



## **Course Specification Part A**

### **BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations AHU072**

### **FAH/HUM Academic Year 2021/22**

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

Template Revised August 2018

## **1. Introduction**

The BA (Honours) Politics and International Relations builds on a long-established expertise at Coventry University in teaching both disciplines in single honours programmes. The course brings together, in a distinctive programme, the two main approaches to studying Politics, namely comparative government and the study of political ideas, with an International Relations stream encompassing the fields of security and conflict, foreign policy analysis, humanitarian intervention, and international relations theory.

Students are invited to study a range of mandatory and core option modules with a rich and diverse area focus. The programme covers the politics of the United States, Britain, Western Europe, Central and Eastern Europe, Russia, Africa, and the Middle East. The International Relations stream encompasses Cold War history, the foreign policies of Britain, the United States and China, security and conflict in the Middle East, peace-keeping and development in Africa.

At each level of study students benefit from modules specialising in the development of applied academic and employability skills and the University's Add+vantage options. The course offers the opportunity of optional study abroad or work placement for one year and includes a field trip option module in the final year (where practical). All students must write a final-year dissertation, researching a topic of their own choice, under the guidance of a designated supervisor.

The course is taught by established scholars in their field, with a strong record of excellent publications. It is highly internationalized and suitable to overseas students. It offers a wide range of diverse activities and opportunities, including field trips, student exchange links, talks by visiting speakers and strong career prospects. It provides small group teaching and staff accessibility in a dynamic and friendly environment. It is taught in an attractive campus located at the heart of a city that symbolises international peace and reconciliation.

## Part 1: Programme Specification for BA Honours Politics and International Relations

<b>2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study</b>			
Title of Award *	Mode of attendance*	UCAS Code	<a href="#">FHEQ Level*</a>
BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations (with Professional/International Enhancement)	F/T 4 yrs	L210	6
BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations	F/T 3 yrs, P/T 4-6 yrs		
BA Politics and International Relations (with Professional/International Enhancement)	F/T 4 yrs		5
BA Politics and International Relations			4
Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) in Politics and International Relations			
Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) in Politics and International Relations			
<b>3 Awarding Institution/Body</b>	Coventry University		
<b>4 Collaboration</b>	Not Applicable		
<b>5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery*</b>	Coventry University		
<b>6 Internal Approval/Review Dates</b>	Date of latest review: 2020/21 Date for next review: Academic year 2028/29.		
<b>7 Programme Accredited by</b>	Not Applicable		
<b>8 Accreditation Date and Duration</b>	Not Applicable		
<b>9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors</b>	<p>This programme is covered by the QAA Subject Benchmark Statements for Politics and International Relations (December 2019). Subject Benchmark statements can be found at:</p> <p><a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-politics-and-international-relations.pdf?sfvrsn=73e2cb81_5">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/subject-benchmark-statement-politics-and-international-relations.pdf?sfvrsn=73e2cb81_5</a></p>		
<b>10 Date of Programme Specification</b>	November 2020		
<b>11 Course Director</b>	TBA		

## 12 Educational Aims of the Programme \*

The broad aims of the BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations are based on the QAA *Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations* (December 2019). They also reflect the qualification descriptors for Bachelor degrees at level 6 outlined in *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies* (UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards, October 2014).

These aims are:

- To provide students with up-to-date knowledge and a complex understanding of the disciplines of Politics and International Relations;
- To develop students' powers of analysis and judgement;
- To provide an innovative and inclusive academic programme that is accessible to students from a variety of educational backgrounds;
- To provide a stimulating learning environment, with a strong international outlook, where students can access appropriate resources and different learning contexts enabling them to work both independently and in diverse groups;
- To provide opportunities for all students to fulfil their potential through careful student support and guidance;
- To produce employable graduates who possess key subject, professional and intercultural skills geared towards a variety of career paths in the public, private and voluntary sectors.

## 13. Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes are aligned with the relevant FHEQ level and the Politics and International Relations Subject Benchmark Statements, but also with the six pillars of the Coventry University Education Strategy 2015-21, as follows:

1. Creativity and enterprise
2. Intercultural and international engagement
3. Community contribution and responsibility
4. Innovation and digital fluency
5. Embedded employability
6. Research-inspired teaching

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate knowledge of politics and international relations, its main themes, concepts and discourses (2, 6)
2. Apply, identify, analyse and critically evaluate a range of theoretical perspectives in international politics (1, 2, 6)
3. Show awareness of the diverse contexts (historical, social, and cultural) of past and present international affairs (2, 6)
4. Demonstrate knowledge of influential ideas, ideologies, concepts, and theories used in the study of politics (1, 2, 3, 6).
5. Develop a critical understanding of institutions, processes and policies utilised in contemporary government (1, 2, 5, 6)
6. Identify and critically engage with differing approaches to, and key issues of debate within, the study of politics (1, 2, 3, 6)
7. Work independently with increasing self-confidence and reflect upon the process of learning (3, 5)
8. Demonstrate advanced communication skills, both written and oral, that can be transferred to a wide variety of professional contexts across different cultures (2, 4, 5).

9. Critically assess, analyse and synthesize evidence collected through research from UK and non-UK sources (2, 4, 6).
  10. Conduct independent research using primary and secondary sources including specialist digital tools (2, 4, 6).
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## **14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards**

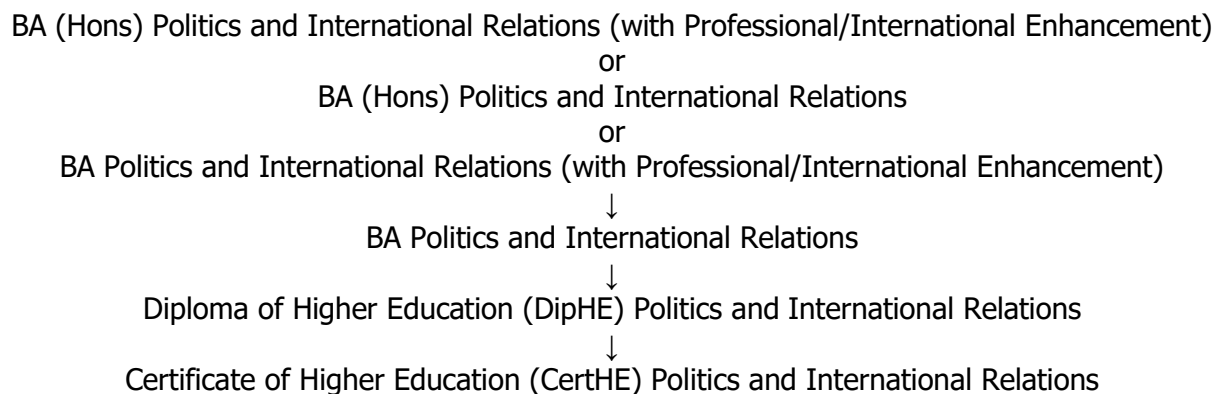
The course structure is compatible with the Undergraduate Academic Regulations (Mode E).

Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or options), the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below.

At level 4 all modules are mandatory; at level 5 students can choose one optional module from a choice of three 20-credit options; and at level 6 students can choose two optional modules from six (40 credits of options).

Academic and employability skills are embedded in level 4 and level 6 modules. At level 5 there is a 10-credit stand-alone project-based employability module.

### **Cascade of Awards:**



## Indicative Course Structure

Level Four		Level Five		Sandwich Year	Level Six	
Semester 1	Semester 2	Semester 1	Semester 2		Semester 1	Semester 2
4040HUM Applied Politics- Politics in Action  30 credits	4032HUM Introduction to Political Ideas  20 credits	5047HUM Contemporary Global Security  20 credits	5051HUM Comparative Politics and Governance  20 credits	6038HUM Placement Year Module	6073HUM Political Ideologies in the Twentieth Century  20 credits	6072HUM Dissertation in History, International Relations and Politics  30 credits
4029HUM Themes and Concepts in International Relations  20 credits	4033HUM World Politics since 1945  20 credits	5053HUM Foreign Policy Analysis  20 credits	5059HUM Contemporary British Government  20 credits		6039HUM Study Abroad Year Module  0 credits	6003HUM Ethics and International Relations  20 credits
Add+Vantage  10 credits	4002HUM Introduction to IR Theories  20 credits	5064HUM A Graduate Career  10 credits	<b>Choose ONE of THREE:</b>  5050HUM Contemporary Far Right in Western Europe  5046HUM International Political Economy  5045HUM Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping  20 credits each			<b>Choose ONE of THREE:</b>  6064HUM Politics of the Contemporary Middle East  6063HUM Nationalism and Democratisation in Post-Communist Europe  6056HUM US' Foreign Policy since 1945  20 credits each
		Add+Vantage  10 credits				

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Semes-ter	Credit Value	Mandatory/ Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
4	4040HUM	Applied Politics – Politics in Action	1	30	M	1-5, 7
4	4032HUM	Introduction to Political Ideas	2	20	M	4-10
4	4033HUM	World Politics Since 1945	2	20	M	1-3, 7-10
4	4002HUM	Introduction to International Relations Theories	2	20	M	1-3, 7-10
4	4029HUM	Themes and Concepts in International Relations	1	20	M	1-3, 7-10
4	Add+Vantage		1	10	M	
5	5051HUM	Comparative Politics and Governance	2	20	M	4-10
5	5059HUM	Contemporary British Government	2	20	M	4-10
5	5047HUM	Contemporary Global Security	1	20	M	1-3, 7-10
5	5053HUM	Foreign Policy Analysis	1	20	M	1-3, 7-10
5	5064HUM	A Graduate Career	1	10	M	7, 8, 9
5	5050HUM	The Contemporary Far Right in Western Europe	2	20	O	4-10
5	5046HUM	International Political Economy	2	20	O	1-3, 7-10
5	5045HUM	Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping	2	20	O	1-3, 7-10
5	Add+Vantage		1	10	M	
	6038HUM	Placement Year Module		0	O	7-10
	6039HUM	Study Abroad Year Module		0	O	1-10
6	6073HUM	Political Ideologies in the 20th Century	1	20	M	4-10
6	6072HUM	Dissertation in History, International Relations and Politics	2	30	M	1-10
6	6003HUM	Ethics and International Relations	1	20	M	1-3 7-10
6	6064HUM	Politics of the Contemporary Middle East	1	20	O	1, 3-10
6	6053HUM	US Government and Politics	2	20	O	4-10
6	6074HUM	Chinese Politics, Foreign Relations, and Security	2	20	O	1-3, 7-10
6	6063HUM	Nationalism and Democratisation in Post-Communist Europe	1	20	O	4-10
6	6056HUM	US' Foreign Policy since 1945	1	20	O	1,3,5-10
6	6061HUM	Study Trip	2	20	O	1,3,5-10
6	Add+Vantage		2	10	M	

## 15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the [UCAS website](#), then clicking on 'Entry profile'. General requirements are in line with University Policy.

Students whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language equivalent to IELTS 6.0.

For students entering with advanced standing, the course conforms to the standard University RP(E)L procedure.

## 16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Academic Regulations](#) Undergraduate Mode E.

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## 17 Indicators of Quality and Standards

Staff contributing to the writing of this course are research active and publish regularly in scholarly journals, as well as make regular media appearances. They are involved in public projects with UK and overseas public agencies and work collaboratively with other universities.

The Course is managed by the Humanities Board of Study of the Faculty of Arts and Humanities.

The Progression and Awards Board (PAB) for Humanities is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's web site.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

The QAA's Higher Education Review undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets the UK expectations regarding the:

- setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards;
- quality of student learning opportunities;
- quality of the information about learning opportunities;
- enhancement of student learning opportunities.

According to the NSS data from the period 2015-2019, course student satisfaction for BA Politics and BA International Relations ranged between 89% and 100%.

According to the Guardian League Table for 2019, BA Politics and BA International Relations ranked 9<sup>th</sup> among 89 courses in the UK and 23<sup>rd</sup> in the UK for 2020.

Most staff members are authors of books and articles in top-ranking journals across a wide range of specialisms. Some have contributed to the latest REF2014 submission for UoA21 Politics and International Studies, which received the rating of 2.01.

A number of staff are invited on the national and worldwide media to comment on current affairs and analyse key political and international developments.

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## 18 Additional Information

Key sources of information about the course and student support can be found in:

The Faculty of Arts and Humanities Student Handbook  
The Politics and International Relations Student Handbook  
Module Guides  
The University's Academic Regulations  
The University's General Regulations



Module Information Directory (<https://webapp.coventry.ac.uk/MidWebNext/Main.aspx>)

Study Support information is accessible from student services home page.

In addition to the University-wide support available, the following specific support is given to students:

- i) There is a well-established personal tutorial system. All students are allocated a personal tutor, who they are required to see regularly during the first year and are encouraged to see regularly thereafter. The personal tutor oversees their tutees' academic development and progress and is there to assist with academic and non-academic matters, where appropriate.
  - ii) Staff operate a system of 'surgery hours.' Students who wish to discuss a matter with a member of staff may do so during the advertised surgery hours, or at another mutually convenient time. An 'open door' culture exists in the School.
  - iii) Students receive written feedback and an individual tutorial on their work and may also make an appointment to see the relevant lecturer prior to any assessment.
  - iv) CU-Online support webs have been developed in each module using the Aula Learning Experience platform.
  - v) Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty/School Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.
  - vi) The course has a designated Talent Team who meet students and advise them accordingly about their future career options and strategies.
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