Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2012-2013

Programme Title	Business and International Relations
UCAS/JACS Code	LN 21
School/Subject Area	Languages & Social Sciences / PIR and Aston Business School
Final Award	BSc (Hons)
Interim Award(s)	Certificate of Higher Education (120 credits) Diploma in Higher Education (240 credits) Ordinary Degree
Mode(s) of Study	Full time or part time : Full time as standard mode of delivery, half time as an option in exceptional circumstances
Normal Length of Programme	4 years sandwich with placement Half time: 7-8 years including placement
Total Credits	480 credits
Programme Accredited By	
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	Written October 2011: Dr Jörg Mathias; February 2012

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and consultancy of Aston academic staff. • To provide students with an intellectually rigorous and up-to-date education in International Relations and Business Administration which will help them to identify and achieve their personal, academic and professional goals. • To provide a good understanding of the history of International Relations Theory, and social science theories and methods • To provide students with the ability to analyse and understand International Relations problems, global change, and international organizations and structures; • To provide training in research methods and analysis. • To develop the ability to recognise and analyse the economic, technical, financial, social and organisational parameters within which modern managers make decisions. • To ensure relevance by maintaining and enhancing the Schools' links with business, professional and public sector organisations. • To produce graduates who have the knowledge and skills to find employment in a range of business and management roles, in both the public and private sectors. • To provide well qualified graduates with key skills for life long learning. • To meet the accreditation requirements of appropriate management-related professional bodies.

Relevant Subject Benchmark Statements and other External and Internal Reference Points used to inform programme outcomes	• Quality Assurance Agency (QAA) Benchmarking statements: Politics and International Relations (International Relations section) and Business Studies • Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) • Advice from External Examiners

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage I**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Introduction to International Relations	20	4	LP 1008	Core
Europe and the Making of the Modern World	20	4	LP 1016	Core
Information Skills	10	4	LP 1012	Core
Introduction to the European Union	10	4	LP 1065	Core
Organisational Behaviour	10	4	BH1107	Core
Principles of Financial Accounting	10	4	BF1101	Core
Economic Environment of Business	10	4	BS1102	Core
IT for Business	10	4	BN1160	Core
Foundations of Business Analytics OR Introduction to Business Analytics	10	4	BN1115 BN1116	Core
Introduction to Marketing Management	10	4	BM1134	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage II**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
International Relations Theories and Issues	20	5	LP 2001	Core
Security Studies in a Changing World	20	5	LP 2007	Core
The Politics and Policies of the EU	10	5	LP 2029	Core
Research Methods in Pol. and Soc. Studies	10	5	LP 2006	Core
Business, Government and Society	10	5	BS2246	Core
Business Policy	10	5	BS2232	Core
Business Game	10	5	BS2225	Core
Business Economics	10	5	BS2240	Core
Operations Management	10	5	BN 2216	Core
Management Accounting	10	5	BF2262	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage III**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Placement *(choice of International Relations or Business Placement, either in the UK or abroad)*	120	P	LPP001, LPP002, LPP003, LPP004 or BUP100	Core
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage IV**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
International Relations Research Dissertation	20	6	LP 3009	Core
Central and East European Politics*	10	6	LP 3008	Elective
Immigration and Citizenship in W. Europe*	10	6	LP 3011	Elective
The International Relations of East Asia*	10	6	LP 3015	Elective
Religion and Politics in Contemporary Europe*	10	6	LP 3016	Elective
Political Communication*	10	6	LP 3018	Elective
The American Presidency*	10	6	LP 3019	Elective
Nationalism and Political Power*	10	6	LP 3020	Elective
Ethics and International Politics*	10	6	LP 3022	Elective
Contemporary Welfare Politics*	10	6	LP 3023	Elective
Political Parties and Party Systems*	10	6	LP 3024	Elective
Conflict and Politics in the Contemp. Balkans*	10	6	LP 3025	Elective
Intellectuals and Politics*	10	6	LP 3026	Elective
Conflict, Intervention and Reconciliation*	10	6	LP 3028	Elective
Regions and Regionalism in Europe*	10	6	LP 3412	Elective
Political Leaders*	10	6	LP 3415	Elective
Contemporary Political Theory*	10	6	LP 3416	Elective
Finance	10	6	BF3351	Core
Value Based Strategy	10	6	BS3352	Core
Making Managerial Decisions using Accounting Information*	20	5	BF2210	Elective
Theories and Practice of Leadership*	20	6	BH3319	Elective

Psychology & Work*	20	6	BH3328	Elective
Marketing Psychology*	20	6	BM3308	Elective
International Marketing*	20	6	BM3309	Elective
International Operations*	20	6	BN3322	Elective
Effective Project Delivery*	20	6	BN3385	Elective
Entrepreneurial Management*	20	6	BS3357	Elective
Learning, Training and Development in Organisations*	10	6	BH3392	Elective
Global Working*	10	6	BH3393	Elective
Business Ethics*	10	6	BL3307	Elective
International Business Economics*	10	6	BS3337	Elective
TOTAL	120			

*Not all electives will be available every year.

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
1	The scope and nature of International Relations as an academic discipline, conceptual, ethical and historical issues and the contributions of different perspectives	These are developed through lectures and seminars, associated handouts and visual presentations, together with individual supervision in preparation of the student's final year project. • lectures (A1-6) • seminars (A1-6) • individual work (A1-6) • guided reading (A1-6) • individual supervision (A3,4) • placement and/or project work (A3, 4)	Seen and unseen exams, class tests, essays, on-line quizzes, practical reports, projects, portfolios, posters and presentations. • assignments (A1-6) • end of teaching period examination (A1, 2) • individual project (A3,4)
2	The nature of the modern international arena (organizations and structures, security problems, changes in foreign relations conduct)		
3	The practical applications of subject knowledge and the links between theory and practice.		
4	Research methods used to investigate issues in social sciences		
5	The main functions of business and management.		
6	How strategic decision-making within organisations as a whole takes place.		

	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	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	gather, organise, deploy and analyse evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources	• lectures (B1-6) • seminars (B1, 2, 3, 4) • individual work (B1-7) • guided reading (B1-6) • individual supervision (B1-5, 7)	• Examination (B2,3,5,6,) • essay (B1, 2, 3, 5, 6) • individual project (B1,2,3,4,5,7) • group project (B1-6)
2	Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence.		
3	Think critically and question received wisdom.		
4	Show competence in research design, qualitative and quantitative analysis.		
5	Present arguments that are clear, structured and sustained.		
6	analyse political and management concepts and theories and apply them to the analysis of IR Studies and management problems		
7	Carry out a sustained piece of independent 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
1	Ability to read and understand IR and business texts	• lectures (C1-3) • seminars (C1-3) • individual work (C1-4) • guided reading (C1-3) • individual supervision (C4, C6)	• Examination (C1,3) • Essay (C1,3) • Individual project C1,2,4, 6)
2	Identify a research question and design, execute and report an empirically-based research project		
3	Ability to use theory to help understand case studies, events portrayed in the media and personal experiences		
4	Use a range of practical research methods and to discriminate intelligently among IR research methods in terms of their applicability to specific research problems		
5	Display confidence in areas of particular interest and relevance to their chosen career path		
6	Apply their key skills and competencies within a real work-based situation (via optional placement experience)		

	D. <u>Transferable Skills</u>		
	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
1	Good written communication skills.	Communication skills are developed through seminars, study skills essay feedback Effective use of information sources, analytical ability, independent and group work are all developed through study skills classes and independent supervision. • tutorials (D1,4, 6) • seminars (D1, 2, 3, 4, 6) • group work (D2,4) • individual work (D1,2,3,5, 6)	• Essay (D1,2,3) • individual project (D1,2,3) • group project (D1,2,3,4,)
2	Competence in the use of information technology for word processing, data handling, communication and information gathering.		
3	The ability to undertake self-directed study and project management.		
4	The ability to work effectively in teams, reacting appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors.		
5	The ability to reflect upon own learning and development.		
6	Competency in understanding relevant statistical analyses and financial reports		

Entry Requirement	In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must satisfy any specific entry requirements for each programme as approved by the Learning and Teaching Committee. These may include undertaking an interview.
Programme Regulations	This programme is governed by the University's current General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes (reference REG/05/358 and subsequent editions). From time to time more detailed programme requirements, in particular regarding student support, exceptional circumstances (ECAP Procedures), attendance, assessment management, etc. will be published in the LSS Undergraduate Handbook. The administrative and technical details contained therein are to be regarded as binding for both staff and students.

Further Information	In order to be eligible for the Graduate Basis for Registration (GBR), students must gain at least a Lower Second Class Honours degree or equivalent thereof.

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.