

Programme Title: BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad



## Programme Specification (UG)

Awarding body / institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Teaching institution:	Queen Mary University of London
Name of award and field of study:	BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad
Name of interim award(s):	
Duration of study / period of registration:	4 academic years
QMUL programme code / UCAS code(s):	UBAF-QMPOLD1, UJPOFSOY, L23L
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 explores how political and social forces create change while also being shaped and constrained by institutions, everyday habits, and broader social, cultural and economic structures. It provides academic training in both politics and sociology and by proposing an appreciation of how these disciplines work together. Students learn how individual lives are connected to global developments such as climate change, migration, the advancement of digital technology, and colonialism and how inequality and injustice develop globally and locally from an intersectional perspective. The programme supports the acquisition of critical and analytical skills as well as qualitative and quantitative research methods. It prepares students for careers in research, consultancy, and advocacy and it also provides knowledge and skills to pursue postgraduate studies in the humanities and social sciences.

In the third year you take a Year Abroad at one of our partner institutions across the world.

### Aims of the programme

To:  
- Provide students with a coherent, wide-ranging and intellectually stimulating programme including themes and issues in sociology, social theory, sociological analysis, political theory, ideas and ideologies, government and institutions, public policy,

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- area studies, comparative political sociological, international politics and international political sociology.
- Introduce students to, and encourage them to employ, a range of methodological approaches.
  - Enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgment and to undertake independent research tasks.
  - Develop a range of skills necessary to the effective communication of ideas and arguments.
  - Provide a basis for further study in Politics and Sociology or related disciplines.

**What will you be expected to achieve?**

Students will achieve:

- a clear understanding of themes and issues in politics and sociology
- the ability to understand and interpret a range of methodological approaches from the two disciplines.
- the ability to employ critical thinking and judgment and to undertake independent research tasks.
- effective communication skills
- a strong foundation for further study in Politics and Sociology or related disciplines.

**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:

A 1	Overview of politics and sociology, including the study of a range of theories, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics and sociology.
A 2	Clear understanding of historical and contemporary debates in politics and sociology as well as knowledge of key political and sociological texts, issues and problems within these fields of study
A 3	Knowledge and application of appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches in the field of politics and sociology

Disciplinary Skills - able to:

B 1	Demonstrate systematic and critical knowledge and understanding of a range of theories, concepts and terminologies associated with the study of politics and sociology
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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 these fields of study
B 3	Select appropriate theoretical and/or methodological approaches to explore and assess a range of issues within these fields of study

<b>Attributes:</b>	
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	Exercise 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 information shared on QMPlus
- 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 learning by supporting students in seminar discussions and independent research
- 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.

## 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)

#### Compulsory:

- POL110 - Thinking Politically: Introduction to concepts, theories and Ideologies (30 credits)
- POL105 - Political Analysis (30 credits)
- POL180 - Global Sociology (30 credits)
- POL113 - Politics in Action (15 credits)

#### Electives:

- POL108 - Background to British Politics (15 credits)
- OR POL109 - Global Histories (15 credits)
- OR: 15 level 4 credits from another School

### Year 2 (level 5)

#### Compulsory:

- POL280 Social Theory (30 credits)
- POL247 Modernity: Theories of State, Economy and Society (30 credits)
- POL285 Introduction to Social Science methodologies (15 credits)
- EITHER
- POL2XX Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research, 15 credits (renamed and recoded POL269 Political Data Research)
- OR POL2XX Unsettling Methods - Creativity in/for Social Science Research, 15 credits (renamed and recoded POL270 Doing Qualitative Research)
- OR POL2XX Qualitative Methods for Social Science Research, 15 credits (new module)

#### Electives 30 credits from:

- POL243 - British Politics (30 credits)
- POL254 - US Politics (15 credits)
- POL255 - Colonialism, Capitalism and Development (15 credits)
- POL256 - War in World Politics (15 credits)
- POL257 - The International Politics of the Developing World (15 credits)
- POL258 - The International Politics of Security (15 credits)
- POL261 - Power in Global Governance (15 credits)
- POL265 - Comparative European Politics I - Context and Institutional Development (15 credits)
- POL268 - The UK and EU (15 credits)
- POL2XX - Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research (15 credits) (if not taken as compulsory module)
- POL2XX- Unsettling Methods - Creativity in/for Social Science Research (15 credits) (if not taken as compulsory module)
- POL2XX - Qualitative Methods for Social Science Research (15 credits) (if not taken as compulsory module)
- POL282 - Revolutions: Political, Social and Technological (15 credits)

### Year 3:

Students will embark on a year abroad in a carefully selected partner university. Students will take an approved diet of modules at least 60 ECTS (120 QM credits) that will be core to the degree programme (if the study abroad component is not passed with the equivalent of 105 QM credits, students will be de-registered to the three year Politics and Sociology BA programme).

Students would be encouraged to study the local language, but their studies would not depend on it, as a comprehensive range of relevant modules would be delivered in English. The students will choose their modules in consultation with their QM advisors and the study abroad coordinator assuring the modules would maximize their academic trajectory.

### Year 4 (Level 6)

#### Compulsory:

- POL318 - Dissertation in Politics/International Relations/Sociology (45 credits).

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Remaining 75 credits to be taken at Level 6 within SPIR; Students take at least 30 credits from the list of elective modules marked as (political) sociology; 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).\*\*

Indicative list of elective modules marked as '(political) sociology':

POL301 Civil Society Internship (30 credits)  
 POL303 Technology, War, Politics (15 credits)  
 POL304 Environmental politics (15 credits)  
 POL312 Populism: a global perspective (15 credits)  
 POL343 More than human politics (15 credits)  
 POL336 Racism and Anti-Racism in World Politics (30 credits)  
 POL355 Globalization: issues and debates (15 credits)  
 POL361 Gender and Politics (15 credits)  
 POL389 The political life of security methods (15 credits)  
 POL398 American politics, carceral state, and social movements (15 credits)  
 POL3XX Gender, Sexuality, and Capitalism (15 credits)  
 POL3XX The Global Politics of Food (15 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
Thinking Politically: Introduction to concepts, theories and ideologies	POL110	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Political Analysis	POL105	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Global Sociology	POL180	30	4	Compulsory	1	Semesters 1 & 2
Politics in Action	POL113	15	4	Compulsory	1	Semester 1
Background to British Politics	POL108	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
Global Histories	POL109	15	4	Elective	1	Semester 2
OR 15 credits at level 4 from outside SPIR		15	4	Elective	1	

**Academic Year of Study** FT - Year 2

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Social Theory	POL280	30	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Modernity: Theories of the State, Economy and Society	POL247	30	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
Introduction to Social Science Methodologies	POL285	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 1
Quantitative Methods for Social Science Research OR	POL2XX	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Unsettling Methods - Creativity in/for Social Science Research OR	POL2XX	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
Qualitative Methods for Social Science Research	POL2XX	15	5	Compulsory	2	Semester 2
British Politics	POL243	30	5	Compulsory	2	Semesters 1 & 2
US Politics	POL254	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Colonialism, Capitalism and Development	POL255	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
War in World Politics	POL256	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
The International Politics of the Developing World	POL257	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
The International Politics of Security	POL258	20	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Power in Global Governance	POL261	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 2
Comparative European Politics I - Context and Institutional Development	POL265	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
The UK and EU	POL268	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1
Revolutions: Political, Social and Technological	POL282	15	5	Elective	2	Semester 1

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 3

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Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Study Abroad	POL300	120	6	Study only	3	Semesters 1 & 2

Academic Year of Study FT - Year 4

Module Title	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Selection Status	Academic Year of Study	Semester
Dissertation in Politics/IR/Sociology	POL318	45	6	Core	3	Semesters 1 & 2
75 credit at level 6 within SPIR of which at least 30 credits from modules marked as '(political) sociology'			6	Elective	3	
Up to 30 credits at level 6 in approved modules from other schools			6	Elective	3	

### What are the entry requirements?

AS/A-level: Typical grades required: AAB at A-level. Excluded subjects: General studies and critical thinking.  
International Baccalaureate: Subjects 34 points overall, with 6,6,5 in Higher Level subjects.  
Vocational and other qualifications: The College accepts a wide range of qualifications such as; Access and Foundation programmes, vocational awards, Irish Leaving Certificate, Scottish Highers and other Baccalaureates. Further information on our entry requirements.  
Admission is based on academic merit and on the proven ability of the applicant to achieve success on their chosen programme of study. Every application to Queen Mary is considered on its individual merits with personal statement and reference taken into consideration.

### 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.

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

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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 broadly 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. Additionally in year 3 students have access to internship modules (in the Parliament and/or civil society organisations) offered alongside preparatory coursework that can help establish career pathways while still in the final year of their degree.



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## Programme Specification Approval

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**Person completing Programme Specification:**

Helen Murray

**Person responsible for management of programme:**

**Date Programme Specification produced / amended by  
School / Institute Education Committee:**

updated December 2023

**Date Programme Specification approved by Taught  
Programmes Board:**