinations; however, they are primarily assessed through coursework (both individual and group submissions). The coursework uses an array of methods including presentations, reports, simulations, portfolios, the production of a development index, an extended piece of independent research (dissertation).
B2	Identify, interpret and apply appropriate methods of data collection and analysis (qualitative and/or quantitative).		
B3	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.		
B4	Identify, investigate and solve problems through lateral thinking to develop solutions, thinking creatively in both practical and theoretical contexts		
B 5	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	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; a range of key concepts, theories and methods employed in the study of International Development; and the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches.		
C2	Demonstrate a critical awareness of the diverse world in which they live, but also the concepts and theories constructed to understand this. They will be able to demonstrate awareness of political and social institutions, domestic and global conflict and cooperation, ethical and sustainable thinking in the context of international development engagement.		
C3			

	Examine and evaluate different interpretations of issues and events relevant to the study of International Development.	These outcomes are developed in particular through informed group discussions and debates, simulations, data workshops, written and oral feedback and tutorial/supervision sessions to discuss this, and opportunities to gain practical work experience through a placement year and/or other periods of work experience.	These outcomes are assessed through a variety of means suited to particular tasks. These include examinations and coursework (assessed essays and reports, simulations, individual/group projects and presentations).

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

LO number	Learning outcome	Learning and Teaching methods	Assessment methods
D1	Effectively communicate through a variety of formats, and to different audiences; create and produce information and media in an innovative manner.	Transferable skills are developed through a combination of lectures, group & personal tutorials, seminars and workshops, presentations, written and oral feedback, individual and group tasks, and guided independent study.	Essays, reports, portfolios, individual and group presentations, dissertation. Opportunities for formative assessment are available at all levels
D2	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.		
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.		

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 MyPort student portal.

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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