

Programme Specification

BA Politics and Economics

For students entering Part 1 in September 2023

UCAS Code: LL12

UFPOXEC

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This document sets out key information about your Programme and forms part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

Awarding Institution	University of Reading
Teaching Institution	University of Reading
Length of Programme	3 years
Length of Programme with placement/year abroad	BA Politics and Economics (with Year Abroad) - 4 years (internal transfer only) BA Politics and Economics with Placement Year - 4 years (UCAS Code: L2L1)
Accreditation	N/A

Programme information and content

The Programme aims provide you with an appreciation of the normative, methodological and institutional issues involved in the study of politics in relation to two of the three main sub fields of the discipline: comparative government and politics and either political philosophy or international relations. Students encounter a variety of concepts, approaches and methods for the study of domestic and international politics and are provided with a critical understanding of how societies are and should be governed. They progress from introductory and survey modules to more specialist options involving greater independent study. They also acquire a number of generic intellectual and transferable skills that prepare them for the world of work.

The Economics element of the programme aims to provide a thorough degree level education in the subject. The programme establishes key economic principles and tools of analysis at parts 1 and 2. Part 3 provides a range of options which allows the further study of specific areas and relevant applications. Students taking the degree will be expected to acquire a good knowledge and appreciation of the fundamental elements of economic theory and its applications, and the ability to apply their skills beyond the areas of specific study.

Part 1:	<p>In Politics Part 1 introduces students to the three main strands of study: comparative government, political thinking and international relations.</p> <p>Economics deals with the microeconomic and macroeconomic foundations of the subject and some basic techniques underpinning mathematical analysis in economics.</p>
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Part 2:	<p>In Politics students will expand on their knowledge in Part 2 by taking a compulsory government module, a compulsory Study of Politics research methods module, and a module of their choice from those available.</p> <p>In Economics principles are developed further at Part 2 enhanced by a compulsory module, related to policy and institutions Optional modules can be taken exploring further specific sub-disciplines and/or applications.</p>
Part 3:	<p>Gives you the opportunity to expand your critical analysis skills and focus your study into areas of particular interest for you. Modules are generally taught in small groups and provide significant opportunities for research into key topics.</p> <p>In Politics, part 3 offers a wide range of optional modules covering all aspects of politics and international relations.</p> <p>In Economics, optional modules can be taken exploring further specific sub-disciplines and/or applications.</p>

Module information

Each part comprises 120 credits, allocated across a range of compulsory and optional modules as shown below. Compulsory modules are listed.

Part 1 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
EC113	Introductory Microeconomics	20
EC114	Introductory Macroeconomics	20
EC115	Introductory Quantitative Methods in Economics and Business 1	10
EC116	Introductory Mathematics for Economics 1	10
PO1ICD	Introduction to Contemporary Democracy	20
PO1IPI	Introduction to Political Ideas	20
PO1IRS	Politics: International Relations and Strategic Studies	20

All modules at Part 1 of the programme are compulsory.

Part 2 Modules:

Module	Name	Credits
EC201	Intermediate Microeconomics	20
EC202	Intermediate Macroeconomics	20
PO2SOP	The Study of Politics	20

Students must select 40 credits of optional modules in Politics and International Relations.

Students must select 20 credits of optional modules in Economics.

Up to 20 credits may be replaced by a Work Placement and Project module or modules from elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the programme director.

Modules during a placement year or study year (if applicable):

Students on one of the 4 year programmes will take one 120 credit module in either Work Experience or Study Abroad.

Students may be permitted to undertake a placement year or a study abroad year between Part 2 and Part 3 of the programme. In such cases students will transfer to a 4-year programme. The placement or study abroad year should not normally be shorter than nine months full-time.

If you take a year-long placement or study abroad, Part 3 as described below may be subject to variation.

Part 3 Modules:

Students must select a 40 credit dissertation in either Economics or in Politics and International Relations.

Students must select at least 40 credits in Economics and 40 credits in Politics and International Relations.

Up to 20 credits may be replaced by a Work Placement and Project module or modules from elsewhere in the University, subject to approval by the Programme Director.

Optional modules:

The optional modules available can vary from year to year. An indicative list of the range of optional modules for your Programme is set out in the Further Programme Information. Details of optional modules for each part, including any Additional Costs associated with the optional modules, will be made available to you prior to the beginning of the Part in which they are to be taken and you will be given an opportunity to express interest in the optional modules that you would like to take. Entry to optional modules will be at the discretion of the University and subject to availability and may be subject to pre-requisites, such as completion of another module. Although the University tries to ensure you are able to take the optional modules in which you have expressed interest this cannot be guaranteed.

Additional costs of the programme

During your programme of study you will incur some additional costs.

In **Economics** for textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget up to £400 per year. This figure is approximate. Actual costs will vary depending on individual study technique, preferences, and requirements.

In **Politics** for textbooks and similar learning resources, we recommend that you budget between £400 to £500 a year. The core textbook, which most students normally purchase,

cost £300 new, and there may be other books/resources which you would find it convenient to buy.

Some books may be available second-hand, which will reduce costs. A range of resources to support your curriculum, including textbooks and electronic resources, are available through the library. Reading lists and module specific costs are listed on the individual module descriptions.

Printing and photocopying facilities are available on campus at a cost of £0.05 per page.

Costs are indicative and may vary according to optional modules chosen and are subject to inflation and other price fluctuations.

The estimates were calculated in 2022.

Placement opportunities

Placements:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a credit-bearing placement as part of your Programme. This will form all or part of an optional module. You will be required to find and secure a placement opportunity, with the support of the University.

Study Abroad:

You may be provided with the opportunity to undertake a Study Abroad placement during your Programme. This is subject to you meeting academic conditions detailed in the Programme Handbook, including obtaining the relevant permissions from your School, and the availability of a suitable Study Abroad placement. If you undertake a Study Abroad placement, further arrangements will be discussed and agreed with you.

Teaching and learning delivery:

In **Economics** you will be taught through lectures, tutorials and computer classes.

In **International Relations** you will be taught through seminars and lectures. Teaching is organised in modules. The delivery of material varies among modules, especially in the proportions of time allocated to lectures, and to classes and seminars.

Total study hours for each Part of your programme will be 1200 hours. The contact hours for your programme will depend upon your module combination; an average for a typical set of modules on this programme is Part 1 - 228 hours, Part 2 - 192 hours, Part 3 - 120 hours. In addition to your scheduled contact hours, you will be expected to undertake guided independent study. Information about module contact hours and the amount of independent study which a student is normally expected to undertake for a module is indicated in the relevant module description.

Accreditation details

N/A

Assessment

The programme will be assessed through a combination of written examinations, coursework, oral examinations, practical examinations.

Progression

The University-wide rules relating to 'threshold performance' as follows

Part 1

- (i) obtain an overall average of 40% over 120 credits taken in Part 1; and
- (ii) obtain a mark of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 100 credits taken in Part 1.

In order to progress from Part 1 to Part 2, a student must achieve a threshold performance; and

- (iii) obtain a mark of at least 40% in all compulsory modules in Politics and International Relations at Part 1 (PO1ICD, PO1IPI, PO1IRS); and
- (iii) obtain a weighted average of 40% across all compulsory modules in Economics at Part 1 (EC113, EC114, EC115, EC116); and
- (iv) obtain marks below 40%, but at least 30%, in compulsory modules in Economics amounting to not more than 20 credits.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 1 qualifies a student for a Certificate of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Part 2

To gain a threshold performance at Part 2, a student shall normally be required to:

- (i) obtain a weighted average of 40% over 120 credits taken at Part 2; and
- (ii) obtain marks of at least 40% in individual modules amounting to at least 80 credits;
- (iii) obtain marks of at least 30% in individual modules amounting to at least 120 credits, except that a mark below 30% may be condoned in no more than 20 credits of modules owned by the Department of Mathematics and Statistics.

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **3 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance

In order to progress from Part 2 to Part 3 in the **4 year programme**, a student must achieve a threshold performance and obtain a pass in the professional/work placement or study abroad year. Students who fail the professional/placement year transfer to the non-placement year version of the programme.

The achievement of a threshold performance at Part 2 qualifies a student for a Diploma of Higher Education if they leave the University before completing the subsequent Part.

Classification

Bachelors' degrees

The University's honours classification scheme is based on the following:

Mark	Interpretation
70% - 100%	First class
60% - 69%	Upper Second class
50% - 59%	Lower Second class
40% - 49%	Third class
35% - 39%	Below Honours Standard
0% - 34%	Fail

The weighting of the Parts/Years in the calculation of the degree classification is:

Three year programmes:

Part 2: one-third

Part 3: two-thirds

Four year programmes, including professional/work placement or study abroad:

Part 2: one-third

Placement/Study Abroad Year abroad not included in the classification

Part 3: two-thirds

For further information about your Programme please refer to the Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions, which are available at <http://www.reading.ac.uk/module/>. The Programme Handbook and the relevant module descriptions do not form part of your Terms and Conditions with the University of Reading.

BA Politics and Economics for students entering Part 1 in session 2023/24

16 June 2022

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