Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2012-2013

Programme Title	International Politics and Languages (IPL)
UCAS/JACS Code	RL92
School/Subject Area	School of Languages and Social Sciences
Final Award	BSc (Hons)
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education (after 120 credits) Diploma of Higher Education (after 240 credits) Ordinary Degree
Mode(s) of Study	Full time or part time (part time mode subject to the approval of the Associate Dean Undergraduate programmes.)
Normal Length of Programme	4 Years Sandwich with compulsory year abroad 7-8 Years part time, with compulsory one year/two half year placements abroad (Subject to the approval of the Associate Dean Undergraduate Programmes.)
Total Credits	480
Programme Accredited By	
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	September 2011 March 2012

Educational Aims Programme	• To equip students with an in-depth knowledge of the culture, politics, contemporary history, society, economy relevant to the target language(s) • To enable students to achieve a near-native command of a least one foreign language • To ensure that students gain first-hand experience of living in the target language culture via the compulsory Year Abroad • To offer students appropriate Year Abroad opportunities (e.g. at the Political Studies Institutes at Lille and Rennes, and the University of Bamberg) to further enhance this integration • To provide students with the opportunity to learn a language Ab Initio (Arabic/Chinese/Spanish) • To foster in students a capacity to think critically about events, ideas and institutions • To encourage students to relate the academic study of politics to questions of public concern, including matters of public interest in a European framework and the European framework in a global context • To equip students with a sound understanding of research methodology, including knowledge of key methods and concepts of analysis (political, historical, social-science, linguistic) and an ability to apply these methods in individual research • To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and expertise of Aston academic staff • To maintain and enhance the employability of Aston's Languages/PIR graduates • To produce graduates whose understanding of international differences gives them an advantage in obtaining graduate level employment • To equip students to meet the demands of a range of postgraduate academic and professional situations
Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• QAA Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations (2007) • QAA Benchmark statement for Languages and related studies (2007) • QAA Benchmark Statement for Area Studies (2008) • European Framework of Reference for Languages • Framework for Higher Education Qualifications • Aston University Learning and Teaching Strategy Statement • Staff expertise • Internal Reviews for Politics/International Relations (2009) and Modern Languages (2010), with particular reference to the existing PIR/Languages combinations

STAGE 1

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage I**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Information Skills	10	4	LP1012	CORE
Introduction to International Relations	20	4	LP1021	CORE
Introduction to Politics	20	4	LP1019	CORE
Introduction to the European Union	10	4	LP1065	CORE
And modules to the value of 60 credits in one of the 9 pathways set out below:				
1) FRENCH				
(X) French Language Skills I	20	4	LF1005	CORE
France since the Revolution	20	4	LF1025	CORE
Introduction to French Culture	20	4	LF1024	CORE
2) GERMAN				
(X) German Language Skills I	20	4	LG1001	CORE
German History & Society	20	4	LG1050	CORE
German Language Past and Present	10	4	LG1011	CORE
German Current Affairs	10	4	LG1023	CORE
3) SPANISH				
(X) Spanish Language Skills I	20	4	LS1001	CORE
Cultures of Latin America	10	4	LS1014	CORE
Introduction to Latin America	10	4	LS1008	CORE
Introduction to Spain	**20**	4	LS1015	CORE
4) FRENCH AND GERMAN				
(X) German Language Skills I	20	4	LG1001	CORE
(X) French Language Skills I	20	4	LF1005	CORE
German Current Affairs	10	4	LG1023	CORE
France since the Revolution II	10	4	LF1029	CORE
5) FRENCH AND SPANISH				
(X) Spanish Language Skills I	20	4	LS1001	CORE
(X) French Language Skills I	20	4	LF1005	CORE
Introduction to Spain	10	4	LS1013	CORE
France since the Revolution I	10	4	LF1028	CORE

6) SPANISH AND GERMAN				
(X) Spanish Language Skills I	20	4	LS1001	CORE
(X) German Language Skills I	20	4	LG1001	CORE
German Current Affairs	10	4	LG1023	CORE
Introduction to Spain	10	4	LS1013	CORE
7) FRENCH WITH ARABIC				
(X) French Language Skills I	20	4	LF1005	CORE
France since the Revolution	20	4	LF1025	CORE
(X) Arabic Beginners I	10	4	LZ1400	CORE
(X) Arabic Beginners II	10	4	LZ1401	CORE
8) FRENCH WITH CHINESE				
(X) French Language Skills I	20	4	LF1005	CORE
France since the Revolution	20	4	LF1025	CORE
(X) Mandarin Chinese Beginners I	10	4	LX1400	CORE
(X) Mandarin Chinese Beginners II	10	4	LX401	CORE
9) FRENCH WITH SPANISH (Ab Initio)				
(X) French Language Skills I	20	4	LF1005	CORE
France since the Revolution	20	4	LF1025	CORE
(X) Spanish Beginners I	10	4	LS1400	CORE
(X) Spanish Beginners II	10	4	LS1401	CORE
Total	120			

(X) means that this module cannot be condoned and is a pre-requisite for progression to the next level

STAGE II

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage II**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
The Politics and Policies of the European Union	10	5	LP2020	CORE
Comparative Government and Politics	20	5	LP2007	CORE
International Relations, Theories and Issues	20	5	LP2014	CORE
Research Methods in Political & Social Sciences	10	5	LP2006	CORE
And modules to the value of 60 credits in one of the 9 pathways set out below:				
1) FRENCH`				
(X) French Language Skills II	20	5	LF2005	CORE
France in the Fifth Republic	10	5	LF2050	CORE
History of the French Language	10	5	LF2014	CORE
French Language: Communication Skills	10	5	LF2002	CORE
French Society: Conflict & Consensus	10	5	LF2009	CORE
2) GERMAN				
(X) German Language Skills II	20	5	LG2002	CORE
Post-war Germany	10	5	LG2016	CORE
Politics and Society in Contemporary Germany	10	5	LG2017	CORE
Metropolis Berlin	10	5	LG2018	CORE
Austrian Cultural History	10	5	LG2014	CORE
3) SPANISH				
(X) Spanish Language Skills II	20	5	LS2001	CORE
Contemporary Spain	10	5	LS2016	CORE
Contemporary Latin America	10	5	LS2017	CORE
Spanish Media and Journalism	10	5	LS2019	CORE
Spanish in the World	10	5	LS2018	CORE
4) FRENCH AND GERMAN				
(X) French Language Skills II	20	5	LF2005	CORE
(X) German Language Skills II	20	5	LG2002	CORE
France in the Fifth Republic	10	5	LF2050	CORE
Politics and Society in Contemporary Germany	10	5	LG2017	CORE
5) FRENCH AND SPANISH				
(X) French Language Skills II	20	5	LF2005	CORE
(X) Spanish Language Skills II	20	5	LS2001	CORE
Contemporary Latin America	10	5	LS2017	CORE
French Society: Conflict & Consensus	10	5	LF2009	CORE

6) GERMAN AND SPANISH				
(X) Spanish Language Skills II	20	5	LS2001	CORE
(X) German Language Skills II	20	5	LG2002	CORE
Contemporary Latin America	10	5	LS2017	CORE
Politics and Society in Contemporary Germany	10	5	LG2017	CORE
7) FRENCH WITH ARABIC				
(X) French Language Skills II	20	5	LF2005	CORE
France in the Fifth Republic	10	5	LF2050	CORE
French Society: Conflict & Consensus	10	5	LF2009	CORE
(X) Arabic Intermediate I	10	5	LZ1003	CORE
(X) Arabic Intermediate II	10	5	LZ1004	CORE
8) FRENCH WITH CHINESE				
(X) French Language Skills II	20	5	LF2005	CORE
France in the Fifth Republic	10	5	LF2050	CORE
French Society: Conflict & Consensus	10	5	LF2009	CORE
(X) Chinese Intermediate I	10	5	LX2400	CORE
(X) Chinese Intermediate II	10	5	LX2401	CORE
9) FRENCH WITH SPANISH (Ab Initio)				
(X) French Language Skills II	20	5	LF2005	CORE
France in the Fifth Republic	10	5	LF2050	CORE
French Society: Conflict & Consensus	10	5	LF2009	CORE
(X) Spanish Intermediate I	10	5	LS2400	CORE
(X) Spanish Intermediate II	10	5	LS2401	CORE
Total	120			

(X) means that this module cannot be condoned and is a pre-requisite for progression to the next level

STAGE III

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage III**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
French/German/Spanish Year Abroad - Work Placement, Assistantship or Non-Exchange University Placement (full year)	120	P	LUP001	CORE
OR				
French/German/Spanish Year Abroad — 2 Exchange University Placements (split, each half year)	120	P	LUP005	CORE
OR				
French/German/Spanish Year Abroad - Work Placement + Exchange University (split)	120	P	LUP004	CORE
OR				
French/German/Spanish Year Abroad — Exchange University (full year)	120	P	LUP002	CORE
OR				
French/German/Spanish Year Abroad - 2 Work Placements (split, each half year)	120	P	LUP003	CORE
TOTAL	120			

(X) means that this module cannot be condoned and is a pre-requisite for progression to the next level

STAGE IV

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage IV**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Politics Research Dissertation	20	6	LP3004	CORE
International Relations Research Dissertation	20	6	LP3009	CORE
****CHOICE OF FOUR OF THE FOLLOWING ELECTIVES** *(subject to availability)*:**				
Central and East European Politics	10	6	LP3008	ELECTIVE
Immigration & Citizenship in Western Europe	10	6	LP3011	ELECTIVE
The International Relations of East Asia	10	6	LP3015	ELECTIVE
Religion and Politics in Contemporary Europe	10	6	LP3016	ELECTIVE
Political Communication	10	6	LP3018	ELECTIVE
The American Presidency	10	6	LP3019	ELECTIVE
Nationalism & Political Power	10	6	LP3020	ELECTIVE

Ethics and International Politics	10	6	LP3022	ELECTIVE
Contemporary Welfare Politics	10	6	LP3023	ELECTIVE
Political Parties and Party Systems	10	6	LP3024	ELECTIVE
Conflict and Politics in Contemporary Balkans	10	6	LP3025	ELECTIVE
Intellectuals and Politics	10	6	LP3026	ELECTIVE
Conflict, Intervention and Reconciliation	10	6	LP3028	ELECTIVE
Regions and Regionalism in Europe	10	6	LP3412	ELECTIVE
Contemporary Political Theory	10	6	LP3416	ELECTIVE
Political Leaders: Case Studies and Comparative Perspectives	10	6	LP3415	ELECTIVE
And modules to the value of 60 credits in one of the 9 pathways set out below:				
1) FRENCH				
French Research Dissertation	20	6	LF3203	CORE
(X) French Language Skills III	20	6	LF3002	CORE
CHOICE OF ELECTIVES TOTALLING 20 CREDITS				
La France d'Outre-Mer	10	6	LF3404	ELECTIVE
The French Media	10	6	LF3401	ELECTIVE
Contemporary French	10	6	LF3007	ELECTIVE
Vichy France: Occupation, Collaboration, Liberation	10	6	LF3006	ELECTIVE
2) GERMAN				
(X) German Language Skills III	20	6	LG3003	CORE
German Research Dissertation	20	6	LG3204	CORE
CHOICE OF ELECTIVES TOTALLING 20 CREDITS				
German Popular Culture	10	6	LG3006	ELECTIVE
History and Society Reflected in German Film	10	6	LG3004	ELECTIVE
German Contemporary Culture	10	6	LG3007	ELECTIVE
German-Jewish Biographies	10	6	LG3013	ELECTIVE
3) SPANISH				
(X) Spanish Language Skills III	20	6	LS3001	CORE
Spanish Research Dissertation	20	6	LS3004	CORE
Hispanic Film	10	6	LS3006	CORE
Major Hispanic Authors	10	6	LS3009	CORE
4) FRENCH AND GERMAN				
(X) French Language Skills III	20	6	LF3002	CORE
(X) German Language Skills III	20	6	LG3003	CORE
German Research Dissertation	20	6	LG3204	ELECTIVE
French Research Dissertation	20	6	LF3203	ELECTIVE

5) FRENCH AND SPANISH				
(X) French Language Skills III	20	6	LF3002	CORE
(X) Spanish Language Skills III	20	6	LS3001	CORE
French Research Dissertation	20	6	LF3203	ELECTIVE
Spanish Research Dissertation	20	6	LS3004	ELECTIVE
6) SPANISH AND GERMAN				
(X) Spanish Language Skills III	20	6	LS3001	CORE
(X) German Language Skills III	20	6	LG3003	CORE
German Research Dissertation	20	6	LG3204	ELECTIVE
Spanish Research Dissertation	20	6	LS3004	ELECTIVE
7) FRENCH WITH ARABIC				
(X) French Research Dissertation	20	6	LF3203	CORE
French Language Skills III	20	6	LF3002	CORE
(X) Arabic Advanced I	10	6	LZ1001	CORE
(X) Arabic Advanced II	10	6	LZ1002	CORE
8) FRENCH WITH CHINESE				
French Research Dissertation	20	6	LF3203	CORE
(X) French Language Skills III	20	6	LF3002	CORE
(X) Mandarin Advanced I	10	6	LX1001	CORE
(X) Mandarin Advanced II	10	6	LX1002	CORE
9) FRENCH WITH SPANISH (Ab Initio)				
French Research Dissertation	20	6	LF3203	CORE
(X) French Language Skills III	20	6	LF3002	CORE
(X) Spanish Advanced I	10	6	LS1011	CORE
(X) Spanish Advanced II	10	6	LS1012	CORE
TOTAL	120			
***Available Electives to be specified and are not guaranteed to be available each year. New Electives may become available.*				

(X) means that this module cannot be condoned and is a pre-requisite for progression to the next level

Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
A. Knowledge and Understanding			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
A1	The nature and significance of politics both as a human activity and within regional, national, European and international contexts.	• Lectures • Pair/Group work • Tutorial work • Guided reading/study • Small group interactive seminars • Presentations • Individual topic selection and Research/Consultation Year Abroad experience in: • Exchange university • Work placement • Teaching assistant	• End of teaching period examination • End of year examination • Annotated bibliography • Essay • Individual or group research dossier • Advanced research dissertation • Extended research project • Oral examination / viva • Oral presentation • Continuous assessment • Guided text production • Translation
A2	Different national, regional/European and international political systems including: • the nature and distribution of power • the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate • the relationships between them		
A3	The theories and methods used in the study of politics and international relations as applied to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices.		
A4	Written and oral communication skills in the target languages(s) (Level C2 on the CEFR), including an understanding of the context of production (social, cultural, economic, political) and a sophisticated range of syntactic structure.		
A5	An in-depth knowledge of the contemporary situation in French/German and/or Spanish speaking countries (linguistics, economy, culture, politics.)		
A6	Where students take a language ab initio, it is expected that a good working knowledge of the language (level B1-B2 in the CEFR) will be achieved.		

B. **Intellectual Skills**			
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
	In the areas of Politics/French/German/Spanish:	Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
B1	Gather, organise, deploy and analyse evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources.	• Lectures • Group work • Tutorial work • Guided independent reading/study • Interactive seminars • Seminars • Individual research and consultati • Guided text production • Linguistic analysis • Thematic analysis Year Abroad experience in: • Exchange university • Work placement • Teaching assistant	• End of teaching period examination • End of year examination • Annotated bibliography • Essay • Individual or group research dossier • Advanced research dissertation • Oral examination/ viva • Oral presentation • In class – test • Extended research dissertation • Continuous assessment • Guided text production • Translation • Research project • Exchange university examinations • Year abroad essay and/or exchange university examinations • Work placement report • Year abroad essay and viva
B2	Present arguments that are clear, structured and sustained.		
B3	Analyse and evaluate different interpretations of political events and cultural affairs.		
B4	Apply systematic methodologies to research.		

	C. **Professional Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
C1	Demonstrate near-native competence in the target languages(s) (Level C2 of the CEFR.) Where students take a language ab initio, it is expected that a good working knowledge of the language (level B1-B2 in the CEFR) will be achieved.	• Lectures • Seminars • Group work • Tutorial work • Individual work • Individual research • Guided reading/study • Tutorials • Virtual Learning Environment (Blackboard) Year Abroad experience in: • Exchange university • Work placement • Teaching assistant	• Assignments • Essay • Individual project • Group project • Presentation • Continuous assessment • Oral examination/viva • Extended research dissertation • In – class test • End of the year examination • Advanced research dissertation
C2	Apply critically the knowledge and skills learnt in the university and during the year abroad to their employment, particularly in an international context.		

	D. **Transferable Skills**		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to show:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategies to enable outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
D1	Fluency and effective communication in speech and writing, both in English and in at least one foreign language.	• Lectures • Group work • Tutorial work • Guided reading/study • Seminars • Interactive seminars • Oral seminars • Individual research • Guided text production • Translation Year Abroad experience in:	• End of teaching period examination • End of year examination • Annotated bibliography • Essays • Individual or group research dossier
D2	An ability to use a range of technology for the retrieval and presentation of information.		
D3	Intercultural skills drawing on comparative and contrastive understanding of both source and target culture.		

D4	Research skills, including the ability to process and evaluate information from a variety of paper, audio-visual and electronic sources.	• Exchange university • Work placement • Teaching assistant	• Advanced research dissertation • Oral examination / viva • Continuous assessment • Oral examination/viva • Extended research dissertation • Text production • Research dissertation and oral defence • Presentation
D5	Independent Learning skills.		

Entry Requirements	In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must satisfy any specific requirements approved by the School Learning and Teaching Committee. Candidates must have a least one of French, German or Spanish to A-level or equivalent. The equivalency of qualifications will be determined by the School Admissions Office. Foreign Language competency may be assessed via an interview in the target language and/or a diagnostic test.

Programme Regulations	**Attendance requirements** 1. In order to qualify for the award of the degree a student must have attended the required proportion of tutorials, seminars, practical classes, and lectures specified in the School handbook. Attendance is monitored via registers taken at each session. Students whose attendance fails to meet the requirements set out in the handbook will be notified of this by the School Office and may be required to meet with the Associate Dean (Undergraduate) regarding his/her attendance. **Mode of Study** 1. Admission to the part time degree is subject to the approval of the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programmes.) It is envisaged that this mode of study will only be used in exceptional circumstances. **Failure in Modules** 1. Where applicable modules which may not be condoned are indicated by (X) in the programme specification (see modules per stage.) 2. In cases of failure at Stage P assessment, the Examination Board may decide to award credits for that stage, depending on overall performance and consideration of factors in accordance with the condonement procedure specified in the General Regulations. The actual mark awarded will be used to calculate the Final Degree Classification. **Year Abroad** 1. Students will be required to spend a year abroad (30 weeks) on a programme approved by the School. 2. Student may undertake a work placement approved by the School; or undertake an assistantship teaching English in a school in a French/German/Spanish speaking country; or study at an approved exchange university; or undertake a combination of these. 3. Where students study two language post A-level, students are normally required to spend an equal amount of time in both countries. 4. Where a student study one language Ab Initio, he/she will normally be required to spend the year abroad in a country where the post A-level language is spoken. **Pathways** 1. Students may only change language pathways with the permission of the Associate Dean (Undergraduate Programmes.)

Further Information	The word "and" in the Programme title indicates that both languages will be studied equally, while "with" denotes that the language following the word "with" is the minor language.

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the threshold learning outcomes that a student might normally be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. **The individual modules included in the programme may differ from those included in this programme specification as our programmes are subject to continuous review.** Information on admissions requirements and career opportunities is available in the relevant prospectus. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the appropriate module guides and programme handbook(s) which are available to students on enrolment.