

# **University of Plymouth**

**Faculty of Arts & Humanities**

**School of Law, Criminology and Government**

## **Programme Specification**

### **Politics**

#### **Award Title and Internal Code**

<b>BSc (Hons) Politics with International Relations</b>	<b>0230</b>
<b>BSc (Hons) Politics with Law</b>	<b>0232</b>
<b>BSc (Hons) Politics with History</b>	<b>2877</b>
<b>BSc (Hons) Politics minor</b>	

August 2019

<b>1. Final Award Title:</b>	<b><u>UCAS</u></b>	<b><u>HECCoS</u></b>
<b>BSc (Hons) Politics with International Relations</b>	<b>L291</b>	<b>100491/101288</b>
<b>BSc (Hons) Politics with Law</b>	<b>L2M2</b>	<b>100491/100676</b>
<b>BSc (Hons) Politics with History</b>	<b>L2V2</b>	<b>100491/100302</b>

**Intermediate Award Title:** N/A

**2. Awarding Institution:** University of Plymouth  
**Teaching institution:** University of Plymouth

**3. Accrediting body(ies):** None

#### **4. Distinctive Features of the Programme and the Student Experience**

- The School of Law, Criminology and Government at Plymouth runs two parallel programme pathways in Politics and International Relations, thus respecting the longstanding tradition in the social sciences for maintaining a distinction between these subjects as recognised by BISA and the PSA. At the same time, however, the two programmes are also designed to provide students with many opportunities to explore the multiplying overlaps, interactions and interfaces between Politics and International Relations in our increasingly globalized world. The Politics programme seeks to promote the knowledge and understanding of government and society, involving the analysis of power, justice, order, conflict, authority and legitimacy, with a focus on the unifying theme of democracy and democratization within the state, or federation of states. The International Relations programme maintains a focus on the global and regional domains beyond the level of the state, and studies the key issues, actors and forces that operate in these domains.
- At the University of Plymouth, the importance of providing students with opportunities to study Politics and IR in combination with other disciplines in the social sciences is recognized. Politics can be studied in combination with Law or History as a minor. International Relations can also be studied as a minor with History or Geography.
- The Politics programme, on both Major and Minor pathways, is distinctive in its thematic coherence, with each of the constituent modules at level 4 and level 5 built around the theme of 'democracy and democratization'. In level 4 several

theories of democracy are introduced as alternative means for the critical evaluation of different national political systems and to reflect and debate upon some of the key issues, challenges and crises they face in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. In level 5 the contemporary focus deepens with research and debates on: the politics of European integration; structures of power and legitimacy in relations between states, business and markets; sources of deliberative agency and personal development within social movements and through campaigns within civil society and the public sphere.

- The International Relations programme on all Honours, Major and Minor pathways, is distinctive for its critical and applied approaches to understanding international affairs, security studies and foreign policy analysis. At level 4, a range of different perspectives used by state and non-state actors to imagine world order are introduced in order to reflect and discuss upon the evolution of international relations since 1945 and the present status quo. At level 5 the contemporary focus deepens, applying IR perspectives to key case studies and issues, to questions of national and international security, debates upon national and international economic policy in relation to business and commerce, trade and financial affairs, and the international relations of the developing world.
- At stage 6, all Honours and Major programmes come together toward research and work-based learning in politics and international relations. Students choose from a range of research based elective modules on NATO, US political and foreign affairs, environmental politics, Europe, Africa and the Middle East, United Nations and global governance. Students are also required to develop and deliver a research project to dissertation level, and have the option to develop their skills portfolio through our Politics and IR work-based learning module.
- The Politics and IR programme team is committed to the enhancement of the student learning and progression. Formative assessment is a central component of the learning experience and the teaching team uses a diverse range of activities (one-to-one and class-based) that deliver feedback and feed-forward on a weekly basis. Each module includes explicit use of formative assessment tools (eg. observation, questioning, summarising, peer instruction), and covers both the lecture/seminar activities and the individual student coursework and examination techniques. The programme is designed to ensure that students' knowledge and skills develop throughout the programme. The lecture/seminar programme is based on a variety of activities and blended learning, including use of IT learning resources, individual and group presentations, video and podcasts – all of these activities are accompanied by

a formative assessment approach underpinned by feed-back and feed-forward to facilitate student learning and skills development, support progression and ultimately enable the student to graduate with a good degree. The Politics and IR programme team continually reviews the formative assessment activities across the three levels to ensure coherence and effectiveness in learning outcomes, and to maintain a balance between formative and summative assessment. Programme leaders work closely with module and seminar leaders to monitor and review the feedback and feed-forward activities, and the impact upon student learning.

- The Politics and IR programme team recognises the need to provide opportunities to enhance personal development outside as well as within the formal curriculum, with extracurricular activities including a film club, a student led Politics and International Affairs Society, staff supported field trips, plus access to our PISC seminars and to talks and presentations by invited practitioners of politics.
- Additionally, the IR and Politics programmes offer all students the opportunity to study Politics for a year or a semester abroad at level 5, as part of our exchange programme in one of our partner institutions in the United States or Europe.
- The allocation of our student enrichment fund is prioritised toward the provision of opportunities for personal development and employability, including bursaries for students seeking work experience through summer internships.
- Employability and personal development is embedded by design within the curriculum at all stages from 4 to 6 and in all modules. This is facilitated through close collaboration and professional advice from Plymouth Compass and the Careers and Employability team. It is also supported by our personal tutoring scheme which culminates in a PDP element within our dissertation module, and by alumni who volunteer to return and share their own stories of postgraduate life and positive advice based upon direct and lived experience.

## **5. Relevant QAA Subject Benchmark Group(s)**

The Politics programme at Plymouth complies with the benchmarks laid down by the QAA in its statement for Politics and International Relations (2015). This document sets out some defining principles, outlines the nature and extent of international relations, suggests a number of required aims and objectives, notes a key set of common generic and transferable skills, and identifies appropriate methods for

teaching, learning, and assessment. It also takes note of the SEEC (2010) Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education, which identifies a more generic set of key competencies, skills and developmental objectives.

## 6. Programme Structure

### Politics Major Programme with International Relations.

#### Year 1: Level 4

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	PIR100	Discovering World Politics	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR101	Democracy and Democratization	39.5% to pass
S1	20	IRL100	Imagining World Order	39.5% to pass
S2	20	GOV1000PP	One Planet? Society and Sustainability	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL101	Comparative Democracies	39.5% to pass
S2	20	IRL102	International Relations Since 1945	39.5% to pass

#### Year 2: Level 5

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20 core	POL204	Politics of European Integration	39.5% to pass
S1	20 core	PIR200	International Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S1	20 core	IRL200	Understanding Global Politics	39.5% to pass
S2	20 core	POL205	Campaigns, Voting, Elections and British Politics	39.5% to pass
S2	20 core	POL203	Civil Society and the Public Sphere	39.5% to pass
S2	20 option	IRL201	International Security Studies	39.5% to pass
S2	20 option	IRL203	International Relations of the Developing World	39.5% to pass

Note: Students are also able to study a year abroad in year 2. In order to progress to stage 3 (level 6), students need to achieve a pass in their year abroad. 90% of their marks at stage 3 will then contribute to their final degree award.

**Year 3: Level 6** – 40 credits all-year core dissertation module plus 40 credits options per semester.

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
AY	40 core	PIR300	Dissertation and PDP Review	39.5% to pass
AY	20 elective	PIR310	Work-Based Learning in Politics and International Relations	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	IRL302	NATO after the Cold War and Beyond	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	SOC3538	Philosophy of Social Science	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR304	US Foreign Policy Since 1945	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR305	The Politics of the United States	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR306	Environmental Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR307	Europe in the World	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR312	The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	39.5% to pass

## Politics Major Programme with Law

### Year 1: Level 4

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	PIR100	Discovering World Politics	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR101	Democracy and Democratization	39.5% to pass
S2	20	GOV1000PP	One Planet? Society and Sustainability	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL101	Comparative Democracies	39.5% to pass

### Year 2: Level 5

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	POL204	Politics of European Integration	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR200	International Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL205	Campaigns, Voting, Elections and British Politics	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL203	Civil Society and the Public Sphere	39.5% to pass

Note: Students are also able to study a year abroad in year 2. In order to progress to stage 3 (level 6), students need to achieve a pass in their year abroad. 90% of their marks at stage 3 will then contribute to their final degree award.

**Year 3: Level 6** – 40 credits all-year core dissertation module plus 40 credits options per semester.

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
AY	40 core	PIR300	Dissertation and PDP Review	39.5% to pass
AY	20 elective	PIR310	Work-Based Learning in Politics and International Relations	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	SOC3538	Philosophy of Social Science	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR304	US Foreign Policy Since 1945	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR305	The Politics of the United States	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR306	Environmental Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR307	Europe in the World	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR312	The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	39.5% to pass

## Politics Major Programme with History

### Year 1: Level 4

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	PIR100	Discovering World Politics	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR101	Democracy and Democratization	39.5% to pass
S2	20	GOV1000PP	One Planet? Society and Sustainability	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL101	Comparative Democracies	39.5% to pass

### Year 2: Level 5

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	POL204	Politics of European Integration	39.5% to pass
S1	20	PIR200	International Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL205	Campaigns, Voting, Elections and British Politics	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL203	Civil Society and the Public Sphere	39.5% to pass

Note: Students are also able to study a year abroad in year 2. In order to progress to stage 3 (level 6), students need to achieve a pass in their year abroad. 90% of their marks at stage 3 will then contribute to their final degree award.

**Year 3: Level 6** – 40 credits all-year core dissertation module plus 40 credits options per semester.

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
AY	40 core	PIR300	Dissertation and PDP Review	39.5% to pass
AY	20 elective	PIR310	Work-Based Learning in Politics and International Relations	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	SOC3538	Philosophy of Social Science	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR304	US Foreign Policy Since 1945	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR305	The Politics of the United States	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR306	Environmental Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR307	Europe in the World	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR312	The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	39.5% to pass

## Politics Minor Programme

### Year 1: Level 4

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	PIR100	Discovering World Politics	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL101	Comparative Democracies	39.5% to pass

### Year 2: Level 5

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
S1	20	POL204	Politics of European Integration	39.5% to pass
S2	20	POL205	Campaigns, Voting, Elections and British Politics	39.5% to pass



**Year 3: Level 6** – 40 credits from two elective options – one per semester (or WBL module which runs over both semesters).

semester	credits	code	title	requirements
AY	20 elective	PIR310	Work-Based Learning in Politics and International Relations	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	SOC3538	Philosophy of Social Science	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR304	US Foreign Policy Since 1945	39.5% to pass
S1	20 elective	PIR305	The Politics of the United States	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR306	Environmental Political Economy	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR307	Europe in the World	39.5% to pass
S2	20 elective	PIR312	The Politics and International Relations of the Middle East	39.5% to pass

## 7. Programme Aims

This programme seeks to develop knowledge and understanding of the significance, concerns, concepts, theories and methods of the discipline of Politics, and to assist students to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.

### Specifically the programme aims to:

- Provide modules where design, content and delivery are informed by contemporary research and scholarship.
- To offer students with varying entry qualification and experience a supportive learning environment that is receptive to their needs and views and encourages them to develop their full potential.
- Develop in students a capacity to think critically and independently about political events, ideas and institutions.
- To foster the development of graduate attributes and skills that are relevant to student aspirations and attractive to employers and other stakeholders.
- Encourage students to relate the academic study of politics to questions of contemporary public concern and to relate academic theory to policy, practice and behaviour.
- Place questions of political order and decision-making at the centre of analysis.

- Enable students to evaluate the key concepts, theories and methods of political analysis and develop an understanding of their contested nature and the problematic character of inquiry in the discipline.

## **8. Programme Intended Learning Outcomes**

### **8.1. Knowledge and understanding**

1. Knowledge base: has a given factual and/or conceptual knowledge base with emphasis on the nature of the political science/politics field of study and its appropriate terminology
2. Ethical issues: can demonstrate awareness of ethical issues in current areas of study and is able to discuss these in relation to personal beliefs and values

### **8.2. Cognitive/Intellectual Skills**

1. Analysis: can analyse with guidance using given political science classifications and/principles
2. Synthesis: can collect and categorise ideas and information in a predictable and standard format
3. Evaluation: can evaluate the reliability of data using defined techniques and/or tutor guidance
4. Application: can apply given tools/methods accurately and carefully to a well-defined problem and begin to appreciate the complexity of the issues.

### **8.3. Key and Transferable Skills**

1. Group working: can work effectively with others as a member of a group and meet obligations to others
2. Learning resources: can work within an appropriate ethos and can use and access a range of learning resources
3. Self-evaluation: can evaluate own strengths and weaknesses within criteria largely set by others.
4. Management of information: can manage information; collect appropriate data from a range of sources and undertake simple research tasks with external guidance.
5. Autonomy: can take responsibility for own learning with appropriate support
6. Communications: can communicate effectively in a format appropriate to the discipline and report practical procedures in a clear and concise manner.
7. Problem solving: can apply given tools/methods accurately and carefully to a well-defined problem and begin to appreciate the complexity of the issues in the discipline

#### 8.4. Employment-related skills

1. Effective communication skills
2. Skills in personal reflection, team-working, independent working, and problem-solving
3. Gathering, summarising and synthesising information

#### 8.5. Practical Skills

1. Application: can operate in predictable, defined contexts that require use of a specified range of standard skills
2. Autonomy in skill use: is able to act with limited autonomy, under direction or supervision, within defined guidelines.

Students on the Politics programme with another subject as a Minor will be expected to achieve knowledge and understanding of that Minor discipline. Students taking the Politics Minor will be expected to achieve learning outcomes 8.1., 8.1.2, 8.4.1, 8.4.2, and 8.4.3 (above).

### 9. Admissions Criteria, including APCL, APEL and DAS arrangements

The admissions policy is in compliance with University admissions policy. The team is committed to encouraging applications from individuals with appropriate prior experience and education.

Any applications that do not fit the criteria below will be considered on an individual basis by the programme leader.

All applicants must have GCSE (or equivalent) Maths and English at Grade C or above.

<b>Entry requirements for BSc Politics</b>	
A-level/AS-level	Normal minimum entry requirements are 104 at A-level. Including a minimum of two A Levels.
BTEC National Diploma/Extended Diploma	Diploma: D*D (Distinction star, Distinction) Extended Diploma DMM (Distinction, Merit, Merit)
International Baccalaureate	26 overall to include 4 at any subject at Higher Level
English language proficiency	IELTS 6.0 overall with 5.5 in all elements
Access to Higher Education at level 3	Pass a named Access to HE Diploma in any subject with at least 33 credits at Merit/Dist. Must also have GCSE English and Maths grade C or above or equivalent.
Welsh Baccalaurate	OK to accept as add on points but also to have the 2 A Levels
Scottish Qualifications Authority	104 points, and ideally must include one subject at Advanced Higher level.

Irish Leaving Certificate	Obtain H3 H3 H4 H4 H4 (all at Higher level) Plus is acceptable in combination with other qualifications
DAS arrangements	<p>Provision will be made for students with disabilities by reasonable adjustments where health and safety and educational standards are not prejudiced</p> <p>There is provision for separate examination rooms for students with disabilities.</p> <p>The Disability Assist Service offers the use of computers, readers, and other support mechanisms that may be used where appropriate.</p>

Other qualifications may be accepted for entry; information is provided on Programme Course pages specifying what these are and the level at which they need to be achieved.

## **10. Progression criteria for Final and Intermediate Awards**

As per university regulations.

## **11. Non Standard Regulations**

None

## **12. Transitional Arrangements**

None

## **Appendices**

### **Programme Specification Mapping (UG) – core/elective modules**

**Appendix 1: Programme Specification Mapping (UG): module contribution to the meeting of Award Learning Outcomes**

**CORE MODULES:** tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.

Core Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1- exam E2 – clinical exam T1- test C1- coursework A1 – generic assessment P1 - practical	
		Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills							Employment related skills		Practical skills			
		1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	1			2
Level 4	PIR100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR101	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	IRL100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	POL101	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	IRL102	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 70% P1 30%
Level 5	POL204	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 70% P1 30%
	IRL200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% T1 50%
	POL205	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	POL203	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	IRL201	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	IRL203	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
Level 6	PIR300	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
Confirmed Award LOs																				

**ELECTIVE MODULES: tick those Award Learning Outcomes the module contributes to through its assessed learning outcomes. Insert rows and columns as required.**

**ELECTIVE MODULES**

Elective Modules		Award Learning Outcomes contributed to (for more information see Section 8)																Compensation Y/N	Assessment Element(s) and weightings [use KIS definition] E1 - exam E2 - clinical exam T1 - test C1 - coursework A1 - generic assessment P1 - practical	
		Knowledge & understanding		Cognitive & intellectual skills				Key & transferable skills							Employment related skills		Practical skills			
		1	2	1	2	3	4	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	1	2	1			2
<b>Level 4 LOs</b>																				
Level 5																				
<b>Level 5 LOs</b>																				
Level 5																				
<b>Level 6 LOs</b>																				
Level 6	PIR310	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 80% P1 20%
	IRL302	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR304	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 100%
	PIR305	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	PIR306	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
	PIR307	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 60% E1 40%
	PIR312	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Y	C1 50% E1 50%
<b>Confirmed Award LOs</b>																				

