UNIVERSITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON

Course Specification

Published Date:	21-Jul-2026
Produced By:	Multi Type Usr Record For All Personnel
Status:	Validated

Core Information

Awarding Body / Institution:	University of Wolverhampton		
School / Institute:	School of Social Science, Humanities and Creative Industries		
Course Code(s):	IR007H01UM IR007H31UM	Full-time Part-time	3 Years 6 Years
UCAS Code:	L290		
Course Title:	BA(Hons) Politics and International Relations		
Hierarchy of Awards:	Bachelor of Arts with Honours Politics and International Relations Bachelor of Arts Politics and International Relations Diploma of Higher Education Politics and International Relations Certificate of Higher Education Politics and International Relations		
Language of Study:	English		
Date of first cohort:	14/Sep/2026		
Specification valid from:	2025/6		

Academic Staff

Course Leader:	PRADYUMNA JAIRAM
Head of Department:	Mrs Sarah Williams

Course Information

Location of Delivery:	University of Wolverhampton
Category of Partnership:	Standard Provision (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:

The BA in Politics and International Relations at the University of Wolverhampton offers a dynamic, engaging, and career-relevant degree for students who want to understand — and influence — the political forces shaping today's world. Our programme is built on the conviction that politics is everywhere: not only in parliaments and global summits, but in everyday life — in our communities, economies, media, and international relationships. We provide a vibrant learning environment grounded in scholarly excellence, open dialogue, and critical inquiry.

A distinctive strength of the programme lies in its global and regional expertise, giving students the opportunity to explore politics beyond the UK and Europe. The programme offers particularly strong coverage of Asian politics, with in-depth study of South Asia and East Asia, helping students develop nuanced, regionally grounded perspectives on issues such as security, governance, economic change, and international cooperation.

Throughout the degree, we place strong emphasis on connecting political ideas to real-world challenges. Students will gain the theoretical tools needed to analyse global power, conflict, diplomacy, and international institutions, while also exploring how politics affects societies and communities closer to home. Assessment is designed to prepare students for both academic success and future careers. Alongside traditional essays and exams, students complete practical and creative assessments such as policy briefs, media analysis, and research projects, helping students build professional skills in communication, analysis, and digital literacy that are highly valued in today's workplace.

Across all three years, the programme follows a clear and supportive learning journey, allowing you to steadily build expertise and confidence. By the time students graduate, they will have developed advanced skills in critical thinking, research, communication, problem-solving, and independent judgement — abilities that are highly sought after in careers across government, international organisations, NGOs, media, and the private sector.

Educational Aims of the Course:

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
2025/6	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9535.00
2025/6	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£15995.00
2025/6	H	Part Time	£4768.00
2026/7	H	Full Time / Sandwich	£9790.00
2026/7	Overseas	Full Time / Sandwich	£17600.00
2026/7	H	Part Time	£4895.00

PSRB:

None

Course Structure:

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
4IR004	Introduction to International Relations	30	SEM1	Core
4GK014	Succeeding at University for the Social Sciences and Humanities	30	SEM1	Core
4IR003	Conflict and Cooperation: Case-Studies in International Relations	30	SEM2	Core
4PO009	The Evolution of the International Order	30	SEM2	Core

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type
5IR005	The Rise of Asia in International Politics	30	SEM1	Core
5GK019	Professional Development for the Social Sciences and Humanities	30	SEM1	Core
5PO007	Contemporary Political Ideologies: Theory and Practice	30	SEM2	Core

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

Please select one module from list.

5IR004	Diplomacy and Foreign Policy: Theory, Practice, Professional Skills	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Anna Kuteleva
5WR013	The Second World War: A Social, Cultural and Military History	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Adam Dighton

September (Full-time)

Part time students study alongside full time students. However, they do not study more than 90 credits in each academic calendar year.

Module	Title	Credits	Period	Type	
6IR007	Applied Research Skills in International Relations	30	SEM1	Core	

Option Group 02 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

Please select one module from list.

6PO011	Political Concepts and their Use	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Anna Kuteleva
6IR008	Democracy in Crisis: Populism, Authoritarianism and Democratic Backsliding	30	SEM1	Core/Option	Anna Kuteleva
6IR005	Global Power Shifts in the 21st Century	30	SEM2	Core	

Option Group 01 | Min Value: 30 | Max Value: 30

Please select one module from list.

6IR006	Independent Study: Written Project	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Anna Kuteleva
6WR013	Cyber Statecraft: Competition and Conflict in Cyberspace.	30	SEM2	Core/Option	Jason Dymydiuk

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

Regulations Exemption:

Reference Points:

UK Quality Code for Higher Education

Qualifications and Credit Frameworks

Subject Benchmark Statements

University Policies and Regulations

Equality Act 2010: guidance - GOV.UK

Apprenticeship Standard

Overview of Assessment:

As part of the course approval process, the course learning outcomes were mapped to each of the modules forming the diet of the programme of study. This process confirmed that all course learning outcomes can be met through successful completion of the modules. This mapping applies to the final award as well as to all of the intermediate awards.

Learning Outcomes	Modules
CERTHE01 Demonstrate knowledge of the underlying concepts, theories and principles associated with your area(s) of study. (Knowing)	
CERTHE02 Evaluate, interpret and apply data, to develop ideas and discussion in your subject(s) of study. (Knowing)	
CERTHE03 Use different approaches to solving problems related to your area(s) of study (Doing)	
CERTHE04 Communicate the results of your study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments (Doing)	
CERTHE05 Identify and undertake further training and develop new skills to support your learning (Being)	
CERTHE06 Identify personal qualities and transferable skills necessary for further study and/or employment (Being)	
DIPHE01 Demonstrate knowledge and application of the concepts and principles of your area(s) of study. (Knowing)	
DIPHE02 Demonstrate the application of those principles in an employability and/or professional practice context. (Knowing)	
DIPHE03 Identify and use methods of enquiry in the subject(s) and evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems in study. (Doing)	
DIPHE04 Use a range of new and established techniques to explore and critique data and sources of information, to solve problems within your subject (Doing)	
DIPHE05 Effectively communicate information, arguments and analysis in a variety of forms to specialist and non-specialist audiences. (Being)	
DIPHE06 Show personal responsibility and decision-making to developing existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable you to reach your employability goals. (Being)	
BHONSN01 Demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the key theories, processes, and research methods in Politics and International Relations. (KNOWING)	
BHONSN02 Critically analyse and evaluate academic literature in the field, engaging with diverse perspectives, debates, and narratives in order to develop independent and evidence-based analytical arguments (KNOWING)	
BHONSN03 Produce well-structured and original assessed work (e.g., essays, policy briefs, case studies) that demonstrates depth of knowledge, critical engagement with sources, and clear academic organisation (BEING)	
BHONSN04 Communicate complex political ideas and research findings effectively to different audiences through written work, oral presentations, and visual formats such as PowerPoint or policy-style briefings (BEING)	

Learning Outcomes	Modules
BHONSN05 Work collaboratively and constructively with peers from diverse backgrounds, demonstrating professionalism, empathy, and respect within group learning and project environments (DOING)	
BHONSN06 Engage in informed debate and discussion grounded in research evidence, demonstrating the ability to articulate arguments clearly while responding thoughtfully and professionally to differing viewpoints (DOING)	
BHONS01 Demonstrate systematic knowledge and critical understanding of the key theories, processes, and research methods in Politics and International Relations. (KNOWING	
BHONS02 Critically analyse and evaluate academic literature in the field, engaging with diverse perspectives, debates, and narratives in order to develop independent and evidence-based analytical arguments (KNOWING)	
BHONS03 Produce well-structured and original assessed work (e.g., essays, policy briefs, case studies) that demonstrates depth of knowledge, critical engagement with sources, and clear academic organisation (BEING)	
BHONS04 Communicate complex political ideas and research findings effectively to different audiences through written work, oral presentations, and visual formats such as PowerPoint or policy-style briefings (BEING)	
BHONS05 Work collaboratively and constructively with peers from diverse backgrounds, demonstrating professionalism, empathy, and respect within group learning and project environments (DOING)	
BHONS06 Engage in informed debate and discussion grounded in research evidence, demonstrating the ability to articulate arguments clearly while responding thoughtfully and professionally to differing viewpoints (DOING)	

Teaching, Learning & Assessment Strategy/(Learning and Teaching):

The BA in Politics and International Relations is designed to equip you with academic and professional learning skills, which will help you in your studies and post-university future. We are also aware that you may come from a learning background with little familiarity with Politics and IR. As such, the first year is designed to help you 'discover your program' – combining a historical survey of the modern world, through some of the major developments of the last 200 years and understanding them through various theories of interpretations. Familiarity with modern history and IR theory provides the intellectual base from which to progress to more specialised modules of study in Level 5 and 6.

Teaching in this course uses a wide array of learning methods, giving priority to academic knowledge, understanding, and development of 'transferrable skills'. In-person lectures given by specialists in the subject provide the base from which to approach the topics of the week. Lecture slides will be sent you in advance of the weekly session to help familiarise you with the topic, and to share any questions/comments you may have about it.

Besides the lectures, the course also utilises the flip model of learning, where you become active participants in the learning process as well. This is done through discussions and debates in the session, based on seminar questions provided on the course page, providing commentary and perspective on policy reports, newspaper articles, political speeches and media reportage among others. Here the objective is to look beyond academic sources of learning and examine how narratives and arguments are constructed and disseminated in the wider world. You will be tasked with providing your own insights into the material, hear from your peers, and engage with differing views in a critical and professional manner.

We also encourage you take discussions outside the physical learning space, and into the virtual world. The course pages for each module contain discussion threads, where you are invited to share your thoughts on prompts initiated by the module convener. These will range from current developments in the field, summarising a piece of writing/speech, and formulating your own questions for discussion.

Assessment Methods/Assessments:

his course uses a wide range of assessment methods designed to reflect different ways of learning and to develop both academic and professional skills. Each module has its own learning outcomes and accompanying assessment requirements. Across the degree, you will complete a diverse portfolio of work, including research essays, PowerPoint presentations, policy briefs, media discourse analyses, and your own research proposal.

We recognise that assessment in higher education should extend beyond traditional essays, particularly as the sector continues to evolve and professional expectations change. For this reason, the programme incorporates a variety of assessment formats that reflect contemporary academic and professional practices, helping you develop transferable skills that will support your success beyond university.

The academic essay remains a central form of assessment, as it develops your ability to engage with theory, apply key concepts, and organise complex arguments effectively. You will be expected to develop independent analytical perspectives through engagement with a wide range of sources (both primary and secondary) and to present your arguments clearly and persuasively in an appropriate academic style using the required referencing conventions.

In addition to essays, many modules include oral presentations, where you will communicate your research findings to your peers. This requires you to condense complex research into a clear and accessible format, demonstrating both conceptual understanding and the ability to explain political ideas to audiences who may not be familiar with the academic literature.

Policy briefs and media scans are additional assessment formats that reflect the practical application of political analysis. These forms of writing differ from standard essays because they require you to identify key issues, analyse evidence, evaluate biases or gaps in existing discussions, and propose informed recommendations or solutions. In these assessments, writing is often directed toward professional or policy audiences rather than purely academic readers, helping you develop skills relevant to careers in government, policy analysis, media, and international organisations.

Finally, formative assessments are used throughout the modules to support your learning and help consolidate key concepts. These may include short quizzes designed to reinforce material from previous weeks, as well as activities such as map exercises that help you develop familiarity with global regions, political boundaries, and key geopolitical issues such as border disputes.

Further Information for Student:

Transition Support

Studying at University marks the first step towards independent learning and research. However, we are aware that while this is an exciting prospect, it is also accompanied by many challenges, and here at the University of Wolverhampton, we are here to help you navigate these challenges and help you realise your full potential in the course that you study. The BA in Politics and International Relations has been designed keeping in mind student concerns, and adopts a student-friendly approach in learning, assessments and pastoral welfare.

After enrolment, you will be allotted a designated Student Success Coach (SSC), who will be in regular communication with you throughout the first year of your study. They will not only assist you in your academic studies but will also help guide you in familiarising yourself with university procedures, IT and address any pastoral concerns you may have.

In addition to SSC's, each module in this course provides you a wide array of support structures to help you with your learning. 'Assessment Unpacking' is a dedicated week allotted to help you understand the requirements each module has regarding assessments. These vary from essays, presentations, policy reports and media briefs. The module convener will guide through the assessment briefs, explaining each type of assessment in-detail and answer any questions you may have on them. In addition, whilst preparing for your summative assessments, you are invited to submit drafts of your work as formative pieces of work (not counted in your final mark), for feedback from the module convener. The comments will be based on each element in the marking criteria, identifying explicitly, areas of strength and improvement, with detailed explanations to help you prepare for your final submission.

Studying at University is also meant to foster a collaborative learning environment, developing skills such as teamwork, partnership, cooperation and professionalism, all highly sought after in the workplace. Studying for a Politics and IR degree involves working in small groups to foster a cooperative study space, where opinions are shared, debated and discussed in a critical and professional manner. Studying with pupils from different national and learning contexts fosters respect for diversity of perspectives, and allows for multiplicity of interpretations, a hallmark of rigorous scholarship.

We appreciate that this is a reciprocal undertaking, and we are cognisant that students will have a diversity of views on the course and learning material. It would therefore be very useful for us to gauge your feedback on how you find learning in various modules, to help us identify our own areas of strength, and potential tweaks which can be made for the future.

We hope that your enrolment and progression on this program is enjoyable and intellectually rewarding, and that you come away with a deeper interest and passion for study, research and curiosity about Politics and International Relations.

Student Support:

The University provides a wide range of academic and pastoral support to help students succeed in their studies and personal development. This includes access to the Library and Skills for Learning service, student success coaching for students in their early stages, and tailored advice from the Careers and Enterprise teams. Students also benefit from 24/7 wellbeing support through WLV Student Life Connect, pastoral care via the Multi-faith Chaplaincy, and assistance from the Mental Health and Wellbeing team. Those living in university accommodation have additional access to Residential Life support, and all students can engage with the Students' Union for advocacy, societies, and further peer-led services.

Currency:

Politics is an ever-changing phenomenon, and it impacts the Global World in a myriad of ways. War, economic uncertainty, populism, nationalism, disruptions to supply chains are all part of today's world, and it becomes imperative to examine 'how' they have come about, and what potential impacts they could have in the long run. Keeping this in mind, the Politics and International Relations program combines a deep historical insight to complement studying today's world, to make sense of 'where we are', and 'how we got here'. Modules created reflect the need for understanding some of the most pressing issues we face in the world today.

These modules are taught by academics who are specialists in the field, having done rigorous research and produced scholarship in the form of books, journal articles, and engagement with the wider public through new media. Thus, the bedrock of this program is academic excellence and rigor, which we hope will help you develop your own areas of research and specialisation. The assessments designed enable you to choose 'hot' topics of today which you find interesting, have a curiosity to know more about, and wish to research on more to provide your own interpretations.

This course aligns firmly with the University's identified graduate attributes. Given the breadth of geographical contexts covered, it develops students' awareness of their place as global citizens, respecting diversity of perspectives and contexts, and engaging with frameworks hitherto not familiar with before. The proactive role you play in the program through your learning and participation will help you develop key attributes of knowledge and professionalism. As you move to higher levels of learning, you will gradually learn with more autonomy, enabling you to develop critical and independent frameworks of understanding concepts, theories and processes.

Finally, as this program has been designed within an interdisciplinary framework, it allows you to develop insights and perspectives from a wide array of lenses – historical, cultural, sociological, economic etc, and allows you to combine disciplines if you choose to go for future studies, and work within disciplines in your future work. It is the hope of the program leaders that you channel the learning opportunities offered to make better sense of our world, such that you can step out and take part in it as change makers or goal setters.

Personalisation Opportunities:

A major strength of the Politics and International Relations programme is its interdisciplinary approach, which allows it to combine with other subjects across the university. Understanding the complexities of today's geopolitical climate requires looking to the past, examining the social, economic, and cultural changes shaped by geopolitics, and interpreting these developments through different theoretical perspectives. This approach enables you to draw on insights from related fields such as history, war studies, sociology, and economics.

The course has been designed in a way to provide you with an inter-disciplinary framework of learning, whilst also expanding on geographical breadth covered, giving you more opportunities for specialisation as you work towards your independent study project. Through this approach, you will explore key concepts such as foreign policy, soft power, nationalism, diplomacy, and political ideologies, while also studying important and emerging regions in global politics.

In many modules, you will be able to choose topics for your assessments, in consultation with the module leader, allowing you to pursue areas that reflect your interests and academic goals. We recognise the importance of independent thinking and research, and we encourage a learning environment that moves beyond narrowly prescribed questions to support more exploratory and analytical forms of inquiry.

At Levels 5 and 6, you will also have the opportunity to enhance your degree by selecting modules offered by the War Studies programme, which approaches the study of war through its own interdisciplinary framework. These options allow you to develop specialist knowledge and draw on perspectives from multiple disciplines, supporting the development of cross-disciplinary research interests.

The Level 6 Independent Study Project represents the culmination of your research. You will work closely with a supervisor who has expertise in your chosen area to produce an original piece of independent research. This project is based on a research question that you develop yourself, using a methodology appropriate to your topic.

The range of possible topics for independent study is broad, reflecting the diversity of the Politics and International Relations programme. We encourage you to engage with this diversity through carefully selected reading lists, varied learning activities, and different forms of assessment that not only demonstrate academic achievement but also develop professional and transferable skills valued in the workplace.

Employability in the Curriculum/Employability and Professional Development:

The Politics and International Relations programme is designed not only to support academic achievement but also to develop the professional skills needed for success in the workplace. The diversity of modules and range of assessment methods contribute to the development of transferable skills that are valued across many sectors.

Core academic skills are developed throughout the degree, enabling you to build depth of knowledge, organise complex information, and produce clear and well-structured written work. Assessments also require you to manage deadlines, adhere to word limits, and plan your work effectively, helping you develop the ability to work independently and perform under pressure.

Presentations form an important part of the programme, helping you develop the ability to communicate complex ideas clearly and confidently to an audience. Through these activities, you will learn how to structure and design effective presentations, speak with clarity and confidence, and respond thoughtfully and respectfully to questions and discussion. These skills are central to many professional environments.

Policy briefs provide an opportunity to apply academic knowledge to real-world issues, requiring you to analyse political, social, economic, or security challenges and present practical recommendations based on research evidence. Similarly, media scan assessments develop your ability to critically evaluate news coverage across newspapers, television, and digital media, identifying biases, narratives, and broader political implications while reflecting on how such issues might be interpreted differently.

Together, these forms of assessment develop a wide range of skills that are relevant to careers in sectors such as academia, policy analysis, think tanks, public administration, education, media, and finance.

To support your professional development, the programme includes a mandatory Level 5 module, 'Professional Development', which helps you explore potential career pathways and develop strategies for entering your chosen field. This module also provides opportunities to gain practical experience through work placement.

In addition, the University's Careers Service offers ongoing support throughout your studies, including guidance on CV writing, identifying suitable career opportunities, aligning your skills with job requirements, and preparing for interviews through mock interview sessions.