Course Specification

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Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Sciences and Humanities		
Course Code(s):	IR003H01UM IR003H31UM	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
Course Title:	BA(Hons) International Relations		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours International Relations Bachelor of Arts International Relations Diploma of Higher Education International Relations Certificate of Higher Education International Relations		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of DAG approval:	17/Mar/2022		
Last Review:			
Course Specification valid from:	2021/2		
Course Specification valid to:	2027/8		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	ANNA KUTELEVA
Head of Department:	Dr David Hussey

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Not delivered in partnership
Teaching Institution:	University of Wolverhampton
Open / Closed Course:	This course is open to all suitably qualified candidates.

Entry Requirements:

Entry requirements are subject to regular review. The entry requirements applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website (and externally as appropriate e.g. UCAS

Distinctive Features of the Course:

Studying International Relations at Wolverhampton offers you an opportunity not only to engage with a wide range of current concerns facing the international community, but also encourages you to explore how you might make a difference in shaping a response to these issues. To this end, our curriculum not only provides you with conceptual and intellectual tools that will help you to better understand international relations, but also provides you with the knowledge and skills required to engage with those organisations and institutions that work in the field of international problem-solving. Although our curriculum delivers the core elements of an International Relations award there is also flexibility designed into the programme, offering you the opportunity to devise a programme of study that best suits your interests. International Relations is a multi-disciplinary subject and our programme allows for distinct routes covering politics, economics, war studies and history, or to simply to take whichever modules best appeal to you. However you choose to construct your programme of study, you'll be taught in an innovative and supportive department by experienced and accredited tutors who are active researchers in their field, and who have a proven research and publications record. Although your programme of study will help you to develop and refine key subject-specific skills geared towards academic success, the Sandwich Year provides you with a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience of working within and for a company or organisation connected with the field of International Relations. In the course of your placement you will not only experience first-hand how professional organisations work to achieve their goals but will also build valuable contacts while developing an experience-based skillset that future employers will value.

Educational Aims of the Course:

We live in a world in which change – and rapid change at that – seems to have become our default condition. Events happen on the other side of the world that impact almost immediately in our daily lives. Similarly, the smallest act we perform might impact on the lives of distant others. In a world as connected as ours, and which faces many fast-developing global problems – the climate crisis, international terrorism, migration, drug- and human trafficking to name but a few – we need to think beyond the old idea that it is States that will come to our rescue. States may still be important but solving such rapidly developing problems requires the building of coalitions – political, yes, but also social and cultural and involving a range of institutions and organisations – working towards common goals. Here at Wolverhampton, our International Relations award explores how such coalitions can be built, but also what might get in the way of developing sustainable solutions to global problems. But it is not only institutions and organisations that can shape solutions to global problems – we as individuals also have a role to play. Our course therefore actively encourages you to explore International Relations not only as an academic subject, but as one that aims to enhance your understanding of the possibilities for shaping solutions to international problems in your individual capacity as a Global Citizen. To this end, we will not only explore issues around rights, responsibilities, justice and citizenship, but via the Sandwich Placement year you will learn first-hand what such abstract ideas actually mean in a practical work environment. In a learning environment that combines digital spaces with in-class, face-to-face teaching in the form of lectures, seminars, workshops and individual tutorials we provide a safe space within which to explore a range of international issues. In these activities, and in the assessed work you

produce for us, you will develop the skills necessary to gather, interpret, evaluate and think critically about a wide range of evidence and source material. Through the writing of essays, reports and case studies and through the medium of presentations you will develop and refine your ability to communicate your findings confidently and effectively. These skills are not only essential to achieving academic success opening the way to post-graduate study, but are also highly-prized and much in demand in the world of graduate employment.

Intakes:

September

Major Source of Funding:

Office for Students (OFS)

Tuition Fees:

Tuition fees are reviewed on an annual basis. The fees applicable to a particular academic year will be published on the University website.

Year	Status	Mode	Amount
2020/1	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2020/1	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12250.00
2020/1	H	Part Time	£3050.00
2020/1	Overseas	Part Time	£6125.00
2021/2	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2021/2	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£12950.00
2021/2	H	Part Time	£3100.00
2022/3	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2022/3	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£13450.00
2022/3	H	Part Time	£3120.00
2023/4	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2023/4	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14450.00
2023/4	H	Part Time	£4625
2024/5	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9250.00
2024/5	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£14950.00
2024/5	H	Part Time	£4625.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

January (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4IR002	Current Issues in International Relations	20	SEM2	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

4HS005	Britain and the World	20	SEM2	
4SA014	Advocacy in Action	20	SEM2	
4WR002	Thinking About War and Peace	20	SEM2	
4CJ005	Human Rights in Criminal Justice	20	SEM2	

January (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4IR001	Introduction to International Relations	20	SEM1	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

4EC007	Macroeconomics	20	SEM1	
4PO008	Issues in Contemporary British Politics	20	SEM1	
4WR005	Terrorism	20	SEM1	

January (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5HS014	Research in Action	20	SEM2	Core
5IR002	World Politics	20	SEM2	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5HS008	Migrant Stories. Itinerants, Migrants and Refugees in the 19th and 20th Centuries	20	SEM2	
5SA017	Community Engagement and Social Change	20	SEM2	
5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	

January (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5IR001	Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations	20	SEM1	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

5EC005	International Economics: Policy and Applications	20	SEM1	
5HS001	America and the Cold War, 1947-91	20	SEM1	
5WR010	From Inter to Intranational? The Changing Nature of War and Conflict	20	SEM1	

January (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6IR002	Sustainable Development and International Relations	20	SEM2	Core

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 40 credits from the linked (*) groups.

*** Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 40**

Select TWO option modules, unless you are undertaking a Project/Independent Study module this semester, in which case select ONE option module from this group.

6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM2
6SL016	Nations and Nationalism	20	SEM2

*** Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

You must select one project/Independent Study module at Level 6. You are advised to study this in your final semester.

6IR004	Independent Study - Written Project	20	SEM2

January (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6IR001	The Rise of Asia in International Politics	20	SEM1	Core

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 40 credits and a maximum of 40 credits from the linked (*) groups.

*** Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 40**

Select ONE option module if you are also undertaking a Project/Independent Study module this semester. If you undertook your Project/Independent Study module last semester, then select TWO option modules from this group.

6WR011	How Conflicts End? Comparative Peace Processes	20	SEM1
6SA010	International NGO's, Policymaking and Change	20	SEM1

*** Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

You must select one project/Independent Study module at Level 6. You are advised to study this in your final semester.

6IR003	Independent Study - Written Project	20	SEM1

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4IR001	Introduction to International Relations	20	SEM1	Core
4IR002	Current Issues in International Relations	20	SEM2	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

4EC007	Macroeconomics	20	SEM1	
4PO008	Issues in Contemporary British Politics	20	SEM1	
4WR005	Terrorism	20	SEM1	

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

4HS005	Britain and the World	20	SEM2	
4SA014	Advocacy in Action	20	SEM2	
4WR002	Thinking About War and Peace	20	SEM2	
4CJ005	Human Rights in Criminal Justice	20	SEM2	

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5IR001	Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations	20	SEM1	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 40 | Max Value: 40

5EC005	International Economics: Policy and Applications	20	SEM1	
5HS001	America and the Cold War, 1947-91	20	SEM1	
5WR010	From Inter to Intranational? The Changing Nature of War and Conflict	20	SEM1	

5HS014	Research in Action	20	SEM2	Core
5IR002	World Politics	20	SEM2	Core

Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 20

5HS008	Migrant Stories. Itinerants, Migrants and Refugees in the 19th and 20th Centuries	20	SEM2	
5SA017	Community Engagement and Social Change	20	SEM2	
5SL008	Volunteering in Action	20	SEM2	

September (Full-time)

Full time and Sandwich Undergraduate Honours students normally study 120 credits per academic year; 60 credits semester 1 and 60 credits semester 2.

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 80 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
6IR001	The Rise of Asia in International Politics	20	SEM1	Core
6IR002	Sustainable Development and International Relations	20	SEM2	Core

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 60 credits and a maximum of 60 credits from the linked (*) groups.

***Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 40**

If you are undertaking your Project in Semester 1, select ONE module from this option group. Otherwise, select TWO modules.

6SA010	International NGO's, Policymaking and Change	20	SEM1
6WR011	How Conflicts End? Comparative Peace Processes	20	SEM1

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits from the linked (*) groups.

***Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

6IR003	Independent Study - Written Project	20	SEM1

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 60 credits and a maximum of 60 credits from the linked (*) groups.

***Group 01 | Min Value: 20 | Max Value: 40**

If you are undertaking your Project in Semester 2, select ONE module from this option group. Otherwise, select TWO modules.

6PO008	India in a Global World	20	SEM2
6SL016	Nations and Nationalism	20	SEM2

Linked Option Group Rule: Select a minimum of 20 credits and a maximum of 20 credits from the linked (*) groups.

***Group 01 | Min Value: 0 | Max Value: 20**

6IR004	Independent Study - Written Project	20	SEM2

Please note: Optional modules might not run every year, the course team will decide on an annual basis which options will be running, based on student demand and academic factors, to create the best learning experience.

Learning, Teaching and Assessment

Academic Regulations Exemption:

None

Reference Points:

Politics and International Relations (2019)

Overview of Assessment:

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts and principles associated with your area(s) of study, and an ability to evaluate and interpret these within the context of that area of study	4HS005 Britain and the World 4IR001 Introduction to International Relations 4IR002 Current Issues in International Relations 4PO008 Issues in Contemporary British Politics 4WR002 Thinking About War and Peace 4WR005 Terrorism
CERTHE02 Demonstrate an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of your subject(s) of study.	4HS005 Britain and the World 4PO008 Issues in Contemporary British Politics 4EC005 Thinking like an Economist 4HS005 Britain and the World 4PO008 Issues in Contemporary British Politics
CERTHE03 Evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study and/or work	4EC005 Thinking like an Economist 4IR001 Introduction to International Relations 4IR002 Current Issues in International Relations 4PO008 Issues in Contemporary British Politics 4SA014 Advocacy in Action 4WR002 Thinking About War and Peace 4WR005 Terrorism
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments	4EC005 Thinking like an Economist 4HS005 Britain and the World 4IR001 Introduction to International Relations 4IR002 Current Issues in International Relations 4PO008 Issues in Contemporary British Politics 4SA014 Advocacy in Action 4WR002 Thinking About War and Peace 4WR005 Terrorism
CERTHE05 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment requiring the exercise of some personal responsibility	4EC005 Thinking like an Economist 4HS005 Britain and the World 4IR001 Introduction to International Relations 4IR002 Current Issues in International Relations 4SA014 Advocacy in Action 4WR002 Thinking About War and Peace 4WR005 Terrorism
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and critical understanding of the well-established principles of your area(s) of study, and of the way in which those principles have developed with an understanding of the limits of your knowledge, and how this influences analyses and interpretations based on that knowledge.	5HS014 Research in Action 5IR001 Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations 5IR002 World Politics 5IR003 International Relations Sandwich Placement 5SA017 Community Engagement and Social Change 5WR010 From Inter to Intranational? The Changing Nature of War and Conflict
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the ability to apply underlying concepts and principles outside the context in which they were first studied, including, where appropriate, the application of those principles in an employment context.	5EC005 International Economics: Policy and Applications 5HS008 Migrant Stories. Itinerants, Migrants and Refugees in the 19th and 20th Centuries 5HS014 Research in Action 5IR001 Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations 5IR003 International Relations Sandwich Placement

Learning Outcomes	Modules
	5SA017 Community Engagement and Social Change 5SL008 Volunteering in Action 5WR010 From Inter to Intranational? The Changing Nature of War and Conflict
DIPHE03 Demonstrate knowledge of the main methods of enquiry in the subject(s) relevant to the named award, and ability to evaluate critically the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in the field of study.	5HS001 America and the Cold War, 1947-91 5HS008 Migrant Stories. Itinerants, Migrants and Refugees in the 19th and 20th Centuries 5HS014 Research in Action 5IR001 Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations 5IR002 World Politics 5IR003 International Relations Sandwich Placement 5SA017 Community Engagement and Social Change 5SL008 Volunteering in Action
DIPHE04 Use a range of established techniques to initiate and undertake critical analysis of information, and to propose solutions to problems arising from that analysis.	5EC005 International Economics: Policy and Applications 5HS001 America and the Cold War, 1947-91 5HS008 Migrant Stories. Itinerants, Migrants and Refugees in the 19th and 20th Centuries 5HS014 Research in Action 5IR002 World Politics 5IR003 International Relations Sandwich Placement 5SA017 Community Engagement and Social Change 5SL008 Volunteering in Action 5WR010 From Inter to Intranational? The Changing Nature of War and Conflict
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences, and deploy key techniques of the discipline effectively.	5HS001 America and the Cold War, 1947-91 5HS014 Research in Action 5IR001 Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations 5IR003 International Relations Sandwich Placement 5SA017 Community Engagement and Social Change 5SL008 Volunteering in Action
DIPHE06 Demonstrate the qualities and transferable skills necessary for employment, requiring the exercise of personal responsibility and decision-making and undertake further training, developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations.	5EC005 International Economics: Policy and Applications 5HS008 Migrant Stories. Itinerants, Migrants and Refugees in the 19th and 20th Centuries 5HS014 Research in Action 5IR001 Disputes, Debates and Diplomacy in International Relations 5IR002 World Politics 5IR003 International Relations Sandwich Placement 5SA017 Community Engagement and Social Change 5SL008 Volunteering in Action 5WR010 From Inter to Intranational? The Changing Nature of War and Conflict
BHONSN01 Identify a range of concepts, theories and methodologies fundamental to the study of International Relations	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe
BHONSN02 Demonstrate an understanding of complexity of international issues and their attempted resolution	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe 6PO008 India in a Global World 6WR001 Conflict Resolution in the Modern World

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN03 Understand the role of governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations in relation to a range of international issues	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO008 India in a Global World
BHONSN04 Employ a variety of appropriate technologies and platforms in a digitally literate and enterprising way to support research, process data and produce written work and presentational material	6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO008 India in a Global World 6WR001 Conflict Resolution in the Modern World
BHONSN05 Show understanding of your role and ethical responsibilities as an active Global Citizen	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe 6PO008 India in a Global World 6WR001 Conflict Resolution in the Modern World
BHONSN06 Demonstrate proficiency in both the generic transferable and subject-specific skills employed in the study of International Relations	6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe
BHONS01 Identify, analyse and critically compare a range of concepts, theories and methodologies fundamental to the study of International Relations and demonstrate an understanding of the ways in which these relate to specific practical issues	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe
BHONS02 Demonstrate an understanding of the connections between politics, economics, history and culture in the framing of international issues, and their attempted resolution	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe 6PO008 India in a Global World 6WR001 Conflict Resolution in the Modern World
BHONS03 Understand the role of governmental and non-governmental institutions and organisations in developing sustainable policies and practices in relation to a range of international issues	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO008 India in a Global World
BHONS04 Employ a variety of appropriate technologies and platforms in a digitally literate and enterprising way to support research, process data and produce written work and presentational material to a high standard	6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO008 India in a Global World 6WR001 Conflict Resolution in the Modern World

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONS05 Show a refined understanding of your role and ethical responsibilities as an active Global Citizen in relation to a range of international issues impacting at both the local and global levels	6EC007 Development Economics 6HS001 Modern America: The Rise of a Superpower 6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR001 The Rise of Asia in International Politics 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe 6PO008 India in a Global World 6WR001 Conflict Resolution in the Modern World
BHONS06 Demonstrate proficiency with, and a professional and enterprising attitude to, the generic transferable and subject-specific skills employed in the study of International Relations	6HS017 Ending Empire in South Asia, 1914-1947 6IR002 Sustainable Development and International Relations 6IR003 Independent Study - Written Project 6IR004 Independent Study - Written Project 6PO005 Security and Integration in the New Europe

Teaching, Learning and Assessment:

In the delivery of our International Studies offer here at Wolverhampton, we employ a wide range of learning and teaching activities, as well as a variety of assessment tasks, in order to meet the needs of a diverse body of students. Our approach to the delivery of our course empowers students, as they move through the various levels of study, to become successful independent learners, capable of exercising independence of mind, and creativity in the development, execution and delivery of specific research tasks. At all stages of this journey, students are guided and supported in the development of a range of study skills appropriate not only to their chosen subject but also to their needs as individual learners. Teaching: Our approach to the teaching of our courses recognises that different students learn in different ways and at different speeds. We therefore employ a flexible approach to the delivery of our material, making full use of digital technology which may be accessed at a time and place of the student's own choosing. This includes, where appropriate, live or pre-recorded lectures, lecture slides, sources, links and other course materials being made available within the University's dedicated Virtual Learning Environment (VLE) and accessible through dedicated Apps. We do not, however, solely employ digital platforms for the delivery of our material, and in-class, face-to-face discussion takes place regularly throughout our modules. These are environments in which course materials may be delivered via lectures, but they are also – and perhaps more importantly – spaces in which students are encouraged to develop their confidence in discussing and debating topics not only with their tutors, but also with their peers, in the context of group-based discussions and set tasks. This approach has educational value, but it also has the aim of developing individual students' inter-personal and communication skills which will enhance their employability after they have graduated. Learning: The study of International Relations here at Wolverhampton entails a flexible and adaptable approach to the specific needs of individual learners. We recognise the importance to students of learning in the best way that suits them as individuals, and on this basis we provide a supportive environment in which students can feel empowered to take responsibility for their own learning. This aim is achieved in part through an approach to learning that is staged throughout the levels of study, with students at Level 4 receiving a strong study-skills based introduction to the practicalities and intellectual challenges of studying at university, which for many students entails a period of adjustment to Higher Education learning expectations. Study skills tasks are therefore built into our Level 4 provision, and reflected in the assessment tasks students engage in at the modular level. At Level 5 students are encouraged to develop and refine their confidence in handling conceptual and theoretical approaches to their topic through the study of key ideas and ideologies framing our understanding of political issues and international concerns. Students not only encounter these ideas and concepts, but are also encouraged to explore their practical importance in relation to specific case studies which they may choose for themselves, thereby gaining confidence in devising their own research projects. At Level 6 we expect students to be working at a high level of independence, and this is perhaps exemplified best by the requirement that they produce a substantial piece of self-designed, self-managed research (the 'Independent Study – Written Project') which students are encouraged to view as evidence of their capabilities in gather, analysing and presenting complex information when they either seek employment having completed their studies, or in pursing their studies at Post-graduate level. However, the Independent Study - Written Project module is not the only module in which students are expected to demonstrate a high level of independent ability. All Level 6 modules are designed to provide opportunities for students to demonstrate their ability to synthesise complex information, analyse the results and communicate them confidently and in

a manner that is appropriate to their intended audience. Assessment: The assessment tasks reflect the developmental approach we take towards learning and teaching. Many of our modules will contain formative assessment tasks – some assessed, some not – which provide an opportunity for students to demonstrate their skills and understanding whilst receiving constructive feedback enabling them to further refine their approach prior to attempting the summative assignments with which their modules conclude. The feedback students receive for their summative tasks itself serves two distinct but inter-related functions: (a) it provides an opportunity on the part of students to reflect on the work they've done during the module; and (b) provides suggestions as to how improvements might be made in relation to the modules they are yet to take. Inevitably, at Level 4, many of the assignments – formative and summative – will contain a study skills component as this (a) bridges the move from school to Higher Education and (b) provides a solid, skills-based foundation for the higher levels of study to come. At Level 5 we expect the students to be demonstrating facility with ideas and concepts, relating these to empirical examples and practical issues drawn from the field of International Relations. In pursuit of these goals, we employ a wide range of assessment tasks including essays, reports, case studies, and presentations (online and in-class) all of which are designed collectively to develop and enhance students' critical and analytical skills, as well as their written and verbal communication skills, and their digital literacy, thereby also enhancing their employability.

Assessment Methods:

At the University of Wolverhampton, a variety of modes of assessment will be used to support and test your learning and progress and to help you develop capabilities that are valued beyond your University studies and into your working life. Your course may include a variety of assessment activities:

Written examinations (including online examinations, open and closed book examinations and quizzes)
Coursework (for example, essays, reports, portfolios, project proposals and briefs, CVs, poster presentation)
Practical (for example, oral and video presentations, laboratory work, performances, practical skills assessment)

In the final year of your undergraduate degree, and at the end of your postgraduate degree, you are likely to be expected to write an extended piece of work or research, such as a dissertation or a practice-based piece of research.

Student Support:

University Learning Centres are the key source of academic information for students. Learning Centres provide physical library resources (books, journal, DVDs etc.) and offer a range of study areas to allow students to study in the environment that suit them best: Social areas, quiet and silent areas. Learning Centres also provide access to wide range of online information sources, including eBooks, e-Journals and subject databases. Learning Centres also provide students with academic skills support via the Skills for Learning programme. Students on campus can attend workshops or ask for one-to-one help on a range of skills such as academic writing and referencing. Students can access a range of online skills material at: www.wlv.ac.uk/lib/skills. The University Student Support website offers advice on a variety of matters (careers, counselling, student union advice, etc.) Students can also access these services by booking appointment with the SU, careers, counselling services, etc. In addition to these University support systems, The International Studies team is committed to providing a safe and supportive learning environment for its students especially, though not exclusively, in relation to the transition from school to university. The support provided by the team is intended to supplement and enhance the existing support already available at Faculty and University-level. This is achieved in part through in-module study skills provision, with a particular focus in terms of our Level 4 provision, where not only is time in class and online dedicated to discussing and exploring study skills such as referencing, writing academically etc. but is also built into assessment tasks at this level so that students may practise the skills they are being encouraged to develop. This is also true of the types of assessment students may encounter at university which they may not have previously encountered. Support concerning our expectations as tutors and the students' understanding of what is required of them in the assessment tasks we set is not only offered at Level 4, but is a consistent feature of our delivery thereafter.

Employability in the Curriculum:

The study of International Relations equips you with a range of skills appropriate to graduate employment. Whilst the subject-specific skills acquired will enable you to undertake further research at post-graduate level, the transferrable skills will ensure that you are attractive to those professions which value independently-minded individuals with good communication skills across a range of platforms, digital and otherwise, who are capable of thinking critically and creatively, and are capable of producing high quality research to tightly-specified briefs. In modules such as Volunteering in Action, you will have the opportunity to explore at first hand the links between politics, culture and society at the local level and examine how the local links to the regional and the international. The skills and personal qualities developed in these activities are valuable to employers in both the public and private sectors and graduates will find employment in fields such as public administration, local and national Government, advocacy (e.g. non-governmental organisations such as think tanks, charities etc.) as well as the communications sector such as public relations, marketing, media and journalism.

