Queen Mary
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Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of final award and programme title:	BA Political Studies
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	3 academic years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	UBAF-QMPOLD1, USPLF (no UCAS admission)
QAA Benchmark Group:	Politics and International Relations
FHEQ Level of Award :	Level 6
Programme accredited by:	
Date Programme Specification approved:	
Responsible School / Institute:	School of Politics and International Relations

Schools / Institutes which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme:

Collaborative institution(s) / organisation(s) involved in delivering the programme:

Programme outline

This programme is intended for students who wish to change from a joint Politics/International Relations degree to a single-honours programme within the School of Politics and International Relations (SPIR) who have not taken the compulsory modules required by alternative programme pathways in SPIR. Accordingly, although students will be guided to select a diet of modules similar to those in SPIR's single-honours programmes, the number of compulsory modules is minimised. Students will enjoy flexibility in choosing from the wide array of modules offered within the School, spanning Politics, Political Theory and International Relations, as well as approved modules from other Schools.

Aims of the programme

Provide students with a coherent, wide-ranging and intellectually stimulating programme including political theory, ideas and ideologies, government and institutions, public policy, area studies, comparative politics and international relations.
- Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of theoretical and methodological approaches.
- Enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment and to undertake independent research.

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- Develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
- Provide a basis for further study in Politics or related disciplines.

What will you be expected to achieve?

Students will have the opportunity to develop:
- Detailed understanding of key principles, concepts, theories and research methods in Politics, Political Theory and International Relations;
- The ability to apply these frameworks to understand contemporary political phenomena; and
- The ability to think critically and independently, to reason, to evaluate and deploy evidence, to draw appropriate conclusions, and to make persuasive arguments, in writing and orally.

Please note that the following information is only applicable to students who commenced their Level 4 studies in 2017/18, or 2018/19

In each year of undergraduate study, students are required to study modules to the value of at least 10 credits, which align to one or more of the following themes:

- networking

- multi- and inter-disciplinarity

- international perspectives

- enterprising perspectives.

These modules will be identified through the Module Directory, and / or by your School or Institute as your studies progress.

Academic Content:	
A1	The nature of politics and international relations including a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics and international relations
A2	Understanding of historical and contemporary political phenomena, including political texts, issues and problems within the field of study
A3	Knowledge and application of appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the field of politics and international relations

Disciplinary Skills - able to:	
B1	Demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of principles, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics and international relations

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B 2	Apply knowledge and understanding, selecting and using established techniques and a range of sources to evaluate texts, issues and problems in the field of study
B 3	Select appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to a range of issues within the field of study

Attributes:	
C 1	Identify and critically evaluate appropriate information in specific contexts in a self-directed way, and reflect on how this might be used and adapted to different contexts
C 2	Work independently, demonstrating clarity, initiative, self organisation and time management
C 3	Establish a skills and learning agenda through negotiation, participation and communication in group discussions
C 4	Develop a global perspective and reflect on how this might be adapted to local contexts
C 5	Develop a reasoned argument and synthesise information, and communicate this clearly and effectively
C 6	Select and use information, including from IT sources
C 7	xercise critical judgement and self-reflection on their own learning, and to use this to adapt to new situations in professional settings

How will you learn?

The programme is taught in accordance with SPIR's Education Strategy and statement of educational principles, which support excellent, inclusive and innovative teaching practice aimed at fostering independent learning and critical thinking in our students. Our strategy is informed by QMUL's 2030 strategy.

Teaching takes a number of forms:
- lectures
- seminars
- workshops
- individual supervision of projects and dissertations
- individual feedback on written work.

Learning is supported by:
- Coherently designed and effectively delivered modules
- Detailed module handbooks, providing learning outcomes and guided reading for each module
- The provision of key materials in libraries or through electronic resources
- Appropriate assessment exercises within each module
- Use of electronic teaching materials including Powerpoint, QMPlus and online reading lists
- Encouraging active participation by students in seminar discussions
- Research methods training

How will you be assessed?

Assessment is varied and takes a number of forms within the programme. The nature of the assessment is closely connected to the desired learning outcomes and the mode of teaching within each module. Forms of assessment include: written coursework; examinations; presentations; and the final-year dissertation.

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How is the programme structured?

Please specify the structure of the programme diets for all variants of the programme (e.g. full-time, part-time - if applicable). The description should be sufficiently detailed to fully define the structure of the diet.

YEAR 1 (LEVEL 4)
Minimum 60 credits to be taken at Level 4 within SPIR, with a maximum of 60 Level 4* credits taken from other Schools , for a total of 120 credits.
* Language electives may be taken at Level 3 (max 30 credits), Level 4 or Level 5.**

This will accommodate all students on Single or Joint Honours programmes in which SPIR is involved who subsequently wish to move to a different Single Honours programme in SPIR.

YEAR 2 (LEVEL 5)
Minimum 60 credits to be taken at Level 5 in SPIR, with a maximum of 60 Level 5* credits from other Schools, for a total of 120 credits.
* Language electives may be taken at Level 4 (max 30 credits), Level 5 or Level 6.**

Whilst students will not have named pathway on their degree title, if they want to follow a particular specialism then they will be guided to take the modules that mirror the compulsory modules on SPIR's main BA programmes, i.e.:
- BA Politics: POL263 Modern Political Thought 1 (15 credits) and POL264 Modern Political Thought 2 (15 Credits)
- BA International Relations: POL251 International Relations Theory (30 credits)
- BA Politics and International Relations: POL263 Modern Political Thought 1 (15 credits) and POL251 International Relations Theory (30 credits).

YEAR 3
Compulsory:
-POL318 - Dissertation in Politics/International Relations (45 credits).
Remaining 75 credits to be taken at Level 6 within SPIR; optionally, students may take a maximum of 30 Level 6* credits in other Schools, for a total of 120 credits.
* Language electives may be taken at Level 5 (max 30 credits).**

** Students who decide to take language electives at different levels of study must ensure that during the course of their programme they obtain at least 90 credits at each of level of study, i.e. Level 4, 5 and 6.

Academic Year of Study   FT - Year 1

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
120 credits at Level 4 within SPIR		120	4	Elective	1	Semester 1 or 2
Up to 60 credits at level 4 from other schools		60	4	Elective	1	Semester 1 or 2

Academic Year of Study   FT - Year 2

Programme Title: BA Political Studies

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
120 credits at level 5 within SPIR		120	5	Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2
Up to 60 credits at level 5 in approved modules from other schools		60	5	Elective	2	Semester 1 or 2

Academic Year of Study   FT - Year 3

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation in Politics/IR	POL318	45	6	Compulsory	3	Semesters 1 & 2
75 credit at level 6 within SPIR		75	6	Elective	3	Semester 1 or 2
Up to 30 credits at level 6 in approved modules from other schools		30	6	Elective	3	Semester 1 or 2

What are the entry requirements?

Direct entry is prohibited. Entry at Year 2 or 3 is permitted for existing QMUL students who (a) wish to switch from an existing programme in which SPIR is involved* to a single honours SPIR programme; but (b) have not taken the compulsory modules required for alternative programmes in SPIR; and (c) have successfully met the progression requirements of their existing programme.

* i.e. BA Politics; BA International Relations; BA Politics and International Relations; BA Politics with Business Management; BA Politics and Sociology (from 2020/21); BA International Relations with Business Management (from 2021/22); BSc Economics and Politics; BSc Economics and International Relations (from 2021/22); LLB Law and Politics; BA History and Politics; BA Languages and Politics

How will the quality of the programme be managed and enhanced? How do we listen to and act on your feedback?

The programme is monitored through the Student-Staff Liaison Committee (SSLC), with student representatives, chaired by the Senior Tutor and the Teaching and Learning Committee (TLC) chaired by the Directors of Education (DE). Issues arising from student evaluations (both mid-year and end of module) are fed into the TLC through the DE. External examiners oversee assessment and marking procedures; this is handled by the Chair of Exams. The programme is evaluated in the Annual Programme Review.

The Staff-Student Liaison Committee provides a formal means of communication and discussion between schools/institutes and its students. The committee consists of student representatives from each year in the school/institute together with appropriate representation from staff within the school/institute. It is designed to respond to the needs of students, as well as act as a forum for discussing programme and module developments. Staff-Student Liaison Committees meet regularly throughout the year. Each school/institute operates a Teaching and Learning Committee, or equivalent, which advises the School/Institute Director of Taught Programmes on all matters relating to the delivery of taught programmes at school level including monitoring the application of relevant QM policies and reviewing all proposals for module and programme approval and amendment before submission to Taught Programmes Board. Student views are incorporated in the committee's work in a number of ways, such as through student membership, or consideration of student surveys.

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All schools/institutes operate an Annual Programme Review of their taught undergraduate and postgraduate provision. APR is a continuous process of reflection and action planning which is owned by those responsible for programme delivery; the main document of reference for this process is the Student Experience Action Plans (SEAP) which is the summary of the school/institute's work throughout the year to monitor academic standards and to improve the student experience. Students' views are considered in this process through analysis of the NSS and module evaluations.

What academic support is available?

The School runs induction and welcome back meetings at the start of each semester, to update students on School/QM policies and advise them on their studies.

Each student is assigned a dedicated Advisor throughout their years of study to assist them in choosing their modules and advising them on their studies. The School has a dedicated Senior Tutor to deal with Extenuating Circumstances, the Senior Tutor is assisted by the Student Support Manager and Student Support Officer.

To assist with their final year project students are assigned a supervisor whose research matches the topic/subject they wish to focus on.

How inclusive is the programme for all students, including those with disabilities?

Queen Mary has a central Disability and Dyslexia Service (DDS) that offers support for all students with disabilities, specific learning difficulties and mental health issues. The DDS supports all Queen Mary students: full-time, part-time, undergraduate, postgraduate, UK and international at all campuses and all sites.
Students can access advice, guidance and support in the following areas:
• Finding out if you have a specific learning difference like dyslexia
• Applying for funding through the Disabled Students' Allowance (DSA)
• Arranging DSA assessments of need
• Examination access arrangements
• Accessing loaned equipment (e.g. digital recorders)
• Specialist one-to-one study skills tuition
• Ensuring access to course materials in alternative formats (e.g. Braille)
• Providing educational support workers (e.g. note-takers, readers, library assistants)
• Mentoring support for students with mental health issues and conditions on the autistic spectrum.

Programme-specific rules and facts

N/A

Links with employers, placement opportunities and transferable skills

The subject specific skills developed by this programme prepare students for a wide range of employment opportunities, including careers in the civil service, journalism, political research, social work, local and national government and third-sector organisations. The transferable skills developed by this programme also help to prepare students for work in diverse other sectors, including finance and banking, management training, PR and advertising. The programme also builds academic skills essential for further study, including MSc and research degrees, and professional qualifications in law and teaching.

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Programme Title: BA Political Studies

Programme Specification Approval

Person completing Programme Specification:

Helen Murray

Person responsible for management of programme:

David Williams

Date Programme Specification produced / amended by School / Institute Learning and Teaching Committee:

12 Jan 2022

Date Programme Specification approved by Taught Programmes Board: