

## PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION **2013-2014**

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, format change August 2013

## 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 managementrelated 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
- QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011)
- Advice from External Examiners

STAGE 1						
<b>Programme Structures and Requireme</b>	nts: Levels,	Module	es and Credit	S		
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre- Requisite(s) Y/N
Introduction to International Relations	20	4	LP 1008	Core	Υ	N
Europe and the Making of the Modern World	20	4	LP 1016	Core	Υ	N
Information Skills	10	4	LP 1012	Core	Υ	N
Introduction to the European Union	10	4	LP 1065	Core	Υ	N
Organisational Behaviour	10	4	BH1107	Core	Υ	N
Principles of Financial Accounting	10	4	BF1101	Core	Υ	N
Economic Environment of Business	10	4	BS1102	Core	Υ	N
IT for Business	10	4	BN1160	Core	Υ	N
Foundations of Business Analytics	10	4	BN1115	Core	Υ	N
Introduction to Marketing Management	10	4	BM1134	Core	Υ	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE 2						
Programme Structures and Requireme	nts: Levels	, Module	es and Credi	ts		
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre- Requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations Theories and Issues	20	5	LP 2001	Core	Υ	N
Security Studies in a Changing World	20	5	LP 2007	Core	Υ	N
The Politics and Policies of the EU	10	5	LP 2029	Core	Υ	N
Research Methods in Pol. and Soc. Studies	10	5	LP 2006	Core	Υ	N
Business, Government and Society	10	5	BS2246	Core	Υ	N
Business Policy	10	5	BS2232	Core	Υ	N
Business Game	10	5	BN2225	Core	Υ	N
Business Economics	10	5	BS2240	Core	Υ	Υ
Operations Management	10	5	BN 2216	Core	Υ	N
Management Accounting	10	5	BF2262	Core	Υ	Υ
TOTAL	120					

STAGE 3						
<b>Programme Structures and Requirem</b>	ents: Levels	s, Modul	les and Cred	its		
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre- Requisite(s) Y/N
Placement (choice of International Relations or Business Placement, either in the UK or abroad)	120	Р	LPP001, LPP002, LPP003, LPP004 or BUP100	Core	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE F						
<b>Programme Structures and Requirem</b>	ents: Level	s, Modu	les and Cred	dits		
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre- Requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations Research Dissertation	20	6	LP 3009	Core	Υ	N
Finance	10	6	BF3351	Core	Y	Υ
Value Based Strategy	10	6	BS3352	Core	Υ	N
Choose 40 credits of International Re	lations mod	lules fro	m the list be	elow:		
Central and East European Politics*	10	6	LP 3008	Option	Υ	N
Immigration and Citizenship in W. Europe*	10	6	LP 3011	Option	Y	N
The International Relations of East Asia*	10	6	LP 3015	Option	Υ	N
Religion and Politics in Contemporary Europe*	10	6	LP 3016	Option	Υ	N
Political Communication*	10	6	LP 3018	Option	Υ	N
The American Presidency*	10	6	LP 3019	Option	Υ	N
Nationalism and Political Power*	10	6	LP 3020	Option	Υ	N
Ethics and International Politics*	10	6	LP 3022	Option	Υ	N
Contemporary Welfare Politics*	10	6	LP 3023	Option	Υ	N
Political Parties and Party Systems*	10	6	LP 3024	Option	Υ	N
Conflict and Politics in the Contemp. Balkans*	10	6	LP 3025	Option	Y	N
Intellectuals and Politics*	10	6	LP 3026	Option	Υ	N
Conflict, Intervention and Reconciliation*	10	6	LP 3028	Option	Υ	N
Regions and Regionalism in Europe*	10	6	LP 3412	Option	Υ	N

Political Leaders*	10	6	LP 3415	Option	Υ	N
Contemporary Political Theory*	10	6	LP 3416	Option	Υ	N
Choose 40 credits of Business modules	from the li	ist belov	v:			
Making Managerial Decisions using Accounting Information*	20	5	BF2210	Option	Υ	Υ
Theories and Practice of Leadership*	20	6	BH3319	Option	Υ	N
Psychology & Work*	20	6	BH3328	Option	Υ	Υ
Consumer Behaviour*	10	6	BM3376	Option	Υ	Υ
Advanced Consumer Behaviour*	10	6	BM3377	Option	Υ	Υ
International Marketing*	20	6	BM3309	Option	Υ	N
International Operations*	20	6	BN3322	Option	Υ	N
Effective Project Delivery*	20	6	BN3385	Option	Υ	N
Entrepreneurial Management*	20	6	BS3357	Option	Υ	N
Learning, Training and Development in Organisations*	10	6	BH3392	Option	Υ	Υ
Global Working*	10	6	BH3393	Option	Υ	Υ
Business Ethics*	10	6	BL3307	Option	Υ	N
International Business Economics*	10	6	BS3337	Option		Υ
TOTAL	120					

Pro	Programme Outcomes, Learning and Teaching and Assessment Strategies			
	A. Knowledge and Understan	ding		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to have knowledge and understanding of:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment S be achieved and demonstrated	Strategies to enable outcomes to	
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods	
2	The scope and nature of International Relations as an academic discipline, conceptual, ethical and historical issues and the contributions of different perspectives  The nature of the modern international arena	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)	Seen and unseen exams, class tests, essays, on-line quizzes, practical reports, projects, portfolios, posters and presentations.  • assignments (A1-6)	
	(organizations and structures, security problems, changes in foreign relations conduct)	<ul> <li>seminars (A1-6)</li> <li>individual work (A1-6)</li> <li>guided reading (A1-6)</li> <li>individual supervision (A3,4)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>end of teaching period examination (A1, 2)</li> <li>individual project (A3,4)</li> </ul>	
3	The practical applications of subject knowledge and the links between theory and practice.	• placement and/or project work (A3, 4)		
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. <u>Intellectual Skills</u>		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment S 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	<ul> <li>lectures (B1-6)</li> <li>seminars (B1, 2, 3, 4)</li> <li>individual work (B1-7)</li> <li>guided reading (B1-6)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Examination (B2,3,5,6,)</li> <li>essay (B1, 2, 3, 5, 6)</li> <li>individual project (B1,2,3,4,5,7)</li> </ul>
2	Reason scientifically and demonstrate the relationship between theory and evidence.	• individual supervision (B1-5, 7)	• group project (B1-6)
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. <u>Professional Skills</u>		
	On successful completion of their programme, students are expected to be able to:	Learning, Teaching and Assessment S be achieved and demonstrated	Strategies to enable outcomes to
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Ability to read and understand IR and business texts	<ul> <li>lectures (C1-3)</li> <li>seminars (C1-3)</li> <li>individual work (C1-4)</li> </ul>	<ul> <li>Examination (C1,3)</li> <li>Essay (C1,3)</li> <li>Individual project C1,2,4, 6)</li> </ul>
2	Identify a research question and design, execute and report an empirically-based research project	<ul> <li>guided reading (C1-3)</li> <li>individual supervision (C4, C6)</li> </ul>	
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 S be achieved and demonstrated	Strategies to enable outcomes to
		Learning and Teaching Methods	Assessment Methods
1	Good written communication skills.	Communication skills are developed through seminars, study skills essay feedback	<ul><li>Essay (D1,2,3)</li><li>individual project</li></ul>
2	Competence in the use of information technology for word processing, data handling, communication and information gathering.	Effective use of information sources, analytical ability, independent and group work are all developed through study skills classes and independent	(D1,2,3) • group project (D1,2,3,4,)
3	The ability to undertake self-directed study and project management.	<ul> <li>supervision.</li> <li>tutorials (D1,4,6)</li> <li>seminars (D1, 2, 3, 4, 6)</li> </ul>	
4	The ability to work effectively in teams, reacting appropriately to contextual and interpersonal factors.	<ul> <li>group work (D2,4)</li> <li>individual work (D1,2,3,5,</li> <li>6)</li> </ul>	
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).

General Regulations (<a href="http://www1.aston.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/regsandpolicies/general-regulations/">http://www1.aston.ac.uk/registry/for-staff/regsandpolicies/general-regulations/</a>) and the Regulations for the programme (above) take precedence over other information sources such as student handbooks if there is a conflict. If there is a conflict between General Regulations and Programme Regulations then General Regulations take precedence unless an exemption has been approved.

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.