

**Programme Specification for Undergraduate Programme  
Leading to:  
BSc International Politics  
BSc International Politics with Placement**



*Applicable for all undergraduate students **starting at Level 1** on or after 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022*

<u>Version No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes – QA USE ONLY</u>	<u>QA</u>
1	March 2022	Programme specification for 2022-23 created. PP2006; PP2616; PP3013; PP3607 removed. PP2622 added from 2022/23.	BJR

<b>Undergraduate programme</b>	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Social and Political Sciences, Division of Politics and History.
4. Contributing college/department/division/ associated institution	Brunel University London Pathway College (BPC) offers the following Validated Programme Element/s which enable progression on to this programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation in Humanities, Social Sciences, Education and Psychology</li> </ul>
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	BSc (Hons) International Politics (FHEQ Level 6) BSc (Hons) International Politics with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)
7. Programme title	BSc International Politics
8. Programme type (Single honours/joint)	Single honours
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	36 months Full time/48 months Thick Sandwich  For students commencing their studies at BPC, the normal length stated above will vary as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foundation Year - September commencement: + 12 months</li> <li>• Foundation Year - January commencement: + 9 months</li> </ul>
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	72 months FT/84 months thick sandwich
11. Variation(s) to September start	None for Standard Levels.  See BPC <a href="#">Validated Programme Element Specifications</a> for intakes for those programmes.
12. Modes of study	Full-time/thick sandwich
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles with FHEQ Level of Award	Certificate of Higher Education in International Politics (FHEQ Level 4) Diploma of Higher Education in International Politics (FHEQ Level 5) Diploma of Higher Education in International Politics with Placement (FHEQ Level 5) BSc (Ord) International Politics (FHEQ Level 6) BSc (Ord) International Politics with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)
15. UCAS Code	L240 (FT)

	L241 (thick sandwich)
16. HECoS Code	100489
17. Route Code	L240UINTPLT
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design.	<a href="#">QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education</a> which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards <a href="#">Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statement- Politics and International Relations Brunel 2030</a> Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the ' <a href="#">Managing Higher Education Provision with Others</a> ' page
19. Admission Requirements	Details of <a href="#">entry requirements</a> are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's <a href="#">language requirements</a> pages.  For admission via Brunel University Pathway College, see the relevant Validated Programme Element Specification.
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	Exchange programmes are available under the Erasmus scheme: <a href="http://www.brunel.ac.uk/international/exchanges-and-study-abroad-programmes">http://www.brunel.ac.uk/international/exchanges-and-study-abroad-programmes</a>
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 2. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 2 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	N/A
22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.	<a href="https://www.brunel.ac.uk/politics-and-international-relations/home">https://www.brunel.ac.uk/politics-and-international-relations/home</a>

### 23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To provide opportunities for the study of International Politics at undergraduate degree level.
- To provide a programme that prepares graduates for both employment and further study via the development of their methodological, cognitive and transferable skills
- To develop students' understanding of the theoretical and empirical frameworks which underpin the field of International Politics
- To provide opportunities for students to include a work placement component in their degree.

### 24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
<b>4</b>		Demonstrate knowledge of research design and qualitative methods used in International Politics			PP1600 PP1609
		Demonstrate a knowledge of			PP1070

		American and comparative politics			PP1602
		Demonstrate the knowledge of writings of significant political thinkers			PP1601 PP1602
		Demonstrate a knowledge of world politics and conflict in the modern world			PP1069 PP1609
		Understand how to analyse and question evidence and sources and how to report and reflect upon them.			PP1069 PP1600 PP1601 PP1609
		Demonstrate effective communication			PP1069 PP1070 PP1600 PP1601 PP1602 PP1609
<b>5</b>					
		Apply comparative enquiry and to evaluate different political systems in relation to positive theories.			PP2623 PP2061 PP2613
		Apply theories of International relations to empirical situations			PP2604 PP2030
		Demonstrate an understanding of statistical analysis and apply this using practical skills in data analysis and the presentation of quantitative findings			PP2611
		Apply the various theories of international politics to the relevant substantive area			PP2604 PP2030 PP2061 PP2615 PP2622 PX2607
		Demonstrate the ability to self-reflect on own learning and build on feedback gained.			PP2623 PP2604 PP2611 PP2615 PX2607
		Apply a critical analysis of data, scholarly output and theories.			PP2623 PP2604 PP2611 PP2613 PP2614
		Employ written skills to demonstrate the ability to analyse empirical results			PP2623 PP2611 PP2030 PP2061 PP2613
		Employ written skills to demonstrate the ability to analyse theoretical concepts			PP2623 PP2611 PP2614 PP2615 PP2622 PX2607
<b>6</b>					
		Apply an advanced synthesis of key			

		issues and concepts in international politics and concepts with relevant theories			PP3070 PP3611 PP3612 PX3609
		Synthesize theory and evidence relevant to the choice of dissertation topic			PP3070
		Independently use analytical, evaluative, and critical capacities to present findings			PP3070 PP3001 PP3003 PP3068 PP3604 PP3618 PP3609 PP3611 PP3612 PX3609
		Synthesize theory and evidence on current issues facing international politics.			PP3001 PP3003 PP3068 PP3605 PP3618 PP3611 PP3612
		Communicate complex ideas, concepts and convincing arguments			PP3070 PP3604 PP3605 PP3608 PP3609

#### **Students taking work placement (BSc/DipHE with Professional Development)**

		Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, its structural and operational context, and the issues that shape them			PP2555
		Demonstrate the ability to reflect on professional and personal development issues arising from the employment experience			PP2555

**Learning/teaching strategies and methods** to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

Core knowledge and understanding are acquired by means of lectures and other tutor-led activities, seminars, group discussion and guided independent study as appropriate for the particular module. This builds on compulsory modular blocks at FHEQ Level 4 providing a firm grounding for work at FHEQ Level 5 where compulsory modular blocks in comparative politics, international relations and quantitative methodology is supported by optional modular blocks. FHEQ Level 6 draws together knowledge and understanding of both empirical and conceptual work in the dissertation on a topic chosen by the student. In 4-year thick sandwich mode, a workshop and tutorials are provided, associated with the work placement.

**Summative assessment strategies and methods** to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated

Appropriate assessment forms are employed across all levels ranging from written examinations, coursework, dissertation, presentations and practical reports. Student on the professional development degree will produce reflexion on professional development and its connection to their academic programme of study. The range of assessment methods utilised tests cognitive skills through a shared emphasis on approaching a task or problem via a process of individual research, analysis and interpretation. All require clear, well-evidenced argumentation, and all call upon a degree of creative thought, imagination and independence of mind, although these

are most extensively tested through more complex assignments, especially the dissertation, reflecting progression on the programme. Assessment noted above for the 4-year work placement programme of study.

The ability to work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise time and work is an element essential to successful performance across the programme, and is assessed on all levels in variable form, but is especially tested in the FHEQ Level 6 dissertation. Transferable skills in writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgement are a feature of the more independent and autonomous thought and research that characterise work at the higher levels, but opportunities for individual choice are available throughout the programme. Skills and understanding of the functioning of the workplace are assessed in the reflective workplace report for students taking the thick sandwich degree.

## 25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade D- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at D- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB3000 Project (40)

Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at D- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)

Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)

Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade D- or better, but must be better than a grade F, in order to progress and to be eligible for the final award.

### Foundation Year

Foundation Year structures are specified in the relevant Validated Programme Element Specifications. These documents also specify the progression requirements to FHEQ Level 4.

### Level 4

**Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit**

**Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits**

<b>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>	<b>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>
<b>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</b> All modular blocks are 20 credits  PP1600 Research Design and Qualitative methods in Politics PP1601 Modern Political Thought PP1069 Introduction to World Politics PP1070 Introduction to American Politics PP1602 Introduction to Comparative Politics PP1609 Conflict in the Modern World	<b>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</b>
<b>Level 4 Progression and Award Requirements</b>  As per <a href="#">Senate Regulation 2</a>	

<b>Level 5</b>	
<b>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</b>	<b>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</b>
<b>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>	<b>Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>
<b>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</b> All modular blocks are 20 credits  PP26** Comparative Electoral Systems PP2604 Theories of International Relations PP2611 Explaining Politics: Quantitative Political Science in Practice	<b>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</b> All modular blocks are 20 credits  60 credits from: PP2030 US Foreign Policy PP2061 Issues in American Politics PP2613 National Security Intelligence PP2614 Ancient Greek Political Thought: Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Politics PP2615 Unity and Cultural Diversity PP2622 Climate Politics PX2607 The State and Revolution
<b>Level 5 Progression and Award Requirements</b>  As per <a href="#">Senate Regulation 2</a>	

<b>Level 5 – Sandwich Placement</b>	
<b>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</b>	<b>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</b>

<b>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</b> PP2554 Politics Pre-Placement Study Block (0 credit)	<b>Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>
<b>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</b> PP2555 Work Placement (Politics) (120 credits) Core: Block	<b>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</b>
<b>Level 5 Placement Progression and Award Requirements</b>  <b>As per <a href="#">Senate Regulation 2</a></b> For BSc International Politics with Professional Development, PP2555 will contribute 25% of the Level 2 part of the award (or 8.3 % of the overall degree calculation).	

<b>Level 6</b>	
<b>Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits</b>	<b>Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits</b>
<b>Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>	<b>Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume</b>
<b>Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits</b> PP3070 Dissertation (40 credits) Core: Block	<b>Optional modular block codes, titles and credits</b>  All modular blocks are 20 credits  80 credits from: PP3001 Arab-Israeli Conflict PP3003 European Union Politics: Problems and Prospects PP3068 Media, Politics and Power in America PP3604 Public Policy Analysis PP3605 Parliamentary Studies PP3609 Advanced Applied Quantitative Methods PP3612 Elections, Parties and Voters in the UK PP3611 Marx and the Critique of Political Economy PP3618 Terrorism and Counterterrorism PX3609 Crisis and Critique
<b>Level 6 Progression and Award Requirements</b>  <b>As per <a href="#">Senate Regulation 2</a></b> For BSc International Politics with Placement, PP2555 will contribute 8.3% of the overall degree weighting.	

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.