BA (Hons) 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) International Relations

Programme Name: BA (Hons) International Relations

Total credit value for programme: 360 credits

Name of Interim Exit Award(s):

Certificate of Higher Education in International Relations

Diploma of Higher Education in International Relations

Duration of Programme: 3 years full-time

UCAS Code(s): L251

HECoS Code(s): (100490) International Relations

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

Programme overview

This three-year undergraduate programme addresses the theories, policies and practices of International Relations from a critical perspective. The discipline of international relations emerged in its current form in the Cold War era; but as the realities of the world order have dramatically changed, the discipline is also in the process of changing. The emphasis in this degree is on an international relations for the 21st century: one characterised by multipolarity rather than a bipolar world; by the growing importance of Asia and Africa and Latin America, rather than the dominance of Europe and the US; and one in which the key actors are not only states, but also transnational networks, movements, NGOs, corporations and diasporas. It uncovers the complex interactions between policy makers, institutions and non- state actors that shape global issues such as human rights, conflict, development, migration and climate change. Throughout, there is an emphasis on culture -on the ways in

which politics is shaped by the different modes of living and understanding 'the international'. The programme embraces a historical and comparative approach that allows for recognition of the plural economic and cultural origins of the global system, and it foregrounds ideas and experiences from the Global South that are increasingly shaping the 21st century.

The programme will develop students theoretical and applied knowledge through diverse forms of learning and assessment. They will have the opportunity to gain practical experience in a work placement with international NGOs and policy think-tanks. The programme will prepare them for working in international roles and contexts, including for international organisations, media or governments.

This degree programme will comprise a combination of core and non-core optional modules, adding up to 360 credits over a three year degree. Core modules will cover the essential elements of the IR discipline, such as: IR theory; global governance; security studies; and the politics of the Global South. Students will also have a wide range of options to choose from, including specialist modules on Middle East politics; US politics and foreign policy; international political economy; conflict and peacebuilding in Africa; the political cultures of China, Japan, Latin America; nationalism and international intervention.

This new programme will replace the existing BA International Studies which has been discontinued from 2017-18 due to low recruitment. It differs significantly from this programme in offering new modules and a more distinct IR pathway, but also builds on the strengths of the previous programme.

Furthermore, BA IR will sit alongside the existing BA Politics and International Relations Programme (in its first year). But it will be distinct from it in the sense that PIR is a combined studies programme in which there is a roughly 50/50 split in emphasis on politics and international relations with a more flexible structure and a greater degree of module choices; whereas, BA IR is more streamlined and more heavily weighted towards IR (with a minimum of 50% in first year and 75% in the third year). Students also have a more rigorous structure with more compulsory modules. Moreover BA IR offers students an IR Work Placement optional module which is designed to prepare students for careers in international contexts and organisations. However, because BA PIR and BA IR share the same entry requirements and modules at level 4, students may transfer from one programme to the other, either at the start of yr1 or the start of yr 2 (level 5).

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

Students 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 International Relations and will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Have an appreciation of International Relations theory and contemporary practices and institutions	World Politics
A2	Be able to apply basic IR theories and concepts to specific areas of enquiry in international politics	World Politics
A3	Have an appreciation of how critical approaches to international politics can inform alternative forms of political engagement in the international area.	World Politics Colonialism, Power, Resistance
A4	Understand the nature and significance of politics as a global activity	All modules
A5	Have an ability to present, evaluate and interpret qualitative and quantitative data, in order to develop lines of argument and make sound judgements in accordance with basic theories and concepts of their subject(s) of study	All modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Some ability to think critically and make informed judgments about the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts and debates you have learned about	All modules
B2	Some ability to employ and make appropriate use of the language and basic concepts of international relations	World Politics
B3	Some ability to describe and evaluate alternative views of international political action, institutions and policy- making processes based on a newly acquired command of basic concepts in international relations	World Politics
B4	Some ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Ability to express 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	Reading, learning, research and study skills; including retrieval, selection and management of information from a variety of electronic and non-electronic sources	All modules
C3	Powers of verbal and written expression and presentation	All modules
C4	Ability to work on own initiative; including learning about ways and methods for motivating oneself	All modules
C5	Ability to use communication and information technology, including	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	audiovisual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information and where appropriate, statistical or numerical information	

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Ability to make judgments about the basis of different opinions, evidence, and claims	All modules
D2	Ability to plan, design, manage and complete an independent project; time management skills, including planning and organising your own work	All modules
D3	Identify and investigate problems	All modules
D4	Communicate the results of their study/work accurately and reliably, and with structured and coherent arguments	All modules

Students who successfully complete modules to the value of 240 credits at levels 4 & 5 (Years 1 & 2) may exit the programme with the award of the DipHE in International Relations, and will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Have an understanding of International Relations theory and contemporary practices and institutions	Contemporary International Relations Theories Global Governance and World Order Security Studies
A2	Be able to apply key IR theories and concepts to specific areas of enquiry in international politics	Contemporary International Relations Theories Global Governance and World Order Security Studies IR Options
A3	Have an understanding of how critical approaches to international politics can inform alternative forms of political engagement in the international area	Global Governance and World Order Contemporary International Relations Theories IR Options

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A4	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international political system	Global Governance and World Order Contemporary International Relations Theories Security Studies

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Moderate ability to think critically and make informed judgments about the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts and debates you have learned about	All modules
B2	Moderate ability to employ and make appropriate use of the language and key concepts of international relations	World Politics Contemporary International Relations Theories Global Governance and World Order
B3	Moderate ability to 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	World Politics Contemporary International Relations Theories Global Governance and World Order IR Options
B4	Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Moderate ability to express 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	Reading, learning, research and study skills; including retrieval, selection and management of information from a variety of electronic and non-electronic sources	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C3	Powers of verbal and written expression and presentation	All modules
C4	Ability to work on own initiative; including learning about ways and methods for motivating oneself	All modules
C5	Be able to undertake further training, develop existing skills and acquire new competences that will enable them to assume significant responsibility within organisations	All modules

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Ability to make judgments about the basis of different opinions, evidence, and claims	All modules
D2	Ability to plan, design, manage and complete an independent project; time management skills, including planning and organising your own work	All modules
D3	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
D4	Identify and investigate problems	All modules

Students who successfully complete the BA (Hons) International Relations will be able to:

Knowledge and understanding

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
A1	Develop comprehensive knowledge and deep understanding of International Relations theory and contemporary practices and institutions	IR Options
A2	Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to the analysis of political ideas,	IR Options

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
	practices and issues in the global arena	
A3	Understand how critical approaches to international politics can inform alternative forms of political engagement in the international area.	Critical Security Studies
A4	Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with the nature and 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	IR Options
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
A6	Have a systematic understanding of key aspects of their field of study, including acquisition of coherent and detailed knowledge, at least some of which is at, or informed by, the forefront of defined aspects of a discipline	All modules

Cognitive and thinking skills

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
B1	Strong ability to think critically and make informed judgments about the theoretical and methodological approaches, concepts and debates you have learned about	All modules
B2	Strong ability to employ and make appropriate use of the language and concepts of international relations	IR Options
B3	Strong ability to describe and evaluate alternative views of international political action, institutions and policy- making processes based on a newly acquired command of concepts in international relations	IR Options
B4	Critically evaluate arguments, assumptions, abstract concepts and data (that may be incomplete), to make judgements, and to frame appropriate questions to achieve a solution - or identify a range of solutions - to a problem	All modules

Subject specific skills and professional behaviours and attitudes

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C1	Strong ability to express 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	Reading, learning, research and study skills; including retrieval, selection and management of information from a variety of electronic and non-electronic sources	All modules
C3	Powers of verbal and written expression and presentation	All modules

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
C4	Ability to work on own initiative; including learning about ways and methods for motivating oneself	All modules, esp. Dissertation IR Options
C5	Ability to work in a professional environment	IR Options, esp. Work Placement

Transferable skills (Elements)

Code	Learning outcome	Taught by the following module(s)
D1	Strong ability to make independent judgments about the basis of different opinions, evidence, and claims	All modules
D2	Ability to plan, design, manage and complete an independent project; strong time management skills, including planning and organising your own work	All modules, esp. Dissertation
D3	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
D4	Identify and investigate problems	All modules
D5	Develop a reasoned argument and synthesise information	All modules
D6	Ability to work in a professional environment	IR Options, esp. Work Placement

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Grading Criteria

Mark	Descriptor	Specific Marking Criteria
80-100%	1st: First (Exceptional)	Represents the overall achievement of the learning outcomes to an exceptionally accomplished level A. comprehensive breadth of knowledge with confident and precise, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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 C. clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; entirely consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT
70-79%	1st: First (Excellent)	Represents the overall achievement of the learning outcomes to an excellent level A. extensive breadth of knowledge with confident and accurate, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories B. modest but effective use of some primary sources, as well as secondary and other specified sources; effectively structured, analytical exposition and evaluation of arguments and debates demonstrating effective individual judgement C. clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT
60-69%	2.1: Upper Second (Very good)	Represents the overall achievement of the learning outcomes to a very good level A. broad knowledge and accurate, reasoned understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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 C. clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; effective and appropriate use of IT
50-59%	2.2: Lower Second (Good)	Represents the overall achievement of the learning outcomes to a good level A. broad knowledge and some effort at reasoned

		understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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 C. generally clear and coherent communication at appropriate length; generally consistent and appropriate use of annotation and formatting; appropriate use of IT
40-49%	3rd: Third (Pass)	Represents the overall achievement of the learning outcomes to a threshold level A. Little breadth and inconsistent knowledge; poor reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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
25-39%	Fail	Represents an overall failure to achieve the learning outcomes A. No breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; poor or no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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 C. 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
10-24%	Bad fail	Represents a significant overall failure to achieve the learning outcomes (shall be deemed a valid attempt and not necessarily required to be re-sat) A. No breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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 C. Little or no clarity or coherence in communication; neither consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; little or no appropriate use of IT
1-9%	Very bad fail	A submission that does not even attempt to address the specified learning outcomes (shall be deemed a non-valid attempt and unit must be re-sat) A. no breadth and/or inconsistent knowledge; no reasoning and understanding of key concepts and theories B. 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 C. no clarity or coherence in communication; neither consistency nor appropriate use of annotation and formatting; no appropriate use of IT
0%	Non submission or plagiarised	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

Academic year of study 1

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
World Politics	PO51010D	30	4	Compulsory	1-2
Colonialism, Power, Resistance	PO51013E	30	4	Compulsory	1-2
Connected curriculum modules AND	TBC	30	4	Compulsory	1-2
Political Theory and Ideologies OR	PO51012D	30	4	Optional	1-2
Issues in Cultural and Political Economy OR	PO51017E	30	4	Optional	1-2
UK and European Comparative Governance and Politics	PO51009D	30	4	Optional	1-2

Academic year of study 2

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
Contemporary IR Theories	PO52018A	15	5	Compulsory	1
Global Governance and the World Order	PO52035B	15	5	Compulsory	2
Security Studies	PO52046A	15	5	Compulsory	1
Modules to the value of 75 credits from a list approved annually by the Department of Politics and International Relations. As part of this, students have the option of taking up to 15 credits from another department or from another University of London institution (if deemed suitable by the department) AND/OR 15 credits from the second year Connected Curriculum module.	Various	75	5	Options	1-2

Academic year of study 3

Module Name	Module Code	Credits	Level	Module Type	Term
IR Dissertation project	PO53014A	30	6	Compulsory	
Students then choose 60 credits from a list provided each year by the Department (for example: Memory, Truth, Justice; Critical Security Studies; An Other IR; International Political Economy 2; Movements and Conflict in the Middle East; Politics of Conflict and Peacebuilding in Contemporary Africa; Art War Terror etc).	Various	90	6	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.

Placement opportunities

The Department offers an optional, final-year work placement module (15 credits). Students are offered 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 such as We Are the News; charities such as Lawyers Against Poverty, the 999 Club and JAN Trust; NGOs and think tanks such as Amnesty International and Compass; and businesses such as ING Bank and ESG Mark Investment Analytics.

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.

Employability and potential career opportunities

Students graduating from the IR 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

Tuition fee costs

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

Specific programme costs

Not applicable