Aston University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

2012-2013

Programme Title	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (HALF PROGRAMME)
UCAS/JACS Code	LI2
School/Subject Area	LSS
Mode(s) of Study	Full time or Part time
Total Credits	180 for three-year programme plus 240 credits in another Combined Honours subject *or* plus 360 with a language programme, including 120 for Year Abroad credits
Programme Accredited By	
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	April 2004; revised October 2004; November 2006, May 2008; July 2009; August 2010; February 2012

Educational Aims of the Programme	• To provide students with an excellent learning experience that draws on the research and other expertise of Aston academic staff • To provide well-qualified and highly employable graduates with key skills for lifelong learning • To impart to students a knowledge and understanding of the nature of relations between states and also of the roles played by international institutions, other intergovernmental organizations and non-state actors such as transnational corporations and transnational civil society groups • To teach students different methods of analysis drawing on history, political philosophy and the social sciences • To develop the use by students of intellectual tools for addressing criticall international questions of public concern, including those relating to Europe • To give due account to the interface between International Relations and other subjects taken by students in the framework of Joint or Combined Honours programmes, including, notably, languages

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) Framework for Higher Education Qualifications Aston University's Learning and Teaching Strategy Statement (2003) Staff expertise

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage I**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Europe and the Making of the Modern World	20	4	LP1016	CORE
Information Skills	10	4	LP1012	CORE
Introduction to International Relations	20	4	LP1021	CORE
Introduction to the European Union	10	4	LP1065	CORE
TOTAL	60			

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	LP2014	CORE
Research Methods in Political and Social Science	10	5	LP2006	CORE
The Politics and Policies of the European Union	10	5	LP2020	CORE
Security Studies in a Changing World	20	5	LP2021	CORE
TOTAL	60			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage P 480 credit programme only**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
Placement in UK or abroad in public or private sector (including NGOs)	120	P	LPP001	CORE
or				
Work Placement Outside the UK	120	P	LPP003	CORE
or				
Study Outside the UK	120	P	LPP004	CODE
TOTAL	120			

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits **Stage III**				
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Elective
International Relations Research Dissertation	20	6	LP3009	CORE
**Choice of four from*				
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
TOTAL	60			
***Available options to be specified and are not guaranteed to be available each year. New options may become available.**				

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 nature and significance of politics as a global activity	• lectures • group work • tutorial work • guided reading	• end of teaching period examination • end of year examination • annotated bibliography • essay • individual or group research dossiers • extended research dissertation • oral examination / viva
2	the application of concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to the analysis of political ideas, practices and issues in the global arena and, subsidiarily, the European one		
3	the origins and evolution of the international system, including contemporary changes under way in both Europe and the wider world		
4	different interpretations of world political events and issues		

	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, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of primary and secondary sources in the area of international relations (including those relating to Europe)	• lectures • group work • tutorial work • guided reading	• end of teaching period examination • end of year examination • annotated bibliography • assay • individual or group research dossiers • extended research dissertation • oral examination / viva
2	identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to global political problems (including those with a European dimension)		
3	construct reasoned argument, synthesize relevant information and exercise critical judgement in respect of global political matters (including those with a European dimension)		
4	evaluate different interpretations of world political events and issues		

	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	be well-informed in international relations matters directly relevant to work in national or local government	• seminars • guided study • individual research • lectures • group work • tutorial work	• continuous assessment • oral examination / viva • extended research dissertation
2	be well-informed in matters directly relevant to work in international organisations, especially in Europe		
3	be well-informed in intenational relations matters directly relevant to work in active politics or journalism		

	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
1	fluency and effective communication in speech and writing	• lectures • group work • tutorial work • guided reading	• end of teaching period examination • end of year examination • annotated bibliography • essay • individual or group research dossiers • extended research dissertation • oral examination / viva
2	an ability to use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information		
3	an ability to work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organization and time-management, and pursuing continuous learning self-critically		
4	an ability to collaborate with others to achieve common goals		

Entry Requirements	In addition to satisfying the general entry requirements, candidates must satisfy any specific entry requirements for each programme as approved by the School Learning and Teaching Committee. These may include an interview and 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 by the School Executive Dean. The Student Handbook provides details of procedures for monitoring attendance and dealing with poor attendance. Specific assessment requirements for modules (if any, e.g. modules which may not be condoned) 1. Where applicable modules which may not be condoned are Indicated by (X) in the programme specification tables of modules per stage Requirements for the Ordinary Degree (Undergraduate Programmes) 1. <u>Transfer to Ordinary Degree</u> A change to a single-subject programme may be possible as specified in the General Regulations for Undergraduate Programmes and the relevant programme or subject specifications. Students may not normally study more than two subjects on an Ordinary Degree programme. 2. <u>Required Modules</u> The Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes will determine which 100 credits, out of the 120 credits for the corresponding stage of the Honours programme, should be taken at each stage. 3. <u>Stage Two Assessment</u> The Ordinary Degree Stage Two assessment will be held at specified times before the final stage of the programme and will comprise 100 credits from the modules set out in the relevant programme or subject specifications (to be determined by the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes). 4 <u>Final Assessment</u> The Ordinary Degree final assessment will comprise 100 credits from the modules set out in the relevant programme or subject specifications (to be determined by the Associate Dean, Undergraduate Programmes).

Programme Regulations	Industrial/Professional Training **Placement Year (for 480 credits programme)** 1. Students will be required to follow a course of study for one academic year, on a programme approved by the School Executive Dean; or undertake a work placement approved by the School Executive Dean; or undertake a combination of these. 2. Students will be required to undertake the following work during their placement, as specified by the School Executive Dean: a. EITHER to sit examinations at the approved institution at which the course of study was followed b. OR to submit a project on an approved subject c. AND/OR to sit a viva voce examination on return to the Final Year of the programme d. OR to undertake two or all of the above, depending on the country and subject of study placement e. which will be assessed by the Board of Examiners as one Module, worth 120 credits at Stage P. 3. 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 described in the School's Examination Board Procedures (LES/129/03), in accordance with the condonement procedure specified in the General Regulations. The actual mark awarded will be used to calculate the Final Degree Classification.
Further information	

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.