Aston University

SUBJECT SPECIFICATION

2014-2015

Programme Title	INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (HALF PROGRAMME)
UCAS/JACS Code	LI2
School/Subject Area	LSS
Final Award	BSc Hons
Interim Award(s)	
Mode(s) of Study	Full time or Part time
Total Credits	180 plus 180 credits in another Joint Honours half subject *or* plus 300 credits with a language half subject (including 120 credits for Stage 3)
Programme Accredited By	N/A
Dates Programme Specification Written and Revised	April 2004; revised October 2004; November 2006, May 2008; July 2009; August 2010; February 2012, April 2013, format change August 2013; revised August 2014

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 critically 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 Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations(2007) QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education Chapter A1 (2011)

STAGE I						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Europe and the Making of the Modern World	20	4	LP1016	CORE	Y	N
Information Skills	10	4	LP1012	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to International Relations	20	4	LP1021	CORE	Y	N
Introduction to the European Union	10	4	LP1065	CORE	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

STAGE 2						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations: Theories and Issues	20	5	LP2014	CORE	Y	N
Research Methods in Political and Social Science	10	5	LP2006	CORE	Y	N
The Politics and Policies of the European Union	10	5	LP2020	CORE	Y	N
Choose one of the following optional modules						
Introduction to Political Economy	20	5	LP 2022	OPTION	Y	N
Security Studies in a Changing World	20	5	LP2021	OPTION	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

STAGE 3						
Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
Placement in UK or abroad in public or private sector (including NGOs)	120	P	LPP001	CORE	Y	N
or						
Work Placement Outside the UK	120	P	LPP003	CORE	Y	N
or						
Study Outside the UK	120	P	LPP004	CORE	Y	N
TOTAL	120					

STAGE F

Programme Structures and Requirements: Levels, Modules and Credits						
Module Title	Credits	Level	Module Code	Core/ Option	Condonable Y/N	Pre-requisite(s) Y/N
International Relations Research Dissertation	20	6	LP3009	CORE	Y	N
Choose four of the following optional modules						
Central and East European Politics	10	6	LP3008	OPTION	Y	N
Immigration & Citizenship in Western Europe	10	6	LP3011	OPTION	Y	N
The International Relations of East Asia	10	6	LP3015	OPTION	Y	N
Religion and Politics in Contemporary Europe	10	6	LP3016	OPTION	Y	N
Political Communication	10	6	LP3018	OPTION	Y	N
The American Presidency	10	6	LP3019	OPTION	Y	N
Nationalism & Political Power	10	6	LP3020	OPTION	Y	N
Ethics and International Politics	10	6	LP3022	OPTION	Y	N
Political Parties and Party Systems	10	6	LP3024	OPTION	Y	N
Conflict and Politics in Contemporary Balkans	10	6	LP3025	OPTION	Y	N
Intellectuals and Politics	10	6	LP3026	OPTION	Y	N
Contemporary Conflict	10	6	LP3028	OPTION	Y	N
The Far Right in Europe	10	6	LP3030	OPTION	Y	N
Regions and Regionalism in Europe	10	6	LP3412	OPTION	Y	N
Contemporary Political Theory	10	6	LP3416	OPTION	Y	N
Political Leaders: Case Studies and Comparative Perspectives	10	6	LP3415	OPTION	Y	N
TOTAL	60					

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, subsidiarity, 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 international 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 Commitee. These may include an interview and a diagnostic test.
Programme Regulations	Please see the LSS Joint Honours Programme Specification

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.