Goldsmiths
UNIVERSITY OF LONDON

BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations
Programme Specification

Awarding Institution: University of London (Interim Exit Awards made by Goldsmiths' College)

Teaching Institution: Goldsmiths, University of London

Final Award: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

Programme Name: BA (Hons) Politics and International Relations

Total credit value for programme: 360 credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Certificate of Higher Education in Politics and International Relations Diploma of Higher Education in Politics and International Relations

Duration of Programme: 3 Years full-time

UCAS Code(s): L250

HECoS Code(s): (100491) Politics

QAA Benchmark Group: Politics and International Relations

FHEQ Level of Award: Level 6

Programme accredited by: Not applicable

Date Programme Specification last updated/approved: October 2022

Home Department: Politics and International Relations

Department(s) which will also be involved in teaching part of the programme: Not applicable

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Programme overview

The BA (Hons) in Politics and International Relations (PIR) offers an extensive understanding of the forces at play at all levels of politics, with a broader and more critical approach than similar programmes at other institutions. It pays attention to the social, economic and cultural forces underpinning politics and provides a truly global view, which emphasises the non-Western world. It teaches you how to navigate the different scales and challenges facing the world and to analyse how they interact with each other. While it pulls together many of the themes and topics from our related programmes of BA Politics and BA International Relations, its blend of Politics and International Relations is distinct:

- It combines exciting elements of British politics, political theory and global politics, by taking a broad, critical approach and explicitly recognising the links between the international and the local. You can explore, for example, how climate change, technological developments or migration shape our local politics, or how new

actors—ranging from indigenous people's movements to hackers—impact national and global governance and security. You will understand how both power structures in international relations and the legacies of colonialism shape the modern world and impact national policy. You will learn about alternative ways of thinking about politics that includes theorists from continental Europe and the non-Western world.

- You will be able to construct your degree in line with your interests as you journey through the programme - offering various routes through the BA, which include a choice of approaches to methodology and topics, as well as routes that emphasise political theory, British politics or the study of the international. Uniquely for a degree in politics and international relations, you can also explore the intersections between culture and politics, such as the politics of vision, gender, memory, and popular music.

- Throughout your degree, you will gain the transferable skills you need for the contemporary workplace through assessments that include blogs, reviews, policy reports and visual and oral presentations, and will have the opportunity to take a work placement module in a variety of organisations linked broadly to Politics and IR.

- In keeping with Goldsmiths' broad transdisciplinary ethos, you will also be offered modules outside the department to expand your understanding of issues in the humanities and social sciences.

The BA in Politics and International Relations is composed of a combination of compulsory modules and options, with the principle of choice expanding over the three years, allowing you to build on your learning and develop your own interests.

In the first year, you will take core modules in European Comparative Governance and Politics, World Politics and Colonialism, Power and Resistance. You will also take the compulsory two Goldsmiths Connected Curriculum modules – Identity, Agency and Environment 1 & 2 – for a further 30 credits. This year provides the building blocks to enable you to consolidate and deepen your learning about both politics and international relations in subsequent years.

In the second year, you continue your training in both politics and international relations. You will take a core 15 credit theories and methods module, Researching Politics. Researching Politics helps to strengthen your grasp of the methods and skills involved in studying political life as manifested in the contemporary world. This will prepare you for the research you will undertake in the next level of study.

In addition, you will select from at least two further core modules in Politics and IR. On the IR side, you will choose at least one among: Global Governance and World Order (15 credits), which explores the historical development, nature and function of international organisations within the context of a critique of the globalisation of neoliberal governmentality; and Security Studies (15 credits), which examines the evolution of theory and practice of international security in the contemporary global order.

On the Politics side, you will select at least one of: Modern Political Theory (15 credits), which consolidates your understanding of major thinkers in the history of modern political thought (including both theorists who are often regarded as the founders of the modern

discipline and leading political thinkers from the Global South); and Modern Britain: Politics from 1979 to Today (15 credits), which hones your knowledge of the radical changes in contemporary British politics and the interplay between socio-economic change, social movements and Westminster politics.

The extent of options open to you in the programme is emphasised through the final compulsory 15-credit module: the Goldsmiths Elective. Here you can select from a wide range of relevant modules available from across the college, including options in your own department as well as other disciplines. This enables you to broaden your understanding and explore different ways of analysing problems.

In the third year, you build upon the subject-specific knowledge and the research skills that you have acquired by producing a substantial dissertation on a topic of interest to you. You will also explore new areas of politics and international relations by taking research-led modules in the Politics and International Relations Department and, where appropriate, other departments. Our third-year option modules available to students lend a critical edge and an emphasis on culture and politics from 'below' to the discipline of Politics and International Relations.

You are also given the opportunity to take a 15-credit work placement module, which allows you to build on the transferable skills you have developed since the first year, think about the values that drive you and plan for your future career. The third year allows you to reflect in detail on the challenges that will face you in the workplace and to develop many of the critical and practical skills that you will need as a graduate.

Upon completion of the Goldsmiths BA in Politics and International Relations, you will have a profound understanding of both the theory and practice of politics and international relations. You will be able to identify the primary agents and structures of both domestic and international politics. You will be able to converse in the language of traditional politics and international relations but will also be able to question the core assumptions underpinning these discourses. You will be able to think critically about alternative frameworks for understanding politics and envisage forms of political action that are marginalised by mainstream approaches. You will also possess a range of transferable skills, honed through teaching, assessment and experience.

Accordingly, you will not only be able to compete with other students who have studied Politics and International Relations with an eye to developing careers in government, international business and international organisations, but will also be able to pursue a career in the creative industries, cultural institutions and NGOs that seek a broad critical understanding of the contemporary world and the global institutions that seek to govern it.

Programme entry requirements

A-level: BBB BTEC: DMM
IB: 33 points including three HL subjects

Access: Pass with 45 Level 3 credits including distinctions/merits in subject specific modules or equivalent.
Language requirements for overseas students: IELTS 6.0 (with a minimum of 6.0 in the written test and no individual test lower than 5.5).

Programme learning outcomes

Student who successfully complete modules to the value of 120 credits at level 4 (Year 1) may exit the programme with the award of the CertHE in Politics and International Relations.

Level 4 - Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Understand the methods, concepts, and terminologies employed in International Relations theory and contemporary practices and institutions.	Compulsory first year IR modules.
A2	Differentiate the basic IR theories and concepts to specific, well-defined areas of enquiry in international politics.	Compulsory first year IR modules.
A3	Understand different concepts, theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour.	Compulsory first year Politics modules.
A4	Understand some of the connections between international shifts and local politics.	Compulsory first year modules.

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Investigate the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts and debates you have learned about.	Identity, Agency and Environment 1 and 2.
B2	Detail the appropriate language and basic concepts of politics and international relations.	All modules.
B3	Investigate and question alternative views of international political action, institutions and policy- making processes based on a newly acquired command of basic concepts in international relations.	All modules.

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Communicate clearly in written form the basic interrelationships between political beliefs, actions, and processes of government and the main issues in IR	All modules
C2	Investigate political problems by utilizing electronic and conventional library resources and material from secondary and primary sources	All modules
C3	Develop skills, including communicating, negotiating and working with people from diverse backgrounds or with opposed views; building persuasive arguments by making use of analytical and empirical evidence; and giving and receiving criticism	Identity, Agency and Environment 1 and 2
C4	Foster the ability to work effectively as part of a group with people from diverse backgrounds; developing interpersonal skills in the giving and receiving of criticism within clearly defined criteria	All modules, esp. Identity, Agency and Environment 1 and 2

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Develop coherent arguments using different types of 'text', such as opinions, documentary evidence, and cultural knowledge	All modules, particularly Identity, Agency and Environment 1 and 2
D2	Foster good time management skills, including planning and organising your own work	All modules, particularly Identity, Agency and Environment 1 and 2
D3	Critically self-reflect on your learning and its relevance to your aspirations.	All modules, particularly Identity, Agency and Environment 1 and 2.

Students who complete the Diploma of Higher Education in Politics successfully will be able to:

Level 5 - Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Critically understand International Relations theory and contemporary practices and institutions.	All modules, particularly Global Governance AND/OR Security Studies.
A2	Comprehend key IR theories and concepts to specific areas of enquiry in international politics.	All modules,
A3	Recognise how critical approaches to international politics can inform alternative forms of political engagement in the international area.	All modules, particularly Global Governance AND/OR Security Studies.
A4	Critically understand politics (including international politics) and political phenomena, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different (international) political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change.	All modules, particularly Modern Britain AND/OR Modern Political Theory.
A5	Reflect upon the connection between international shifts and local politics.	All modules, particularly Researching Politics.

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Utilise a range of relevant methodological techniques and research approaches to contemporary political problems.	All modules, particularly Researching Politics.
B2	Utilise and make appropriate use of the language and key concepts of politics and international relations.	All modules.
B3	Critically analyse and evaluate identify, describe and evaluate alternative views of international political action, institutions and policy- making processes based on a newly acquired knowledge of key concepts in international relations.	All modules, particularly Researching Politics.

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Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Effectively communicate ideas and evidence clearly in written form, and in accordance with academic standards and guidelines; this includes managing the length of your written work; identifying the sources of your knowledge and attributing ideas accurately to these sources.	All modules.
C2	Adopt appropriate research strategies and study skills; including retrieval, selection and management of information from a variety of electronic and non-electronic sources.	All modules.
C3	Communicate effectively as part of a group with people from diverse backgrounds; developing interpersonal skills in the giving and receiving of criticism.	All modules.
C4	Effectively communicate different approaches involved in collecting political information, including how to: identify issues for political enquiry; recognise their ethical implications; and gather, organise and deploy evidence from a limited range of sources.	All modules.

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Critically evaluate the basis of different opinions, evidence, and claims within defined guidelines.	All modules.
D2	Exercise time management skills, including: anticipating workload, preparing study materials, and critically reflecting on your own learning.	All modules.
D3	Work collaboratively and propose your own contributions to group work.	All modules.

The following outcomes describe what a typical student, engaging fully in the programme modules and activities, should come to know through these modules after three years of study, having completed courses to the value of 360 credits (Level 6).

Level 6 - Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Develop detailed knowledge of International Relations theory and contemporary practices and institutions.	All modules.
A2	Systematically comprehend complex IR theories and concepts and methods to the analysis of political ideas, actors, institutions and behaviour.	All modules.
A3	Consolidate knowledge and understanding of how critical approaches to international politics can inform alternative forms of political engagement in the international area.	All modules.
A4	Develop detailed knowledge of the significance of politics or international relations, including definitions of the boundaries of the political; the contested nature of knowledge and understanding; approaches to the study of politics or international relations; a range of key concepts, theories and methods employed in the study of politics or international relations; and the strengths and weaknesses of these approaches.	All modules.
A5	Engage critically with politics (including international politics) and political phenomena, including the normative and positive foundations of political ideas; the vocabulary of political debate; the structure and operation of different (international) political systems; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts of political behaviour; and the factors accounting for political change.	All modules.

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Understand and critique the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts and debates you have learned about.	All modules.
B2	Communicate detailed and persuasive arguments about complex problems of political behaviour and/or events.	All modules.
B3	Critically evaluate alternative views of international political action, institutions and policy-making processes based on an in-depth knowledge and confident command of broad range of concepts in international relations.	All modules.

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Communicate in written form an in-depth grasp of the interrelationships between political beliefs, actions, and processes of government.	All modules.
C2	Initiate research tasks and study skills; including retrieval, selection and management of information from a variety of electronic and non- electronic sources with minimal guidance.	All modules.
C4	Communicate effectively as part of a group with people from diverse backgrounds; developing interpersonal skills in the giving and receiving of criticism, negotiating and supporting or being proactive in leadership	All modules.
C5	Describe and illustrate different approaches involved in collecting political information, including how to: identify issues for political enquiry; recognise their ethical implications; and gather, organise and deploy evidence from a limited range of sources.	All modules.

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Systematically evaluate evidence, propose your own reasoned arguments, deploy established theories and techniques to solve problems.	All modules.
D2	Convey independent judgement and open-mindedness.	All modules, including the Politics and IR Work Placement.
D3	Manage your own learning by regular and systematic anticipation and reflection.	All modules.
D4	Devise your own detailed and critical arguments on the basis of different opinions, academic evidence, and methods of enquiry.	All modules and especially the Dissertation.

Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	1st: First (Exceptional)	**General Marking criteria:** • Knowledge and Understanding of the subject of politics: Understanding the nature and significance of politics; applying concepts theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices; demonstrating knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature of power and the contexts in which they operate; evaluating different interpretations of issues and event. • Generic Intellectual Skills: Ability to gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources; ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems; construct reasoned argument, synthesize information and make use of feedback; manage own self-learning critically. • Personal transferable skills: Ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing; use communication and information technology to retrieve and present information; work independently and demonstrate initiative, self-organization and time management. **At CertHE level:**

		• Comprehensive and precise knowledge, and confident understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing effectively upon secondary and primary literature. • Extensive use of relevant secondary and primary sources; exposition of arguments and debates in a very well structured, analytically precise, accurate and nuanced way; demonstrating strong individual judgement and ability to reason independently of set texts. • Clear and consistent writing style and presentation; effective and appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:** • Comprehensive breadth of knowledge with confident and precise, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories. • Extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; very well structured, analytically precise and nuanced exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong individual judgement. • Clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; entirely consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • A highly detailed and accurate knowledge, and a strong, consistently critical understanding of key concepts and theories. • Extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; drawing effectively upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong ability to advocate own solutions. • Entirely clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating strong ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
70-79%	1st: First (Excellent)	**General Marking criteria:** • Knowledge and Understanding of the subject of politics: Understanding the nature and significance of

politics; applying concepts theories and methods to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices; demonstrating knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature of power and the contexts in which they operate; evaluating different interpretations of issues and event.

- Generic Intellectual Skills: Ability to gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources; ability to identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems; construct reasoned argument, synthesize information and make use of feedback; manage own self-learning critically.
- Personal transferable skills: Ability to communicate effectively in speech and writing; use communication and information technology to retrieve and present information; work independently and demonstrate initiative, self-organization and time management.

At CertHE level:
- Comprehensive and precise knowledge, and confident understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing effectively upon secondary and primary literature.
- Extensive use of relevant secondary and primary sources; exposition of arguments and debates in a very well structured, analytically precise, accurate and nuanced way; demonstrating strong individual judgement and ability to reason independently of set texts.
- Clear and consistent writing style and presentation; effective and appropriate use of IT.

At DipHE level:
- Comprehensive breadth of knowledge with confident and precise, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories.
- Extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; very well structured, analytically precise and nuanced exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong individual judgement.
- Clear and coherent communication at appropriate

		length; entirely consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • A highly detailed and accurate knowledge, and a strong, consistently critical understanding of key concepts and theories. • Extensive use of primary, secondary and other specified sources; drawing effectively upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating strong ability to advocate own solutions. • Entirely clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating strong ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
60-69%	2.1: Upper Second (Very good)	**At CertHE level:** • General and accurate knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing effectively upon secondary literature. • Modest use of relevant secondary sources; overall exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner. • Clear and consistent writing style and presentation; appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:** • Broad knowledge and accurate, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories. • Modest use of some primary sources, as well as secondary and other specified sources; effectively structured, analytical exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating some effort at individual judgement. • Clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • A fairly detailed and accurate knowledge, and a generally consistent critical understanding of key

		concepts and theories.
		• Broad use of some primary, as well as secondary and other specified sources; drawing effectively upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating some ability to advocate own solutions effectively.
		• Clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating clear ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
50-59%	2.2: Lower Second (Good)	**At CertHE level:** • General knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; drawing upon secondary literature. • Effort to use relevant secondary sources; some exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner. • Generally clear and consistent writing style and presentation; appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:** • Broad knowledge and some effort at reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories. • Modest use of primary sources, as well as secondary and other specified sources; some structure and analytical exposition; effort at evaluation of arguments and debates but demonstrating only minimal individual judgement. • Generally clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; generally consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • Some detailed and accurate knowledge, and a some, but inconsistent, critical understanding of key concepts and theories. • Use of some primary, as well as secondary and other specified sources; drawing broadly upon a specified method to argue a case; accurate and clear evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating some effort to advocate own solutions.

		• Generally clear and coherent communication using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating some ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
40-49%	3rd: Third (Pass)	**At CertHE level:** • Some knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; modest effort to draw upon secondary literature. • Some effort to use relevant secondary sources; ineffective exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner. • Some clarity and consistency in writing style and presentation; some or little appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:** • Little breadth and inconsistent knowledge; poor reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories. • Little use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; ineffective structure and analytical exposition; little effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating little individual judgement. • Some clarity and coherence in communication, not always to appropriate length; little or no consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • Demonstrate little and/or inconsistent detail and poor knowledge, and little or inconsistent critical understanding of key concepts and theories. • Little use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; drawing, ineffectively, upon a specified method to argue a case; minimal accuracy and clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating minimal effort to advocate own solutions. • Some clarity and coherence in communication, not always using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating little ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.

25-39%	Fail	**At CertHE level:**
		• Minimal knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; no effort to draw upon secondary literature.
		• No, or ineffective, effort to use relevant secondary sources; no, or ineffective, exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner.
		• Minimal or no clarity and consistency in writing style and presentation; little or no appropriate use of IT.
		At DipHE level:
		• No breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; poor or no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories.
		• No or ineffective use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; no or ineffective structure and analytical exposition; little or no effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating no individual judgement.
		• Minimal clarity and coherence in communication, not to appropriate length; little or no consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT.
		At BA level:
		• No or inconsistent detail and poor knowledge, and no or inconsistent critical understanding of key concepts and theories.
		• No or ineffective use of primary sources; over-reliance on secondary and other specified sources; no or ineffective method to argue a case; little or no accuracy or clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating minimal or no effort to advocate own solutions.
		• Minimal clarity and coherence in communication, not using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating no ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
10-24%	Bad fail	**At CertHE level:**
		• Poor knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; no effort to draw upon secondary literature.

		• Poor or no effort to use relevant secondary sources; poor or no exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner. • Little or no clarity and consistency in writing style and presentation; little or no appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:** • No breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories. • No use of primary sources; no use of, or over-reliance on, secondary and other specified sources; no structure and analytical exposition; no effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating no individual judgement at all. • Little or no clarity or coherence in communication; neither consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • No or wholly inconsistent detail and poor knowledge, and no critical understanding of key concepts and theories. • No use of primary sources; no use of, or over-reliance on, secondary and other specified sources; no method to argue a case; no accuracy or clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating no effort to advocate own solutions. • Little or no clarity and coherence in communication, not using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating no ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
1-9%	Very bad fail	**At CertHE level:** • No knowledge and understanding of key concepts and theories; no effort to draw upon secondary literature. • No effort to use relevant secondary sources; no exposition of arguments and debates in a structured, analytical manner. • No clarity or consistency in writing style and presentation; no appropriate use of IT. **At DipHE level:**

		• No breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories. • No use of primary sources; no use of secondary and other specified sources; no structure and analytical exposition; no effort at evaluation of arguments and debates, demonstrating no individual judgement at all. • No clarity or coherence in communication; neither consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; no appropriate use of IT. **At BA level:** • Neither detail nor genuine knowledge, and no critical understanding of key concepts and theories. • No use of primary sources; no use of secondary and other specified sources; no method to argue a case; no accuracy or clarity in evaluating arguments and debates; demonstrating no effort to advocate own solutions. • No clarity and coherence in communication, not using appropriate IT and specialist software; demonstrating no ability to work according to a plan or design in order to structure evidence.
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	**At CertHE level:** • A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit, or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment. **At DipHE level:** • A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit, or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment. **At BA level:** • A categorical mark representing either the failure to submit, or a mark assigned for a plagiarised assessment.

Mode of study

Full time, on-campus.

Programme structure

The programme is available in full-time (three years, at three levels) and part-time (four to six years, at three levels) modes. All students take must take 120 credits at each level. Four Level 4 (Year 1) 30 credit modules form a foundational year. Subsequent modules are designated as Level 5 or Level 6 and may comprise a combination of 30 or 15 credit modules. Students are required to take 120 credits for each year.

Note that modules must be taken in equal numbers in the Autumn and Spring terms.

Year 1
In the first year you learn the foundations of the discipline of Politics and International Relations in three core modules, as well as taking a module in Identity, Agency and the Environment.

Year 2
The second year of the programme provides a compulsory methodology module in either politics or IR (with the other methodology module remaining as optional). Students will also take at least one core module in politics and one core module in IR, and the Goldsmiths Elective (which gives students a space to select from a wide variety of relevant modules from across the college, including within the department). The remaining credits are made up from a list made by the department, and by a 'Goldsmiths Elective' module from inside or outside the Department.

Year 3
In the final year students take a 7,500 word dissertation (30 credits) – plus 90 credits from a list provided by the department to make up 120 credits in total.
What do I need to progress between levels? As a full-time student:

- You must pass 120 credits at Level 4 in order to proceed to Level 5 of your degree programme.
- You must pass 90 credits at Level 5 in order to proceed to Level 6 of your degree programme.
- You must complete 360 credits to gain a classified honours degree.

If, at the end of your programme, having used up all your permitted further attempts to pass a module or modules, you have passed modules to a total value of less than 360 credits but of at least 300 credits you will be awarded a "Pass" degree.

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Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics	PO51009D	30	4	Compulsory (non-compensatable)	1-2
Colonialism, Power, Resistance	PO51013E	30	4	Compulsory (non-compensatable)	1-2
World Politics	PO51010E	30	4	Compulsory (non-compensatable)	1-2
30 credits from the Connected Curriculum					
Identity, Agency and Environment 1 & 2	CC51001A	30	4	Compulsory	1-2

Academic year of study 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Researching Politics	**PO52060A**	15	5	Compulsory	Autumn
One 15-credit module in International Relations from a choice of:					
EITHER US Politics and Foreign Policy	PO52039B	15	5	Compulsory option	TBC
AND/OR Global Governance and World Order	PO52035C	15	5	Compulsory option	Spring
One 15-credit module on politics from a choice of:					
EITHER Modern Political Theory	PO52002C	15	5	Compulsory option	1-2
AND/OR PO52032B Modern Britain: Politics from 1979-Today	PO52032B	15	5	Compulsory option	
One 15-credit module to be taken from the Elective (including those offered by the dept):					
The Goldsmiths Elective	TBC	15	5	Compulsory option	1
Modules to the value of 60 credits from a list approved annually by the Department of Politics and International Relations.	Various	60	5	Optional	1-2

Academic year of study 3

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Dissertation	PO53014C	30	6	Compulsory	1-3
Remaining credits from 3rd year Politics options from a list provided annually by the Politics and International Relations Dept.	Various	90		Compulsory options	

Academic support

Additional academic support is carried out through the department's personal and senior tutoring system. In summary, personal tutoring in the department aims to enable students to achieve successful learning outcomes by supporting their academic progression and helping them navigate their individual learning journey from induction to graduation. All students are assigned a personal tutor during their period of study at Goldsmiths. Personal tutors will be expected to meet students at least once a term to discuss academic progression. They will be able to advise them on academic progression and on other matters, including personal development, employability and career planning.

Personal tutors are supported in their roles by a system of Senior Tutors. Amongst other things, Senior Tutors are responsible for considering and implementing any student and staff Personal Tutor change requests.

Students are provided with information about learning resources, the Library and information available on Learn.gold (VLE) so that they have access to department/ programme handbooks, programme information and support related information and guidance.

Taught sessions and lectures provide overviews of themes, which students are encouraged to complement with intensive reading for presentation and discussion with peers at seminars. Assessments build on lectures and seminars so students are expected to attend all taught sessions to build knowledge and their own understanding of their chosen discipline.
All assessed work is accompanied by some form of feedback to ensure that students' work is on the right track. It may come in a variety of forms ranging from written comments on a marked essay to oral and written feedback on developing projects and practice as they attend workshops.

Students may be referred to specialist student services by department staff or they may access support services independently. Information about support services is provided on the Goldsmiths website and for new students through new starter information and induction/Welcome Week. Any support recommendations that are made are agreed with the

student and communicated to the department so that adjustments to learning and teaching are able to be implemented at a department level and students can be reassured that arrangements are in place. Opportunities are provided for students to review their support arrangements should their circumstances change. The Disability and Wellbeing Services maintain caseloads of students and provide on-going support.

The Careers Service provides central support for skills enhancement, running The Gold Award scheme and other co-curricular activities that are accredited via the Higher Education Achievement Report (HEAR).

The Centre for Academic Language and Literacies works with academic departments offering bespoke academic literacy sessions. It also provides a programme of academic skills workshops and one-to-one provision for students throughout the year.

Employability, potential career opportunities and placement opportunities

Central to the degree in PIR is a focus on the acquisition of transferable skills, through a focus on placements, pedagogy and assessment.

Transferable skills are also embedded in our pedagogy. Employers frequently underline the need for graduates not just to have knowledge and understanding of their areas of study but also skills to undertake analyses, develop informed interpretations of events, and to show critical judgement based on evidence. This degree therefore combines high-quality content in Politics and IR with a strong emphasis on acquiring skills of research and analysis. At Goldsmiths we focus, more broadly, on critical explanation and skills of project design, which prepare students for tackling complex problems in political life. This is a matter not simply of learning techniques to organise data but, rather, of cultivating analytical skills to help them think critically about how to approach evidence in politics, how problems and explanations are framed, and how to set about presenting research. A Goldsmiths degree in Politics aims to produce graduates who understand not only how the political world works and can recognise its arguments and debates, but who are also equipped with a questioning attitude and flexible skill set to confront new and unknown challenges.

This approach is cemented through a diversity of forms of assessment to help acquire these transferable skills. Alongside the more established modes such as essays and exams, students will undertake a wide range of assessments, including blogs, visual presentations, policy reports, and journalistic writing. As such our graduates leave Goldsmiths with the necessary skills to succeed in a workplace that demands a wide variety of skillsets.

All students taking PIR will also have an opportunity to select the final-year Politics: Work Placement module (15 credits), which allows them to work in a variety of areas related to their degree, with a view towards putting into place the transferable and specific skills they have gained over the course and building their career and increasing employability as they look to complete their degree. This module provides dedicated support by the module convenor and Goldsmiths Careers Service in Autumn term to secure a work experience

placement in weeks 2-9 of Spring term for up to 16 days (2 days per week). Sessions are offered on employment and job search training, including CV and covering letter workshops.

Students are placed with appropriate host organisations and offered support throughout their placement. Placement providers will include a range of organisations in the NGO sector such as charities, think-tanks and pressure groups, bodies connected with international organisations, appropriate businesses, and political parties. Recent placement providers have included: Members of Parliament; media; local charities; International NGOs; think; and businesses.

The work placement offers students the chance to apply previously gained, theory-derived knowledge to a practical project within the host organisation. In doing so they critically evaluate and apply their experiences acquired to inform and enhance their own knowledge, offer alternative approaches and propose novel solutions to specific academic issues. They are able to evaluate their own skills, values and personal traits and create a strategy for development of further skills and career preparation.

Students graduating from the PIR programme are likely to move into a range of career options and employment areas, including working for international organisations and NGOs, the civil service or in diplomacy, journalism and teaching, and international business and consultancy.

Programme-specific requirements

Not applicable

Tuition fee costs

Information on tuition fee costs is available at: https://www.gold.ac.uk/students/fee-support/

Specific programme costs

Not applicable