Programme Specification: Undergraduate

For students starting in Academic Year 2024/25

1. Course Summary

Names of programme and award title(s)	BA (Hons) Politics BA (Hons) Politics with International Year (see Annex for details) BA (Hons) Politics with Work Placement Year (see Annex for details)
Award type	Single Honours
Mode of study	Full-time
Framework of Higher Education Qualification (FHEQ) level of final award	Level 6
Normal length of the programme	3 years; 4 years with either the International Year or Placement Year between years 2 and 3
Maximum period of registration	The normal length as specified above plus 3 years
Location of study	Keele Campus
Accreditation (if applicable)	Not applicable
Regulator	Office for Students (OfS)
Tuition Fees	**UK students:** Fee for 2024/25 is £9,250* **International students:** Fee for 2024/25 is £19,500** The fee for the international year abroad is calculated at 15% of the standard year fee The fee for the work placement year is calculated at 20% of the standard year fee

How this information might change: Please read the important information at http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/. *This explains how and why we may need to make changes to the information provided in this document and to help you understand how we will communicate with you if this happens.*

* These fees are regulated by Government. We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study in response to changes in government policy and/or changes to the law. If permitted by such change in policy or law, we may increase your fees by an inflationary amount or such other measure as required by government policy or the law. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/

** We reserve the right to increase fees in subsequent years of study by an inflationary amount. Please refer to the accompanying Student Terms & Conditions for full details. Further information on fees can be found at http://www.keele.ac.uk/studentfunding/tuitionfees/

2. What is a Single Honours programme?

The Single Honours programme described in this document allows you to focus more or less exclusively on this subject. In keeping with Keele's commitment to breadth in the curriculum, the programme also gives you the opportunity to take some modules in other disciplines and in modern foreign languages as part of a 360-credit Honours degree. Thus it enables you to gain, and be able to demonstrate, a distinctive range of graduate attributes.

3. Overview of the Programme

Politics is a living, relevant and controversial subject that is at the core of modern society. Politics matters because it shapes who gets what, when, how, why and where. To understand society, and the events and forces that shape it, we must engage with questions of power, justice, order, conflict, legitimacy, accountability, obligation, sovereignty, governance and decision-making. Learning about politics is developing a knowledge and understanding of government, people, ideas, institutions and their interactions.

At Keele, we encourage students to take an active role in the learning process. We teach using issues and debates on current questions of political concern so that the relevance of the subject is always apparent. By examining key contemporary issues, such as 'why are people becoming disillusioned with politics?', 'what is a democracy?' or 'when is it legitimate to resist the state?' we engage students with contemporary examples to bring out core features of the study of politics.

The course at Keele is designed around a path of learning that moves from introducing people to the subject through to a capacity to research it. The first stages of the course are intended to introduce students to the significance of the subject and to the study of politics. Politics is a broad discipline characterised by many different approaches to study: students are quickly introduced to some of those different approaches through consideration of political analysis, comparative government and political theory. Students are also introduced to the contested nature of politics and the problems of studying the subject effectively.

Alongside learning the core of the subject, students enjoy a great deal of choice in selecting their elective modules at Keele, allowing them to tailor their studies to suit their own particular areas of interest, whether these be mainly theoretical, historical, or oriented towards specific issue-areas in politics. Politics at Keele boasts research expertise in environmental politics, public policy, social movements and revolutions, American politics, European politics, Russian politics, modern political ideas, security, and international development.

Furthermore, our range of student options is broadened by the presence of programmes in International Relations and Philosophy, each of which provides modules available to Politics students. In the second year, the opportunity to study abroad widens student choice further and in the third year, many students choose dissertation subjects in an area that particularly interests them. By the time students complete the three years of an Honours Degree course, they have understood both the core of the discipline and developed specialist knowledge in the areas that most interest them. They have also developed an extensive portfolio of skills, both specific to politics as a discipline and transferable to many other venues. These skills aid to succeed in the workforce and to be informed participants in civic life.

4. Aims of the programme

The broad aims of the programme are to enable you to:

- understand the nature and significance of politics
- acquire knowledge and understanding inappropriate areas of political theory and political analysis
- understand and use the concepts, approaches and methods of their discipline
- understand the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry in the discipline
- develop a capacity to think critically and independently
- relate the academic study of politics to policy matters of public concern
- relate the academic theory to the practices of policy and political behaviour
- develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development
- benefit from a curriculum supported by scholarship and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate

5. What you will learn

The intended learning outcomes of the programme (what students should know, understand and be able to do at the end of the programme), can be described under the following headings:

- Subject knowledge and understanding
- Subject specific skills
- Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Subject knowledge and understanding

Successful students will be able to:

- Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices
- demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them
- evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events
- understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches
- think critically in evaluating different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues
- develop the ability to conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship
- achieve the personal and inter-personal skills necessary for them to find a fulfilling and rewarding career and become informed and active citizens with a continuing interest in politics

Subject specific skills

Successful students will be able to:

- gather, select and organise evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources
- interpret, analyse and deploy that evidence, data and information
- construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
- identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems

Key or transferable skills (including employability skills)

Successful students will be able to:

- communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing
- use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information
- work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner
- collaborate with others to achieve common goals
- pursue research projects across a range of issues using methods grounded in social science

The Keele Graduate Attributes

The Keele Graduate Attributes are the qualities (skills, values and mindsets) which you will have the opportunity to develop during your time at Keele through both the formal curriculum and also through co- and extra-curricular activities (e.g., work experience, and engagement with the wider University community such as acting as ambassadors, volunteering, peer mentoring, student representation, membership and leadership of clubs and societies). Our Graduate Attributes consist of four themes: **academic expertise, professional skills, personal effectiveness, and social and ethical awareness.** You will have opportunities to engage actively with the range of attributes throughout your time at Keele: through your academic studies, through self-assessing your own strengths, weaknesses, and development needs, and by setting personal development goals. You will have opportunities to discuss your progress in developing graduate attributes with, for example, Academic Mentors, to prepare for your future career and lives beyond Keele.

6. How is the programme taught?

Learning and teaching methods used on the programme vary according to the subject matter and level of the module. They include the following:

- **Traditional lectures**; where the lecturer provides students with a framework for reading and independent study. Most lecturers employ presentation software such as MS PowerPoint, while sometimes also making use of video and audio presentations. Lectures allow students to gain a systematic understanding both of key theoretical approaches to politics and of fundamental concepts employed in studying the subject
- **Tutorials and seminars** where key issues can be discussed in more depth. Students are expected to play a full part in, and occasionally to lead, these discussions, either individually, or as part of a small team. Some tutorials and seminars involve presentations (from individual students or students working in small teams). Seminars and tutorials provide opportunities for students to ask questions about, and suggest answers to, problems encountered in politics and to present their own ideas
- **Interactive workshops**; where students in large classes have the opportunity to work together in smaller groups, interact with the lecturer and reflect on their own learning. Workshops encourage students

toreflect on their own learning and take responsibility for its development by addressing areas of difficulty, perhaps by discussing them with their fellow students or by getting additional help from staff

- **Independent study**; based on directed reading from text books, research monographs, academic journals, official government publications, the printed media and appropriate sources deployed on the web. When combined with lectures, independent study is an integral part of developing proper understanding of key concepts, approaches and debates in the field
- **Web-based learning** using the University's virtual learning environment (KLE). The KLE gives students easy access to a wide range of resources and research tools to assist their studies, and can be used as a platform for online discussions, quizzes and blogs
- **Dissertations**; the dissertation double module in politics provides the opportunity to receive training in designing a research project and then implementing it independently. Undertaking a research dissertation with the supervision and support of experienced and active researchers from our staff allows students to formulate relevant research questions and devise a feasible and ethically sound strategy for answering them

Apart from these formal activities, students are also provided with regular opportunities to talk through particular areas of difficulty, and any special learning needs they may have, with their Academic Mentors or module lecturers on a one-to-one basis.

These learning and teaching methods have a diverse set of assessment types that enable students to achieve subject knowledge and understanding; subject specific skills; and key transferable skills they have gained on a module. Forms of assessment include:

- Essays: ranging from 1,500 to 3,000 words, the length usually associated with the year (Level) of instruction;
- Examinations: these may include multiple choice as well as short answer/essay responses;
- Module-specific assessed work such as a data analysis exercise or blog;
- In-class tests;
- Presentations;
- Small group project.

These learning and teaching methods enable students to achieve the learning outcomes of the programme in a variety of ways.

7. Teaching Staff

In the School, the permanent teaching staff on the Politics programme currently consists of a number of full professors, senior lecturers and lecturers. Nearly all members of staff have doctorates (PhDs or the equivalent) in politics or a closely related subject in the social sciences. As members of the University's Research Centre in the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, they are all active researchers whose work, across many different aspects of politics, has been widely published in books, research monographs and leading international journals. The work of some members of staff has been used directly in shaping policy in their areas of expertise at the national and international levels.

The staff group has extensive experience of teaching at undergraduate and postgraduate level in universities in the UK, continental Europe, North America and Australasia. All members of staff in the School complete appropriate training as part of their induction to University teaching and most are members or associates of the Higher Education Academy and/or have a formal teaching qualification.

The University will attempt to minimise changes to our core teaching teams, however, delivery of the programme depends on having a sufficient number of staff with the relevant expertise to ensure that the programme is taught to the appropriate academic standard.

Staff turnover, for example where key members of staff leave, fall ill or go on research leave, may result in changes to the programme's content. The University will endeavour to ensure that any impact on students is limited if such changes occur.

8. What is the structure of the Programme?

The academic year runs from September to June and is divided into two semesters. The number of weeks of teaching will vary from programme to programme, but you can generally expect to attend scheduled teaching sessions between the end of September and mid-December, and from mid-January to the end of April. Our degree courses are organised into modules. Each module is usually a self-contained unit of study and each is usually assessed separately with the award of credits on the basis of 1 credit = 10 hours of student effort. An outline of the structure of the programme is provided in the tables below.

There are two types of module delivered as part of your programme. They are:

- Compulsory modules - a module that you are required to study on this course;
- Optional modules - these allow you some limited choice of what to study from a list of modules.

Optional modules include Global Challenge Pathways - a choice of modules from different subject areas that count towards the overall credit requirement but not the number of subject-related credits.

Global Challenge Pathways can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6 (except for the TESOL pathway). **Information about Global Challenge Pathways can be found after the module lists for Level 6.**

Language modules

Students on this programme will also be able to study language modules offered by the Language Centre, as part of a Global Challenge Pathway. You can enrol on either a Modern Language module [more information available at this link] (Semester 1 only) Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL) (Semesters 1 and 2) module (ENL-10053), or the Intercultural Explorer pathway (ENL-10057). See the Global Challenges Pathway information under the module lists for more details.

If you choose the Language Specialist pathway, you will automatically be enrolled on a Semester 2 Modern Language module as a continuation of your language of choice. Undertaking a Modern Languages module in Semester 2 is compulsory if you wish to continue to the Language Specialist Global Challenge Pathway the following academic year.

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For further information on the content of modules currently offered, please visit:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/recordsandexams/modulecatalogue/

A summary of the credit requirements per year is as follows.

Year	Compulsory	Optional	
		Min	Max
Level 4	60	60	60
Level 5	60	60	60
Level 6	30	90	90

Module Lists

Level 4

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Why Politics Matters	PIR-10038	15	Semester 1
The politics of sustainability	PIR-10047	15	Semester 1
British Politics Since 1945	PIR-10046	15	Semester 2
Modern Democracies	PIR-10055	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The Changing World: A History of International Relations since 1945	PIR-10043	15	Semester 1
Introduction to Global Political Economy (GPE)	PIR-10058	15	Semester 1
Social and Political Theory	SOC-10029	15	Semester 1
Modern History	HIS-10029	15	Semester 2
Debates in American Politics	PIR-10039	15	Semester 2
Justice, Authority and Power	PIR-10045	15	Semester 2

NB: Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs) - students have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which can either be taken as one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6 (except for the TESOL pathway). Information on GCPs is shown under the Level 6 modules below.

Level 5

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
U.S Government and Politics	PIR-20071	15	Semester 1
British Government and Politics	PIR-20074	15	Semester 1
Environmental Politics and Policy	PIR-20067	15	Semester 2
Elections, voters and public opinion	PIR-20089	15	Semester 2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Russian Politics and Society	PIR-20078	15	Semester 1
Foreign Policy	PIR-20090	15	Semester 1
Contemporary Social Theory	SOC-20049	15	Semester 1
'Shining City on a Hill'? The United States in the Twentieth Century	HIS-20107	15	Semester 2
Why Policy Changes	PIR-20068	15	Semester 2
International Organisation: Mitigating Anarchy	PIR-20085	15	Semester 2
Personal and Professional Development for Social Scientists	PIR-20108	15	Semester 2

Level 6

Compulsory modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP	PIR-30130	30	Semester 1-2

Optional modules	Module Code	Credits	Period
The U.S. Presidency	PIR-30117	15	Semester 1
The Extreme Right in Western Europe	PIR-30119	15	Semester 1
Israel/Palestine: Key Debates and Issues	PIR-30151	15	Semester 1
Environmental Political Economy	PIR-30156	15	Semester 1
Parliamentary Studies	PIR-30160	15	Semester 1
Modern Russia	PIR-30142	15	Semester 2
Contemporary Democratic Theory	PIR-30150	15	Semester 2
Civil Rights in the United States	PIR-30158	15	Semester 2
Contemporary Feminist Perspectives	PIR-30166	15	Semester 2

Global Challenge Pathways (GCPs)

Students have the option of taking a Global Challenge Pathway, which includes one 15-credit module at Levels 4, 5 and 6, or one 15-credit module at Levels 5 and 6. Students who started a Global Challenge Pathway at Level 4 will continue with the same pathway at Level 5. Students joining Global Challenge Pathways at Level 5 can join any pathway (except TESOL). Students at Level 6 will continue with the same Global Challenge Pathway they studied at Levels 4 and/or Level 5.

Global Challenge Pathways offer students the chance to fulfil an exciting, engaging route of interdisciplinary study. Choosing a pathway, students will be presented with a global issue or 'challenge' which directly relates to societal issues, needs and debates. They will be invited to take part in academic and external facing projects which address these issues, within an interdisciplinary community of students and staff. Students completing a Global Challenge Pathway will receive recognition on their degree certificate.

Digital Futures	The Digital Futures pathway offers you the opportunity to take an active role in current debates, cutting-edge research, and projects with external partners, addressing both the exciting potential and the challenges of disruptive digital transformation across all spheres of life. Part of a diverse and interdisciplinary pathway community, you will engage in exciting, impactful collaborative project work in innovative formats on areas that matter most to you. Engaged in real-world scenarios as digital citizens, you will expand, deepen, and mobilise knowledge and skills to drive inclusive, empowering, and sustainable change at local and global levels. **Level 4 Module**: **A digital life: challenges and opportunities (GCP-10005)** **Level 5 Module: Digital World - People, Spaces, and Data (GCP-20005)** **Level 6 Module: Digital Citizenship and Sustainable Futures (GCP-30005)**

Climate Change & Sustainability	Through the Climate Change & Sustainability pathway you will develop the skills, understanding and drive to become agents of change to tackle climate change and wider sustainability challenges. You will hear from international partners to learn about climate change and sustainability in different international contexts; lead your own projects to drive real change in your communities; and be part of educating and supporting others to help achieve a more sustainable future. **Level 4 Module: Climate Change and Sustainable Futures: Global Perspectives (GCP-10009)** **Level 5 Module: Climate Change and Sustainability: Action and Activism (GCP-20009)** **Level 6 Module: Skills for Sustainability (GCP-30009)**
Social Justice	The Social Justice pathway is based upon a transformative methodology which centres the student's role as 'agents of change' to reflect upon decolonising and feminist, perspectives on social justice, to forge critical outputs to transform the Sustainable Development Goals. You will develop research and engagement skills with local, national, and international partners from Universities, NGOs, International Human Rights frameworks. You will engage with key societal challenges focused upon the Sustainable Development Goals, to develop an intersectional response from identity-based perspectives on race, gender, sexualities and disabilities. The pathway will allow you to monitor and critically evaluate policies and human rights treaties, and produce and disseminate digitally fluent, international and sustainable project findings. **Level 4 Module**: **Reflections on Social Injustices, Past and Present (GCP-10003)** **Level 5 Module: Strategic Interventions for Social Justice (GCP-20003)** **Level 6 Module: Transforming Social Justice; Global Perspectives (GCP-30003)**
Enterprise & the Future of Work	In order to meet the challenges set out in the UN's Sustainable Development Goals we need to understand the power of enterprise and prepare for the future contexts of work, creativity and disruption. By providing you with the skills, knowledge and understanding of global challenges this pathway will prepare you to be part of future-facing solutions. This module will support you in developing creative, original thinking, allowing you to collaborate on projects that persuade and effect change, setting you up to thrive in future environments of work and innovation. **Level 4 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work (GCP-10007)** **Level 5 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Collaborate to Innovate (GCP-20007)** **Level 6 Module: Enterprise and the Future of Work: Designing Change (GCP-30007)**

Global Health Challenges	By taking the global health challenge pathway you will develop solutions to improve the health and quality of life for particular people and communities, engaging with these groups to co-design interventions. This pathway will provide you with skills that go beyond a focus on health and will allow you to develop your ability to work in a team and lead change in society. The knowledge, skills and work experience will complement your core degree and enhance your career opportunities and graduate aspirations. **Level 4 Module: Key concepts and challenges in global health (GCP-10001)** **Level 5 Module: Using Evidence to Improve Global Health (GCP-20001)** **Level 6 Module: Working to Improve Global Health (GCP-30001)**
Languages & Intercultural Awareness	Communication within and across cultures is inseparable from language, and development of intercultural awareness can enable you to actively contribute to the shaping of an international future. The Language and Intercultural Awareness pathway allows you to engage in genuine interdisciplinary and international exchange and to understand and explore the link between language, culture and communication. Each of the strands we offer provides you with skills and direct experience for active engagement in working to face global challenges. **The Language Specialist**: Become a specialist in one of our languages and graduate with a degree title that includes '... with competency in (Language)' or '... with advanced competency in (Language)'. **The Language Taster:** Explore a new language every year. **The Certificate in TESOL** (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages): ***(NB: only available if starting from Level 4)*** Enhance your undergraduate degree by studying the Trinity College Certificate in Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages (TESOL). As an internationally recognised qualification, you can teach around the world, enabling you to travel whilst helping people develop their English Language Skills. You will also develop many transferable skills which will enhance your future employability. **The Intercultural Explorer:** Through an interdisciplinary understanding of intercultural communication - as both an academic discipline and as a tool to promote and engage in global activity, you will explore the concept of culture. Module content and assessments allow you to examine in-depth the role of both culture and language in, for example, the UN sustainability goals. **Modules available:** **The Language Specialist:** Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences). **The Language Taster:** Any Semester 1 Language Module (the level at which you enter will be determined by your previous language learning experiences) **The Certificate in TESOL (NB: only available if starting from Level 4):** ENL-10053 TESOL 1 ENL-20007 TESOL 2 ENL-30009 TESOL 3 **The Intercultural Explorer:** ENL-10057 The stories we live by ENL-20009 Who do you think you are?

Information on Global Challenge Pathways can be found here:
https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/undergraduate/globalchallengepathways/

Learning Outcomes

The table below sets out what students learn in the programme and the modules in which that learning takes place. Details of how learning outcomes are assessed through these modules can be found in module specifications.

Level 4

In Year 1 (Level 4) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in optional modules together with other outcomes not stated here.

Year 1 (Level 4)

Many students will not have taken politics before university, so the first year is intended to give new politics students a foundation and engaging introduction to the subject. At the same time, we offer a broader focus than current A-level curricula, using a more comparative and issue-based approach. Our first priority is to equip students with an understanding of politics' significance. By taking contemporary issues and examining underlying questions of power, representation, participation and ideology, students are encouraged to understand the complex events and forces that shape the world we live in. Through the year's work, students should better understand government, society and the interactions between the two.

We give students a first introduction to political theory, political analysis and the differences between the two in 'Why Politics Matters'. It is particularly important that students should grasp the essential contestability of all academic work in politics and begin to engage with the ongoing debates over core concepts in the subject. In the 'Modern Democracies' module, students will examine the concept of democracy. We use this idea to examine how those studying politics use concepts and apply them, so introducing students to a number of the subject's more commonly used methods.

We also use the year to develop students' culture of university study, which in the process encourages development of a portfolio of employability skills. Students sharpen their analytical skills through working with academic literature, reviewing materials and handling data. Through work on essay writing, information technology and presentations, students' ability to communicate ideas effectively is enhanced. Students are also asked both to work as part of a team and develop their capacity for independent research.

In completing the first year, students should both be familiar with many of the subject's core areas and have been introduced to many of the subject's core skills. This foundation allows students to move on to more advanced work in the second and third year.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices	Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046
demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them	British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038
evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047
understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047
think critically in evaluating different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues	The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
gather, select and organise evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources	British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038
interpret, analyse and deploy evidence, data and information	The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055
construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgment	Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 All modules
identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 All optional modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 All modules
se communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information	The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038
work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner	Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046
collaborate with others to achieve common goals	The politics of sustainability - PIR-10047 Why Politics Matters - PIR-10038 Modern Democracies - PIR-10055 British Politics Since 1945 - PIR-10046

Level 5

In Year 2 (Level 5) these learning outcomes are achieved in the compulsory modules which all students are required to take. Some of these outcomes may also be achieved or reinforced in optional modules together with other outcomes not stated here.

Year 2 (Level 5) puts further emphasis on the development of skills specific to the subject of politics, national and international. Students deepen their knowledge on particular concerns, such as specific countries, regions, institutions, concepts or policy areas, and have the opportunity to choose the direction of their interests more, choosing between optional modules in political and international theory, policy or comparative analysis, international issues such as the environment or international organisation. Just as importantly, students develop their skills in political analysis. Students are encouraged to recognise, and use, different theoretical perspectives and methods, and to appreciate the strengths and weaknesses of these differing lenses. Case studies based around current topics of political discussion will be used to develop students' engagement with key issues and develop their understanding of how these issues can be studied.

Students will develop their understanding of theories and concepts further, sharpen their powers of critical evaluation to allow them to make more sophisticated, reasoned and informed judgments, improve their written and verbal communication and enhance their data handling and interpretation skills. Many of these skills will contribute to students' growing understanding of the research process; students will engage with core research concepts such as causation and validity to introduce them to research design. Students will have the opportunity to test these key or transferable skills in many of the modules through small-scale research projects.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices	All modules
demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them	All modules
understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	All modules
think critically in evaluating different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues	All modules
develop the ability to conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship	All modules

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
gather, select and organise evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources	All modules
interpret, analyse and deploy evidence, data and information	All modules
interpret, analyse and deploy evidence, data and information	All modules

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing	All modules
use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information	All modules
work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner	All modules

Level 6

In Year 3 (Level 6) outcomes are achieved by the compulsory dissertation module. Some additional outcomes can be obtained by taking any of the optional modules offered in each semester.

Year 3 (Level 6) is the venue for students to pursue their specialist interests in greater depth. Given the grounding gained from the preceding two years, students are ready to complete their path to a degree qualification by engaging with cutting edge academic political research in their chosen area of politics, assisted by research-active staff in the field. Modules are more narrowly tailored to particular political questions and rely more heavily upon seminar teaching.

Furthermore, students are encouraged to pursue research themselves, both as part of the assessment of taught modules and through dissertations. The final year is the opportunity for students to develop their research skills and demonstrate their capacities to think critically, work independently, present information compellingly and make reasoned arguments. The year should set the groundwork for Masters level study or for students to move into the world of work.

Subject Knowledge and Understanding	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, issues and practices	All modules
demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them	Achieved in some optional modules in Year 3 depending on student's chosen specialisms
evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events	Achieved in some optional modules in Year 3 depending on student's chosen specialisms
understand key concepts from a range of theoretical approaches to the study of politics, appreciating the strengths and weaknesses of those different approaches	Achieved in some optional modules in Year 3 depending on student's chosen specialisms
think critically in evaluating different interpretations of political ideas, institutions, events and issues	All modules
develop the ability to conduct and report on their own research using relevant concepts, suitable methods of investigation and appropriate techniques of scholarship	Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP - PIR-30130

Subject Specific Skills	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
gather, select and organise evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources	Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP - PIR-30130
interpret, analyse and deploy evidence, data and information	Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP - PIR-30130
construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgment	All modules
identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems	Dissertation in Politics and IR - ISP - PIR-30130

Key or Transferable Skills (graduate attributes)	
Learning Outcome	**Module in which this is delivered**
communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing	All modules
use communication and information technology, including audio-visual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information	Achieved in some elective modules in Year 3 depending on student's chosen specialisms
work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time management, to become a mature, independent learner	All modules
collaborate with others to achieve common goals	Achieved in some elective modules in Year 3 depending on student's chosen specialisms

9. Final and intermediate awards

Credits required for each level of academic award are as follows:

Honours Degree	360 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at levels 4, 5 and 6 You must accumulate at least 270 credits in your main subject (out of 360 credits overall), with at least 90 credits in each of the three years of study*, to graduate with a named single honours degree in this subject. *An exemption applies for students transferring from a Combined Honours programme - see point 3.4 here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations/regulationc3/
Diploma in Higher Education	240 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher and at least 120 credits at level 5 or higher
Certificate in Higher Education	120 credits	You will require at least 120 credits at level 4 or higher

International Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a module covering the international year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'international year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the international year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

Work Placement Year option: in addition to the above students must pass a non-credit bearing module covering the work placement year in order to graduate with a named degree including the 'with Work Placement Year' wording. Students who do not complete, or fail the work placement year, will be transferred to the three-year version of the programme.

10. How is the Programme Assessed?

The wide variety of assessment methods used on this programme at Keele reflects the broad range of knowledge and skills that are developed as you progress through the degree programme. Teaching staff pay particular attention to specifying clear assessment criteria and providing timely, regular and constructive feedback that helps to clarify things you did not understand and helps you to improve your performance. The following list is representative of the variety of assessment methods used on your programme:

- **Essays** test the quality and application of subject knowledge. In addition they allow students to

demonstrate their ability to carry out basic bibliographic research and to communicate their ideas effectively in writing in an appropriate scholarly style using the Harvard system of referencing

- **Reviews and Critiques of other scholar's work** test students' ability to identify and summarise the key points of a text and to evaluate the quality of arguments and the evidence used to support them
- **Unseen examinations and class tests** investigate students' knowledge of the relevant aspects of politics. Examinations require students to answer questions by writing a number of short essays
- **Research design projects and associated Research Papers** allow students to demonstrate their ability to formulate a research question and identify an appropriate research methodology as part of the task of designing and implementing a research strategy to enable them to address the research question effectively
- **Oral presentations and group presentations** assess students' subject knowledge and understanding, as well as their ability to communicate what they know orally and visually. When delivered by groups of students, they also test students' ability to work effectively as members of a team
- **Portfolios and Worksheets** may consist of a range of different pieces of work while usually also including evidence of students' critical reflection on the development of their own learning

Marks are awarded for summative assessments designed to assess your achievement of learning outcomes. You will also be assessed formatively to enable you to monitor your own progress and to assist staff in identifying and addressing any specific learning needs. Feedback, including guidance on how you can improve the quality of your work, is also provided on all summative assessments within three working weeks of submission, unless there are compelling circumstances that make this impossible, and more informally in the course of tutorial and seminar discussions.

11. Contact Time and Expected Workload

This contact time measure is intended to provide you with an indication of the type of activity you are likely to undertake during this programme. The data is compiled based on module choices and learning patterns of students on similar programmes in previous years. Every effort is made to ensure this data is a realistic representation of what you are likely to experience, but changes to programmes, teaching methods and assessment methods mean this data is representative and not specific.

Undergraduate courses at Keele contain an element of module choice; therefore, individual students will experience a different mix of contact time and assessment types dependent upon their own individual choice of modules. The figures below are an example of activities that a student may expect on your chosen course by year stage of study. Contact time includes scheduled activities such as: lecture, seminar, tutorial, project supervision, demonstration, practical classes and labs, supervised time in labs/workshop, fieldwork and external visits. The figures are based on 1,200 hours of student effort each year for full-time students.

Activity

	Scheduled learning and teaching activities	Guided independent Study	Placements
Year 1 (Level 4)	29.8%	70.2%	0%
Year 2 (Level 5)	14.7%	79%	6.3%
Year 3 (Level 6)	11.6%	87.4%	1%

12. Accreditation

This programme does not have accreditation from an external body.

13. University Regulations

The University Regulations form the framework for learning, teaching and assessment and other aspects of the student experience. Further information about the University Regulations can be found at: http://www.keele.ac.uk/student-agreement/

A student who has completed a semester abroad will not normally be eligible to transfer onto the International Year option.

14. What are the typical admission requirements for the Programme?

See the relevant course page on the website for the admission requirements relevant to this programme: https://www.keele.ac.uk/study/

Applicants who are not currently undertaking any formal study or who have been out of formal education for more than 3 years and are not qualified to A-level or BTEC standard may be offered entry to the University's Foundation Year Programme.

Applicants for whom English is not a first language must provide evidence of a recognised qualification in English language. The minimum score for entry to the Programme is Academic IELTS 6.0 or equivalent.

English for Academic Purposes

Please note: All new international students entering the university will provide a sample of Academic English during their registration Using this sample, the Language Centre may allocate you to an English language module which will become compulsory. This will replace any GCP modules. *NB:* students can take an EAP module only with the approval of the English Language Programme Director and are not able to take any other Language modules in the same academic year.

English Language Modules at Level 4:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 5:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2)
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

English Language Modules at Level 6:

- Business - ENL-90003 Academic English for Business Students (Part 1); ENL-90004 Academic English for Business Students (2); ENL-90005 Advanced Business English Communication
- Science - ENL-90013 Academic English for Science Students
- General - ENL-90006 English for Academic Purposes 2; ENL-90001 English for Academic Purposes 3; ENL-90002 English for Academic Purposes 4

Recognition of Prior Learning (RPL) is considered on a case-by-case basis and those interested should contact the Programme Director. The University's guidelines on this can be found here: https://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/programmesandmodules/recognitionofpriorlearning/

15. How are students supported on the programme?

Support for student learning on the Programme is provided in the following ways:

- Module co-ordinators and tutorial group leaders provide support for learning on the modules and in the tutorial groups for which they are responsible. Module co-ordinators also give individual feedback on in-course assessments, all essays submitted and more general feedback on examinations.
- Support is also available from the Director of the Politics programme, the School's Director of Education and the school office. An annual module fair is organised to help students with module choices.
- Every student is allocated to an Academic Mentor who is responsible for reviewing, and advising on, students' academic progress in Politics.
- Academic Mentors also act as a first point of contact for students on non-academic issues which may affect their learning and can refer students on to a range of specialist health, welfare and financial services co-ordinated by the University's Student Services.
- Additional help for struggling students is available through the Support to Study policy which includes School and University level staff.
- The International Student Support section in the Student Services Centre provides specialist help and advice to international students on visa and immigration matters, information about working and assistance with any personal or academic issues that might arise during their time at Keele.

All members of teaching staff on the Politics programme are available to see students during advertised weekly office hours and at other times by appointment.

16. Learning Resources

Politics is taught in modern teaching rooms across the University, almost all of which are equipped with computers, internet access and electronic whiteboards or projection equipment. Rooms may be arranged either in traditional lecture format or more informally to allow students to work together in small groups.

The learning resources available to students on the Politics programme include:

- The extensive collection of politics materials relevant to undergraduate study held in the University Library: these materials include books, journals and government publications. Much of this material is also accessible online for Keele students from anywhere in the world.
- The Keele Learning Environment (KLE) provides easy access to a wide range of learning resources including lecture notes, electronic materials available in a repository maintained by the University Library and other resources - video, audio and text-based - accessible from external providers via the internet.
- Also on the KLE, students will find a number of Interactive Study Skills Resources, in particular for assistance with understanding plagiarism, how to properly reference, and tips for note-taking.
- Electronic Access to Periodicals: A Resource for students is another support module created especially within the KLE for students of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy, which enables them more easily to make full use of the over 650 academic journals relevant to their degree programmes that are electronically available to Keele students free of charge.

17. Other Learning Opportunities

Study abroad (semester)

Students on the programme have the potential opportunity to spend a semester abroad in their second year studying at one of Keele's international partner universities. Please note that students cannot take both a Global Challenge Pathway (GCP) and the semester abroad option.

Exactly which countries are available depends on the student's choice of degree subjects. An indicative list of countries is on the website (http://www.keele.ac.uk/studyabroad/partneruniversities/); however this does not guarantee the availability of study in a specific country as this is subject to the University's application process for studying abroad.

No additional tuition fees are payable for a single semester studying abroad but students do have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad to be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Whilst students are studying abroad any Student Finance eligibility will continue, where applicable students may be eligible for specific travel or disability grants. Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible for income dependent bursaries at Keele. Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

Study Abroad (International Year)

A summary of the International Year, which is a potential option for students after completion of year 2 (Level 5), is provided in the Annex for the International Year.

18. Additional Costs

As to be expected there will be additional costs for inter-library loans and potential overdue library fines, print and graduation. We do not anticipate any further costs for this undergraduate programme.

19. Quality management and enhancement

The quality and standards of learning in this programme are subject to a continuous process of monitoring, review and enhancement.

- The School Education Committee is responsible for reviewing and monitoring quality management and enhancement procedures and activities across the School.
- Individual modules and the programme as a whole are reviewed and enhanced every year in the annual programme review which takes place at the end of the academic year.
- The programmes are run in accordance with the University's Quality Assurance procedures and are subject to periodic reviews under the Revalidation process.

Student evaluation of, and feedback on, the quality of learning on every module takes place every year using a variety of different methods:

- The results of student evaluations of all modules are reported to module leaders and reviewed by the Programme Committee as part of annual programme review.
- Findings related to the programme from the annual National Student Survey (NSS), and from regular surveys of the student experience conducted by the University, are subjected to careful analysis and a planned response at programme and School level.
- Feedback received from representatives of students in all three years of the programme is considered and acted on at regular meetings of the Student Staff Voice Committee.

The University appoints senior members of academic staff from other universities to act as external examiners on all programmes. They are responsible for:

- Approving examination questions
- Confirming all marks which contribute to a student's degree
- Reviewing and giving advice on the structure and content of the programme and assessment procedures

Information about current external examiner(s) can be found here:
http://www.keele.ac.uk/qa/externalexaminers/currentexternalexaminers/

20. The principles of programme design

The programme described in this document has been drawn up with reference to, and in accordance with the guidance set out in, the following documents:

a. UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education:
http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code
b. QAA Subject Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (2015) https://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements?indexCatalogue=document-search&searchQuery=politics&wordsMode=AllWords
c. Keele University Regulations and Guidance for Students and Staff: http://www.keele.ac.uk/regulations

21. Annex - International Year

BA (Hons) Politics with International Year

International Year Programme
Students registered for this Single Honours programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their period of study at Level 5 to the International Year option. Students accepted onto this option will have an extra year of study (the International Year) at an international partner institution after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele. Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the International Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfy the examiners in respect of the International Year will normally revert to the standard programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript. Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the International Year option.
International Year Programme Aims
In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the international year programme of study aims to provide students with: 1. Personal development as a student and a researcher with an appreciation of the international dimension of their subject 2. Experience of a different culture, academically, professionally and socially
Entry Requirements for the International Year

Students may apply to the 4-year programme during Level 5. Admission to the International Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff.

The criteria to be applied are:

- Academic Performance (an average of 55% across all modules in Semester 1 at Level 5 is normally required. Places on the International Year are then conditional on achieving an average mark of 55% across all Level 5 modules. Students with up to 15 credits of re-assessment who meet the 55% requirement may progress to the International Year. Where no Semester 1 marks have been awarded performance in 1st year marks and ongoing 2nd year assessments are taken into account)
- General Aptitude (to be demonstrated by application for study abroad, interview during the 2nd semester of year 2 (Level 5), and by recommendation of the student's Academic Mentor, 1st and 2nd year tutors and programme director)

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the International Year via the following methods:

- Phone or Skype conversations with Study Abroad tutor, in line with recommended Academic Mentoring meeting points.
- Support from the University's Global Education Team

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete a Keele undergraduate programme with International Year will be able to:

1. Describe, discuss and reflect upon the cultural and international differences and similarities of different learning environments
2. Discuss the benefits and challenges of global citizenship and internationalisation
3. Explain how their perspective on their academic discipline has been influenced by locating it within an international setting.
4. Design, plan and critically evaluate research projects with respect to politics, record relevant information accurately and systematically and be able to reflect on a range of sources in a critical manner.
5. Integrate, apply and develop enhanced principles relating to political analysis; recognise, describe and explain cultural phenomena across national boundaries and reflect critically upon problems relating to contemporary politics, society and culture.

These learning outcomes will all be assessed by the submission of a satisfactory individual learning agreement, the successful completion of assessments at the partner institution and the submission of the reflective portfolio element of the international year module.

Regulations

Students registered for the International Year are subject to the programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the International Year, the following regulations will apply:

Students undertaking the International Year must complete 120 credits, which must comprise *at least 40%* in the student's discipline area.

This may impact on your choice of modules to study, for example you will have to choose certain modules to ensure you have the discipline specific credits required.

Students are barred from studying any module with significant overlap to the Level 6 modules they will study on their return. Significant overlap with Level 5 modules previously studied should also be avoided.

Additional costs for the International Year

Tuition fees for students on the International Year will be charged at 15% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The International Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation, to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their destination university, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the destination they are studying at additional costs may include visas, study permits, residence permits, and compulsory health checks. Students should expect the total costs of studying abroad be greater than if they study in the UK, information is made available from the Global Education Team throughout the process, as costs will vary depending on destination.

Students who meet external eligibility criteria may be eligible for grants as part of this programme. Students studying outside of this programme may be eligible income dependent bursaries at Keele.

Students travel on a comprehensive Keele University insurance plan, for which there are currently no additional charges. Some Governments and/or universities require additional compulsory health coverage plans; costs for this will be advised during the application process.

22. Annex - Work Placement Year

Politics with Work Placement Year

Work Placement Year summary

Students registered for this programme may either be admitted for or apply to transfer during their studies to the 'with Work Placement Year' option (NB: for Combined Honours students the rules relating to the work placement year in the subject where the placement is organised are to be followed). Students accepted onto this programme will have an extra year of study (the Work Placement Year) with a relevant placement provider after they have completed Year 2 (Level 5) at Keele.

Students who successfully complete both the second year (Level 5) and the Work Placement Year will be permitted to progress to Level 6. Students who fail to satisfactorily complete the Work Placement Year will normally revert to the 3-year programme and progress to Level 6 on that basis. The failure will be recorded on the student's final transcript.

Study at Level 4, Level 5 and Level 6 will be as per the main body of this document. The additional detail contained in this annex will pertain solely to students registered for the Work Placement Year option.

Work Placement Year Programme Aims

In addition to the programme aims specified in the main body of this document, the Work Placement Year aims to provide students with:

1. The opportunity to carry out a long-term, placement-based learning experience between Years 2 and 3 of their degree programme
2. Enhanced employability
3. The opportunity to develop and consolidate the knowledge and skills they have gained during the course of their studies at Level 4 and 5.
4. A professional CV and portfolio that they can use when applying for employment

Entry Requirements for the Work Placement Year

Admission to the Work Placement Year is subject to successful application, interview and references from appropriate staff. Students have the opportunity to apply directly for the 4-year 'with work placement year' degree programme, or to transfer onto the 4-year programme at the end of Year-1 and in Year-2 at the end of Semester 1. Students who are initially registered for the 4-year degree programme may transfer onto the 3-year degree programme at any point in time, prior to undertaking the year-long work placement. Students who fail to pass the work placement year, and those who fail to meet the minimum requirements of the work placement year module (minimum 30 weeks full time (1,050 hours), or equivalent, work placement), will be automatically transferred onto the 3-year degree programme.

The criteria to be applied are:

- A good University attendance record and be in 'good academic standing'.
- Passed all Year-1 and Year-2 Semester 1 modules
- Students undertaking work placements will be expected to complete a Health and Safety checklist prior to commencing their work experience and will be required to satisfy the Health and Safety regulations of the company or organisation at which they are based.
- *(International students only)* Due to visa requirements, it is not possible for international students who require a Tier 4 Visa to apply for direct entry onto the 4-year with Work Placement Year degree programme. Students wishing to transfer onto this programme should discuss this with student support, the academic tutor for the work placement year, and the Programme Lead. Students should be aware that there are visa implications for this transfer, and it is the student's responsibility to complete any and all necessary processes to be eligible for this programme. There may be additional costs, including applying for a new Visa from outside of the UK for international students associated with a transfer to the work placement programme.

Students may not register for both an International Year and a Work Placement Year.

Student Support

Students will be supported whilst on the Work Placement Year via the following methods:

- Regular contact between the student and a named member of staff who will be assigned to the student as their University supervisor. The University supervisor will be in regular contact with the student throughout the year, and be on hand to provide advice (pastoral or academic) and liaise with the Placement supervisor on the student's behalf if required.
- Two formal contacts with the student during the placement year: the University supervisor will visit the student in their placement organisation at around the 5 weeks after the placement has commenced, and then visit again (or conduct a telephone/video call tutorial) at around 15 weeks into the placement.
- Weekly supervision sessions will take place with the placement supervisor (or his/her nominee) throughout the duration of the placement.

Learning Outcomes

In addition to the learning outcomes specified in the main text of the Programme Specification, students who complete the 'with Work Placement Year' option will be able to:

1. Understand the variety of ways in which skills developed during the study of Social Sciences can be deployed in non-academic contexts
2. Assess their own strengths and weaknesses in an employment context through a SWOT analysis, design learning outcomes, and reflect on their own progress throughout the module
3. Articulate their placement experiences effectively and critically reflect on their enhanced skill set in front of an audience
4. Understand the aims and priorities, as well as the strengths and possible limitations, of an external organisation and complete tasks as directed
5. Reflect on and critically evaluate their learning from the work placement, showing evidence that they have researched their sector and evaluated the effectiveness of their activities with this in mind

These learning outcomes will be assessed through the non-credit bearing Work Placement Year module (SOC-30051) which involves:

1. Supporting students in locating and securing a relevant work placement in any workplace where the research, analytical, and communication skills as a developed part of a Social, Political and Global Studies degree can be used
2. Students completing a SWOT analysis (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats) at the beginning of the placement, reflecting on their employability skills in terms of their assessment of sector skill demands. This will be used to create Intended Placement Outcomes and contribute to Continuing Professional Development. The action plan will be negotiated and agreed by the student, module convenor and employer.
3. Students creating a professional CV and portfolio that can be used when seeking employment after graduation
4. Students completing a 15-20 minute presentation in June/July, critically reflecting on the activities/projects they have completed so far, and the skills they have learned/developed. The audience will primarily be other students on this module, to ensure shared experiences and to create connections in preparation for returning to Keele for third year (Level 6)
5. Students developing a heightened awareness of the various ways in which their knowledge and skills can be utilised in real-world situations

Regulations

Students registered for the 'with Work Placement Year' option are subject to programme-specific regulations (if any) and the University regulations. In addition, during the Work Placement Year, the following regulations will apply:

- Students undertaking the Work Placement Year must successfully complete the zero-credit rated 'Work Placement Year' module (SOC-30051)
- In order to ensure a high quality placement experience, each placement agency will sign up to a placement contract (analogous to a service level agreement).
- Once a student has been accepted by a placement organisation, the student will make a pre-placement visit and a member of staff identified within the placement contract will be assigned as the placement supervisor. The placement supervisor will be responsible for ensuring that the placement experience meets the agreed contract agreed with the University.
- The placement student will also sign up an agreement outlining his/her responsibilities in relation to the requirements of each organisation.

Students will be expected to behave professionally in terms of:

(i) conforming to the work practices of the organisation; and

(ii) remembering that they are representatives of the University and their actions will reflect on the School and have an impact on that organisation's willingness (or otherwise) to remain engaged with the placement.

Additional costs for the Work Placement Year

Tuition fees for students on the Work Placement Year will be charged at 20% of the annual tuition fees for that year of study, as set out in Section 1. The Work Placement Year can be included in your Student Finance allocation; to find out more about your personal eligibility see: www.gov.uk

Students will have to bear the costs of travelling to and from their placement provider, accommodation, food and personal costs. Depending on the placement provider additional costs may include parking permits, travel and transport, suitable clothing, DBS checks, and compulsory health checks.

A small stipend may be available to students from the placement provider during the placement but this will need to be explored on a placement-by-placement basis as some organisations, such as charities, may not have any extra money available. Students should budget with the assumption that their placement will be unpaid.

Eligibility for student finance will depend on the type of placement and whether it is paid or not. If it is paid, this is likely to affect student finance eligibility, however if it is voluntary and therefore unpaid, should not affect student finance eligibility. Students are required to confirm eligibility with their student finance provider.

International students who require a Tier 4 visa should check with the Immigration Compliance team prior to commencing any type of paid placement to ensure that they are not contravening their visa requirements.

Version History

This document

Date Approved: 31 May 2024

What's Changed

Removal of module PIR-30162

Previous documents

Version No	Year	Owner	Date Approved	Summary of and rationale for changes
1.2	2023/24	JONATHAN PARKER	17 January 2024	Removal of HIS-20107
1.1	2023/24	JONATHAN PARKER	22 August 2023	Withdrawal of modules due to low sign-up (PIR-20079 Power to the People, PIR-20089 Elections, Voters, PIR-30147 Politics of Development, PIR-30152 Britain and War since 1945)
1	2023/24	JONATHAN PARKER	09 February 2023	
1.1	2022/23	EDWARD MCCAULEY	04 August 2022	Removal of optional module PIR-30164
1	2022/23	JONATHAN PARKER	11 May 2022	
1.1	2021/22	JONATHAN PARKER	07 September 2021	Minor changes to optional module lists.
1	2021/22	JONATHAN PARKER	05 February 2021	
1	2020/21	JONATHAN PARKER	19 December 2019	
1	2019/20	JONATHAN PARKER	19 December 2019	