



**Course Specification
Part A**

BA (Hons) International Relations

AHU029

Faculty of Arts and Humanities / School of Humanities

Academic Year: 2021-2022

Mode E

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if s/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided.

We regularly review our course content, to make it relevant and current for the benefit of our students. For these reasons, course modules may be updated.

More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the Module Information Directory (MID), student module guide(s) and the course handbook.

The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

PART A Course Specification (Published Document)

BA (Hons) International Relations

1. Introduction

The BA (Hons) International Relations at Coventry University is a course for students who want to further explore questions of (international) politics, sociology, history, and geography that they will have studied during their secondary education, but who also want to be introduced to new and diverse areas of the subject, which will allow them to specialise in a range of exciting, emerging areas of the subject. These typically include such areas as, in no particular order of importance, the study of war, security and terrorism, development aid, and humanitarian interventions, focusing on how these issues are being approached by scholars, foreign policy decision-makers, and non-governmental as well as international organisations. The course concentrates more (though certainly not exclusively) on contemporary international politics and specialises on different areas of the world, such as the Middle East, Africa, and China.

In summary, the distinctive features of the BA (Hons) International Relations course at Coventry University are as follows:

- A focus on allowing students to continue exploring the major events of contemporary international politics with which they are familiar, at the same time as expanding their studies into genuinely new and different areas of the subject.
- Following on from the above, an optional international field-trip module is offered (where practical), which is dedicated to broadening students' understanding of international politics and to heighten their intercultural awareness.
- A focus on student application of new and cutting-edge theories - including, though not limited to the intersection of classical realism and critical theories, postcolonialism, and world politics and aesthetics - in order to generate new insights of their own rather than just learning about international affairs and the interpretations of others.
- A focus on doing original digital research so that students can become researchers in their own right, as well as the chance to learn through digital pedagogies such as A Domain of One's Own.
- Specialisms in attractive and expanding new areas of the subject where we can build a reputation for ourselves, such intercultural encounters of difference, migration, terrorism, and security.

2 Available Award(s) and Modes of Study

Title of Award	Mode of attendance	UCAS Code	FHEQ Level
BA (Hons) International Relations with international enhancement	S/W 4 years	L250	Level 6
BA (Hons) International Relations with professional enhancement			
BA (Hons) International Relations	F/T 3 years P/T 6 years		Level 6
Fall Back Awards:	S/W 4 years		Level 5
BA International Relations with international enhancement			
BA International Relations with professional enhancement			
BA International Relations	F/T 3 years P/T 6 years		
Diploma in Higher Education in International Relations	F/T 2 years P/T 4 years		Level 4
Certificate of Higher Education in International Relations	F/T 1 year		

	P/T 2 years		
3 Awarding Institution/Body	Coventry University		
4 Collaboration	N/A		
5 Teaching Institution and Location of delivery	Coventry University		
6 Internal Approval/Review Dates	Date of approval: March 2019 Date for next review: 2027-2028		
7 Course Accredited by	N/A		
8 Accreditation Date and Duration	N/A		
9 QAA Subject Benchmark Statement(s) and/or other external factors	This programme is covered by the QAA's Politics and International Relations Subject Benchmark Statements. This benchmark statement may be found at: ♦ http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf		
10 Date of Course Specification	March 2019		
11 Course Director	Dr. Felix Roesch		

12 Outline and Educational Aims of the Course

The broad aims of BA (Hons) International Relations are in line with the aims expressed in the *QAA Subject Benchmark Statement for Politics and International Relations* (February 2015) as well as the qualification descriptors for degrees at level 6 contained within *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies (UK Quality Code for Higher Education, Part A: Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards, October 2014)*:

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/qualifications-frameworks.pdf>

The course aims to:

- Provide students with a knowledge of international relations across a range of historical periods, focusing on the 19th, 20th, and 21st centuries, and geographic regions, extending beyond Europe.
- Provide students with a knowledge of the range of principal International Relations theories.
- Provide students with a knowledge of a range of subfields, including foreign policy, security studies, and area studies.
- Enable students to apply critical and theoretical approaches to a range of sources, developing imaginative and independent interpretations.
- Enable students to communicate clearly, accurately and effectively, including articulating their own and other people's ideas and critical arguments concisely, accurately and persuasively, both orally and in writing.
- Enable students to become independent and versatile researchers, confident in the use of a range of methods and technologies.
- Enable students to develop constructive working relationships with others.
- Enable students to develop and demonstrate, through the study of international affairs, inter-cultural awareness, cultural sensitivity, and responsibility.
- Enable students to adapt to a wide range of different tasks, including demonstrating the ability to initiate their own projects and investigations.
- Enable students to develop an awareness and understanding of aspects of international politics and of the potential contribution that their skills could make to this field and beyond.

13 Course Learning Outcomes

Course Learning Outcomes are aligned with the relevant FHEQ level and Politics and International Relations Subject Benchmark Statement, but also with the six pillars of the Coventry University Education Strategy 2015-21, as follows:

1. Creativity and enterprise
2. Intercultural and international engagement
3. Community contribution and responsibility
4. Innovation and digital fluency
5. Embedded employability
6. Research-inspired teaching

On successful completion of the course, a student will be able to:

1. Demonstrate advanced knowledge of international politics, its themes, concepts, and discourses (pillars 2, 6).
2. Demonstrate the critical ability to interrogate and evaluate the critical arguments of others and to formulate and construct critical arguments of their own (pillars 4, 6).
3. Apply, identify, analyse and critically comment upon a range of theoretical perspectives used in international politics (pillars 1, 6).
4. Demonstrate an advanced awareness of the diverse contexts (including social, cultural and historical) of contemporary and historical international affairs (pillars 2, 6).
5. Research subject-based materials to an advanced standard using specialist digital tools and methods (pillars 1, 4, 5, 6).
6. Demonstrate an informed intercultural awareness and knowledge about the diversity in international politics and of its encounters of difference (pillars 2, 3, 5, 6).
7. Demonstrate an ability to engage a variety of audiences and to communicate with them about international affairs (pillars 1, 2, 3, 5).
8. Demonstrate advanced communication skills, both written and oral, that can be transferred to a wide variety of professional contexts (pillars 4, 5).

14 Course Structure and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

The course structure complies with the new Academic Regulations (Mode E) for undergraduate courses.

Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or options), the levels at which they are studied, their credit value and pre/co requisites are identified in the table below.

BA (Hons) International Relations makes use of modules taught at four, five, and six (the level of the module usually corresponds to the year of study, for full-time students: i.e. level four in the first year of study, and so on). Full time students will usually take three years to complete their course, while part-time students normally graduate after six years of study. Sandwich students will normally take four years of full time study to complete their course and seven years part-time. The course combines mandatory modules (modules that must be taken) with core options (modules chosen from a subject list) and a menu of skills and employability modules (chosen from a University-wide list). The mandatory modules are designed to instil the key elements, knowledge, and skills of the subject. Optional modules allow the student to enhance this learning via specialising in an area of their own choice, while the employability modules seek to develop skills that improve students' career prospects after graduation. Students study 120 credits at each level, aiming to accumulate a total of 360 credits for their target award.

The development of academic skills is embedded in all modules through formative exercises and assessments. Employability skills are arguably embedded in a range – if not all – modules, though there is a mandatory level five 10 credit module as well. Students have the option of a placement year or study-abroad year after level five, although the module they will complete compelling them to evaluate and reflect upon their experiences during this year will be non-credit bearing.

	Stage 4	Stage 5	Sandwich Year	Stage 6
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Semester 1	4029HUM Themes and Concepts in International Relations	5047HUM Contemporary Global Security		6003HUM Ethics and International Relations
	4040HUM Applied Politics – Politics in Action	5053HUM Foreign Policy Analysis		Choose Two of the Following 6056HUM United States' Foreign Policy since 1945 6060HUM Global Organised Crime 6064HUM Politics of the Contemporary Middle East
	Add+Vantage	5064HUM A Graduate Career		
		Add+Vantage		
Semester 2	4002HUM Introduction to International Relations Theories	5006HUM Power and Political Violence at the Age of Globalisation	6038HUM Work Placement	6072HUM Dissertation
	4033HUM World Politics since 1945	5045HUM Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping	or	Choose One of the Following 6061HUM Field Trip 6071HUM An Inconvenient History: The Green Movement 6074HUM Chinese Politics, Foreign Relations, and Security
	4041HUM History of the Atlantic World and Globalisation	Choose One of the Following 5046HUM International Political Economy 5050HUM The Contemporary Far Right in Western Europe 5057HUM A History of International Crime	6039HUM Study Abroad	
			0 credits	Add+Vantage
Total	120 credits	120 credits	0 credits	120 credits

Cascade of Awards:

BA (Hons) International Relations (with professional / international enhancement)



BA (Hons) International Relations



BA International Relations (with professional / international enhancement)



BA International Relations



Diploma of Higher Education in International Relations



Certificate of Higher Education in International Relations

Modules within the course, their status (whether mandatory or options), the levels at which they are studied, and their credit value are identified in the table below. The indicative course structure is:

Credit level	Module Code	Title	Semester	Credit Value	Mandatory or Optional	Course Learning Outcomes
4	4002HUM	Introduction to International Relations Theories	2	20	M	1, 2, 4, 3, 5,

4	4041HUM	History of the Atlantic World and Globalisation	2	20	M	2, 4, 5, 6
4	4040HUM	Applied Politics – Politics in Action	1	30	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
4	4029HUM	Themes and Concepts in International Relations	1	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8
4	4033HUM	World Politics since 1945	2	20	M	1, 2, 4, 3, 5,
4	Add+Vantage	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	1	10	M	
5	5045HUM	Humanitarian Intervention and Peacekeeping	2	20	M	2, 4, 5, 6
5	5006HUM	Power and Political Violence in the Age of Globalisation	2	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
5	5050HUM	The Contemporary Far Right in Western Europe	2	20	O	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
5	5046HUM	International Political Economy	2	20	O	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5	5057HUM	A History of International Crime	2	20	O	2, 4, 5
5	5047HUM	Contemporary Global Security	1	20	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
5	5053HUM	Foreign Policy Analysis	1	20	M	1, 2, 3, 5, 6
5	5064HUM	A Graduate Career	1	10	M	7, 8
5	Add+Vantage	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	1	10	M	
6	6071HUM	An Inconvenient History: The Green Movement	2	20	O	2, 4, 5, 6
6	6060HUM	Global Organised Crime	1	20	O	2, 4, 5
6	6074HUM	Chinese Politics, Foreign Relations, and Security	2	20	O	2, 4, 5, 6
6	6064HUM	Politics of the Contemporary Middle East	1	20	O	2, 4, 5, 6
6	6072HUM	Dissertation in History, International Relations and Politics	2	30	M	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
6	6061HUM	Field Trip	2	20	O	2, 4, 6, 7, 8
6	6003HUM	Ethics and International Relations	1	20	M	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
6	6056HUM	United States' Foreign Policy since 1945	1	20	O	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8
6	6038HUM	Placement Year		0	O	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
6	6039HUM	Study Abroad Year		0	O	4, 5, 6, 7, 8
6	Add+Vantage	XXXXXXXXXXXXXX	2	10	M	

15 Criteria for Admission and Selection Procedure

UCAS entry profiles may be found by searching for the relevant course on the [UCAS website](#), then clicking on 'Entry profile'. General requirements are in line with University Policy.

The general requirements for admissions are in line with University policy.

Students whose first language is not English must demonstrate proficiency in the English language equivalent to IELTS 6.0.

For students entering with advanced standing, the course conforms to the [standard university AP\(E\)L procedure](#).

16 Academic Regulations and Regulations of Assessment

This Course conforms to the standard [University Academic Regulations](#) Undergraduate Mode E.

17 Indicators of Quality Enhancement

The Course is managed by the HUM Board of Study of the Faculty of FAH.

The Programme Assessment Board (PAB) for FAH is responsible for considering the progress of all students and making awards in accordance with both the University and course-specific regulations.

The assurance of the quality of modules is the responsibility of the Boards of Study which contribute modules to the course.

External Examiners have the opportunity to moderate all assessment tasks and a sample of assessed work for each module. They will report annually on the course and/or constituent modules and their views are considered as part of the Course Quality Enhancement Monitoring (CQEM). Details of the CQEM process can be found on the Registry's web site.

Students are represented on the Student Forum, Board of Study and Faculty Board, all of which normally meet two or three times per year.

Student views are also sought through module and course evaluation questionnaires.

The following are key indicators of quality and standards:

- Student success and completion
- Course Annual Reports to Board of Study (CQEM)
- External Examiners' reports
- Student forum comprising Course Representatives for each year group
- Annual focus groups with all current students
- Module and Course Evaluation Questionnaires
- National Student Survey

Further quality indicators are:

- Continuous student successes, such as one student winning the E-International Relations postgraduate scholarship (only awarded biannually to one student globally) and one student has been selected into the E-International Relations student features team.
- The BA (Hons) International Relations at Coventry University has the highest student satisfaction rate nationally (Good University Guide 2018).
- The QAA's Higher Education Review undertaken in February 2015 confirmed that Coventry University meets the UK expectations regarding the:
 - setting and maintenance of the academic standards of awards;
 - quality of student learning opportunities;
 - quality of the information about learning opportunities;
 - enhancement of student learning opportunities.
- Research: Members of staff have published with major journals in the field (e.g. European Journal of International Relations, Globalizations, Review of International Studies) and major presses (e.g. Palgrave Macmillan, Routledge). Members of staff edit book series, are fellows of learned societies, and convened academic association's working groups.

18 Additional Information

Enrolled students have access to additional, key sources of information about the course and student support including,

- Faculty Handbook
- Course Handbook
- Module Guides
- Module Information Directory
- Course Web

The course has a designated Employability Personal Tutor (EPT) who meets students individually throughout their three years of study and advises them accordingly about their future career options and strategies.