Leeds Trinity University

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

1. General information

Awarding body / institution	**Leeds Trinity University**
Teaching institution	**Leeds Trinity University**
'Parent' School	**SAC**
Professional accreditation body *(if applicable)*	**n/a**
Final award *(eg. BA Hons)*	**BA (Hons)**
Title of programme(s)	**Politics and International Relations**
Subsidiary award(s) *(if any)*	**Cert HE in Politics and International Relations; Dip HE in Politics and International Relations; BA in Politics and International Relations**
Honours type *(Single / Joint / Combined)*	**n/a**
Duration and mode(s) of study	**3 years full-time**
Start date (this version) *(month and year)*	**September 2017**
Periodic review next due *(acad. year)*	**2021/22**
JACS subject code(s) *(Level 3)*	**L200 + LS20**
UCAS course code & code name	**L2L2 International Relations and Politics**
SITS codes *(Course / Pathway / Route)*	**UPOLANIR**
Delivery venue(s)	**Leeds Trinity University**

2. Aims of the programme

Rationale and general aims
(from the student's perspective)

Politics is the study of power, influence and the distribution of resources and rights. In doing so, it includes the study of the marginalisation, deprivation, and exposure to insecurity and danger. It considers these issues in both historical and contemporary contexts and from national and trans-national perspectives. It explores the relation between governments and their decision-making processes and the behaviour of the governed and also the set of ideas about legitimacy, obligation, authority, justice, order and accountability that frame these relations. It analyses contemporary

challenges, such as declining voting; the image of politicians, the role of the media, and trans-national issues, such as terrorism, ecological issues, and global corporations.

International Relations addresses these issues from a trans-national perspective, focusing issues of justice, right and power that govern the relations between states. It also explores relations between states and non-state institutions and agencies, such as international corporations, terrorism groups, and ecological factors.

Politics and International Relations students use a variety of research methods, tools and techniques to analyse the diverse range of political phenomena and to gather different kinds of data from a range of sources. You will interpret those data in the light of political theories and relate your findings to ongoing developments in and challenges to national and international policy. The knowledge this generates is used to develop understanding of contemporary political problems and help shape responses to them.

The Leeds Trinity University Politics and International Relations programme combines insights from political analysis (theoretical and institutional) with media and their integration in the context of both professional practice and research. Each of these aspects feeds into and helps develop the others, creating a programme that is theoretical and applied, academic and professional.

- The programme's provision of political analysis explores political institutions (both in Britain and in wider global contexts); political theories; political communication, and the evolving complexities that challenge and pressure each of these areas.
- The research provision develops the capacity for critical thinking at different levels: rhetorical analysis of political communication; theoretical analysis of political programmes, and analysis of statistical evidence (the use and abuse of numbers).
- The professional learning provision provides opportunities, at each level, for sustained engagement with relevant political practitioners (Level 4: a 7-week programme of preparation, training and placement work; Level 5: a 5-week placement block; Level 6: an optional year-long professional learning through work module). Through this provision students have the opportunity to explore the range of employment opportunities available for careers in politics within the programme; to experience mentorship, and to establish a network of contacts.

The professional practice modules provide experiences which will allow you to apply and reflect on your knowledge and understanding of the subject in the workplace. These modules are supported by Leeds Trinity University's existing links with current and former MPs and their constituency offices, and relevant organisations such as local and regional government offices and agencies. This emphasis on professional engagement is designed to draw together a range of skills relevant to the study and practice of politics so that you can relate policy, theory, and practice. This will support both your ability to acquire knowledge of politics, and your capability for critical reflection upon knowledge and practice.

Together with this professional practice strand, the research modules equip you for understanding the importance of gathering, analysing and evaluating quantitative and qualitative empirical data. Your understanding of research methodologies will be supported by a range of current technology, software packages and apps for conducting empirical research and presenting your findings persuasively so that the knowledge you acquire can be used to persuade and change minds.

This mix of practical, theoretical and professional experience is aligned to the Leeds Trinity University ethos and mission statement. There are opportunities to develop specialist expertise and to develop your understanding of professional policy and practice through placements with local employers and agencies in relevant settings and institutions.

3.   Student learning outcomes of the programme

Learning outcomes in terms of:
- **knowledge and understanding (K)**
- **intellectual / cognitive / 'thinking' skills (I)**
- **physical skills specific to the subject (P)**
- **employability skills (E)**

The 'K1', etc codes are used in section 7c) and module descriptors to refer to each of these learning outcomes.

Programmes of study should incorporate the generic learning outcomes set out below. With the exception of the employability skills, which should normally be kept intact, programme proposers should enhance, embed, contextualise and/or make these learning outcomes more specific as appropriate.

On successful completion of the programme students will have demonstrated:

Knowledge Skills

K1   **Discipline knowledge**: a coherent and detailed subject knowledge in the disciplines of politics and international relations and a secure understanding of the appropriate concepts, theories, perspectives utilised in those disciplines, including reference to recent scholarly resources and evidence and the accurate use of scholarly conventions in so doing;

K2   **Understanding of Political Processes**: apply appropriate concepts and theories to analysis of national and international political processes;

K3   **Issues and Debates**: an advanced knowledge and understanding of a variety of contemporary issues and debates in politics and international relations and an ability to evaluate different interpretations of political events;

K4   **Research methods:** knowledge of appropriate methods used in the collection, analysis, interpretation and evaluation of quantitative and qualitative data from primary and secondary sources relevant to the discipline, including their ethical implications;

K5   **Professional practice in different institutional contexts**: a detailed knowledge of the range of agencies and institutions in the public, private and third sectors involved in the political process;

Intellectual / Cognitive / 'Thinking' Skills

I1   **Secure use of Critical and Analytical Techniques**: an ability to create and evaluate information in the range of formats relevant to politics and international relations (theoretical; ideological, and statistical);

I2   **Critical Evaluation of Approaches to Solving Problems**: an ability to select and employ appropriate problem-solving means and methods across a wide range of reference: from individuals to nation states and to global issues;

I3   **Effective and Sustained Communication of Results and Arguments**: the ability to select and employ appropriate means of presentational technologies and media through which to report findings or to express viewpoints;

I4 **Understanding of the Limits of their Knowledge**: an ability to identify and understand the salient aspect of their own perspective (personal, social, geographical, or ideological) and the consequent influence on their analysis;

Employability skills

E1 **Self-management** – the ability to plan and manage time; readiness to accept responsibility and improve their own performance based on feedback/reflective learning; the ability to take initiative and be proactive, flexible and resilient;

E2 **Teamworking** – the ability to co-operate with others on a shared task and to recognise and take on appropriate team roles; leading, contributing to discussions and negotiating; contributing to discussions; awareness of interdependence with others;

E3 **Business and sector awareness** – an understanding of the key drivers for business success, including the importance of customer/client satisfaction and innovation; understanding of the market/sector in which an organisation operates; the ability to recognise the external context and pressures on an organisation, including concepts such as value for money, profitability and sustainability;

E4 **Problem-solving** – a capacity for critical reasoning, analysis and synthesis; a capacity for applying knowledge in practice; an ability to retrieve, analyse and evaluate information from different sources;

E5 **Communication** – the ability to present information clearly and appropriately, both orally and in writing, and to tailor messages to specific audiences and purposes;

E6 **Application of numeracy** – a general awareness of mathematics and its application in practical contexts; the ability to carry out arithmetic operations and understand data, to read and interpret graphs and tables and to manage a budget;

E7 **Application of information technology** – the ability to identify the appropriate IT package for a given task; familiarity with word-processing, spreadsheets and file management; the ability to use the internet and email effectively.

E8 **Entrepreneurship/enterprise** – the ability to demonstrate an innovative approach and creativity, to generate ideas and to identify and take opportunities;

E9 **Social, cultural & civic awareness** – embracement of an ethos of community and civic responsibility; an appreciation of diversity and ethical issues; an understanding of cultures and customs in the wider community.

See also the generic learning outcomes for subsidiary awards set out in section 4 below.

3a   External benchmarks

Statement of congruence with the relevant published subject benchmark statements
(including appropriate references to the FHEQ and any PSRB, employer or legislative requirements)

The programme is fully congruent with the the most recent subject benchmark statement: QAA [Quality Assurance Agency] – benchmark statement for Politics and International Relations (2015). Accessible at: http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf

4. Learning outcomes for subsidiary awards

This section is currently being reviewed with a view to replacing generic learning outcomes with learning outcomes that are specific to the programme. Advice should be sought from AQSO before this section is completed.

Guidance	
The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more than one module at Level 4.	**Generic learning outcomes for the award of <u>Certificate of Higher Education</u>:** On successful completion of 120 credits at Level 4, students will have demonstrated an ability to: i) interpret and evaluate data appropriate to the discipline; ii) make sound judgements in accordance with basic disciplinary theories and concepts; iii) evaluate the appropriateness of different approaches to solving problems within the discipline; iv) communicate the results of their work coherently; and will have had specific opportunities to display transferable skills relevant to employment related to the discipline.
The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more than one module over Levels 4 & 5.	**Generic learning outcomes for the award of <u>Diploma of Higher Education</u>:** On successful completion of 240 credits, including 120 at Level 5, students will have demonstrated, **in addition to the outcomes for a Certificate**: i) critical understanding of disciplinary principles; ii) application of concepts outside their initial context; iii) use of a range disciplinary techniques; iv) proficient communication of the results of their work; and will have had the opportunity to develop transferable skills relevant to employment related to the discipline including successful completion of at least one professional placement or school-based training component.
The assessment strategy is designed so that each of these outcomes is addressed by more	**Generic learning outcomes for the award of an <u>Ordinary Degree</u>:** On successful completion of 300 credits, including 60 at Level 6, students will have demonstrated, **in addition to the outcomes for a Diploma:** i) an ability to make flexible use of disciplinary concepts and techniques; ii) critical evaluation of approaches to solving problems in a disciplinary context;

than one module over Levels 4, 5 & 6.	iii) an ability to work autonomously within a structured learning experience; iv) effective communication of the results of their work in a variety of forms; and will have had the opportunity to develop transferable skills relevant to employment related to the discipline including successful completion of two professional placements or school-based training placements.

5. Content

Summary of content by theme
(providing a 'vertical' view through the programme)

The Politics and International Relations programme enables students to develop discipline-specific skills in five key themes: political analysis; political theory; international relations; the media and political behaviour, and research skills / professional practice. The programme is designed to deliver these skills through vertical strands that provide a means of developing skills and knowledge across all three years of undergraduate study. The step-wise nature of the 3 year learning structure is detailed in section 7 below. The strands are as follows:

Political Analysis
- L4 – PTC 4002 *British Politics in Comparative Perspective*
- L5 – PTC 5002 *British Party Politics*
- L6 – PTC 6072 *Counter-Terrorism and the State*

Political Theory
- L4 – PTC 4052 *Classical Political Theory*
- L5 – PTC 5052 *Contemporary Political Theory*
- L6 – PTC 6082 *Freedom of Speech*

International Relations
- L4 – PTC 4022 *Introduction to International Relations*
- L5 – PTC 5072 *The European Union*
- L6 – PTC 6022 *Democracy and Democratization*

Media and Political Behaviour
- L4 – PTC 4032 *Introduction to Political Science: Polling and Public Opinion*
- L5 – MFC 5062 *Media, Power, Society*
- L6 – HIS 6792 *History and Media: Reporting Crisis*
- L6 – PTC 6062 *Politics in Literature and Film*

Skills, Research and Professional Practice
- L4 – PTC 4032 *Introduction to Political Science: Polling and Public Opinion*
- L4 – HUM 4992 *Ethics and Society*
- L4 – PTC 4042 *Professional Placement*
- L5 – PTC 5032 *Political Science*
- L5 – PTC 5042 *Professional Development and Placement*
- L5 – PTC 5082 *Professional Development and Placement (Volunteering)*
- L6 – PTC 6092 *Professional Learning Through Work*
- L6 – PTC 6034 *Professional Research Project* [40 credits]

Section 7a of this document (below) describes how the content of the programme is further structured in progressive stages (by level) to ensure that the teaching and learning is cumulative and progressive.

6. Structure

BA (Hons) POLITICS AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS (Single Honours)

Duration: 3 years full-time
Total credit rating: 360 (180 ECTS)

Level 4 – with effect from September 2017

Core: Students are required to take:

PTC 4002	British Politics in Comparative Perspective	Sem 1	20 credits
HUM 4992	Ethics and Society	Sem 1	20 credits
PTC 4032	Introduction to Political Science: Polling and Public Opinion	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits
PTC 4022	Introduction to International Relations	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 4052	Classical Political Theory	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 4042	Professional Placement	Sem 2	20 credits

Programme Level Assessment: This takes place at the end of the academic year.

Level 5 – with effect from September 2018

Core: Students are required to take:

PTC 5002	British Party Politics	Sem 1	20 credits
PTC 5052	Contemporary Political Theory	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 5072	The European Union	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 5032	Political Science	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits
MFC 5022	Media, Power and Culture	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits

Option: Students are also required to choose 20 credits from:

PTC 5042	Professional Development and Placement	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits
PTC 5082	Professional Development and Placement (Volunteering)	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits

Level 6 – with effect from September 2019

Core: Students are required to take:

PTC 6034	Professional Research Project	Sem 1 & 2	40 credits

Option: Students are required to choose 40 credits from:

PTC 6022	Democracy and Democratization	Sem 1	20 credits
PTC 6092	Professional Learning Through Work	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits
HIS 6792	History and Media: Reporting Crisis	Sem 1 & 2	20 credits

Students are also required to choose 40 credits from:

PTC 6062	Politics in Literature and Film	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 6072	Counter-Terrorism and the State	Sem 2	20 credits
PTC 6082	Freedom of Speech	Sem 2	20 credits

7. Learning, teaching and assessment

7a) Statement of the strategy for learning, teaching and assessment for the programme

The learning and teaching provision on the Politics and International Relations programme is aligned with the University's Learning, Teaching and Assessment Strategy 2015-2019, supporting

the principle that students are co-creators of their own learning. The learning and teaching is predominantly organised around active student-led inquiry (such as via analysis of case studies; project-based study; collaborative/group work, and 'pitch presentations'). The capacity to produce new knowledge with integriry and to apply knowledge creatively to new situations is valued above the mere reproduction of existing academic knowledge.

To enable this the learning materials (pre-recorded mini-lectures; key readings; relevant web materials, and skills provision) will be provided via the University's VLE (Moodle). The main form of scheduled student contact will be in the form of seminars and workshops in which these materials and skills are engaged and regular formative feedback can be provided. At Level 4, these sessions will be strucured through 'directed activities' to establish habits and behaviours of independent learning.

The programme's modules offer small class sizes, student choice about the materials and issues used to complete the assessments. Through the process of annual programme review, the themes and topics offered will be kept current with developments in the discipline and the skills involved will be kept relevant to relevant professional employment opportunities.

Relevant sector/employer input will feature in the Programme Level Assessment exercises (employers set, assess, and provide feedback on work challenges designed to test the students' ability to apply core programme skills at the appropriate level). Programme Level Assessment exists at Level 4 and is delivered through a 3-week practical project, scheduled before the placement period. It integrates the learning for these levels and helps demonstrate the progressive Level structure of the programme. At Level 6 the Professional Research Project performs an equivalent integrative and demonstrative function.

This input will be supported by opportunties for substantial placements at each academic level (5 weeks in Level 4; 6 weeks in Level 5, and an optional year-long professional learning through work module in Level 6). These placement opportunities are supported by the University's long-standing relationships with local constitutencies, regional government and relevant agencies.

As noted in Section 5 above, the content is divided into five main themes, providing coverage in the areas of political analysis; political theory; international relations; the media and political behaviour, and research skills/professional practice. The programme is designed so that each of these themes supports and informs the others and to produce graduates, who have experience in combining academic theory and understanding with research skills and professional practice.

Cutting across these are the three levels, which are used as the three main stages of development within the learning and teaching. These have been designed to enhance student confidence and to develop independence over the 3 years of the Politics and International Relations programme. A description, by level, is as follows:

> **Level 4**: to understand the nature of the disciplines of Politics and International Relations, the range of skills and abilities required for professional practice, and the basic methods required for research in these disciplines;
> **Level 5**: to practise and acquire greater confidence in those coordinating and managing those discipline skills and applying them purposefully and accurately to a range of relevant cases;
> **Level 6**: to gain enough expertise in those disciplines to propose creative blends or hybrid innovations suitable for more complex cases, and in line with industry, agency, or sector requirements.

The nature of the assessment tasks develops in step with the progression of the skills by level. At Level 4, reports and case studies are introduced as a means of identifying the central concepts and basic information while emphasising the processes and methods through which that

information is securely processed. At Level 5, these aspects are reinforced and developed, but a greater level of independence is introduced and students learn to develop a range of skills in research, analysis and presentation and how to balance these core aspects. Finally, at Level 6, greater weight is placed upon the student's ability to develop their mastery of presentation techniques and the ability to judge the most appropriate one for the task at hand. Here, presentation involves the development of secure understanding through investigation of appropriate evidence and its thorough analysis and its presentation in a manner that persuades its target audience. Employer input has emphasised the need for graduates to be 'nimble with knowledge', creative in their understanding of its potential applications and the significance of the ability to grab attention. Many of the assessments are able to be negotiated at Level 6 to enable the students to develop confidence and experience in this requirement.

Level 6 provides scope for individual self-directed project work, preparing students for graduate-level employment or further academic study. This includes a 40-credit module (PTC 6034 *Professional Research Project*), which is the equivalent to a dissertation.

7b) Programme learning outcomes covered

	Assessed learning outcomes of the programme										Skills development								
Adjust LO codes as necessary. ↓ These must match module descriptors.	K1	K2	K3	K4	K5	I1	I2	I3	I4		E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9
Lighter or hatched shading indicates modules that are not core, ie. not all students on this programme will undertake these.	Discipline Knowledge	Understanding of Political Processes	Issues and Debates	Research Methods	Professional Practice	Critical and Analytical Techniques	Problem Solving	Communication of Results	Understanding the Limits on Knowledge		Self-management	Teamworking	Business & sector awareness	Problem-solving	Communication	Application of numeracy	Application of IT	Entrepreneurship/ enterprise	Social, cultural & civic awareness
PTC 4002 *British Politics in Comparative Perspective*	■	■	■			■	■	■	■		■			■	■		■	■	■
PTC 4022 *Introduction to International Relations*	■	■	■			■	■	■	■		■	■		■	■		■	■	
HUM 4992 *Ethics and Society*														■					■
PTC 4032 *Introduction to Political Science: Polling and Public Opinion*	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■		■		■	■			■		
PTC 4042 *Professional Placement*											■	■	■						■
PTC 4052 *Classical Political Theory*	■	■	■	■		■	■	■	■		■			■	■		■	■	
PTC 5002 *British Party Politics*	■	■	■			■	■	■			■			■	■				
PTC 5032 *Political Science*											■		■	■		■	■	■	
PTC 5042 *Professional Development and Placement*											■	■	■	■			■	■	
PTC 5052	▨	▨	▨	▨		▨	▨	▨	▨		▨			▨	▨			▨	▨

Module	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9		10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
Contemporary Political Theory	░	░	░	░		░	░	░	░		░			░	░			░	░
PTC 5072 *The European Union*	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░	░	░			░	░	░
PTC 5082 *Professional Development and Placement (Volunteering)*											▓	▓	▓	▓		▓	▓	▓	▓
MFC 5022 *Media, Power and Culture*	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓		▓		▓	▓		▓	▓	▓	▓
PTC 6034 *Professional Research Project*	▓		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓		▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓	▓
PTC 6022 *Democracy and Democratization*	░	░	░	░		░	░	░	░		░		░	░			░		░
PTC 6092 *Professional Learning Through Work*											░	░	░	░			░		
PTC 6072 *Counter-Terrorism and the State*	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░	░	░			░		░
PTC 6062 *Politics in Literature and Film*	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░	░	░			░		░
PTC 6082 *Freedom of Speech*	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░	░	░			░		░
HIS 6792 *History and Media: Reporting Crisis*	░		░	░	░	░	░	░	░		░	░		░			░	░	░

8.   Entry requirements

Honours degree programmes
Applicants should normally have achieved the following prior to registration for the programme: 5 academic or vocational qualifications, of which at least 2 should be GCE 'A' levels (or equivalent at level 3) and one should be GCSE English Language at grade C (or equivalent). Some equivalent qualifications and the current typical offer conditions in terms of UCAS Tariff points are detailed in the undergraduate prospectus. For students whose first language is not English we require the International English Language Testing Service (IELTS) at level 6 and no element below 5.5. Applications are welcome from those with few or no formal qualifications. Any previous relevant work experience and learning will be assessed and, where appropriate, accredited as part of the application process. Please see Leeds Trinity's Principles and Guidelines for the Recognition of Prior Learning.

9.   Progression, classification and award requirements

Details of requirements for student progression between levels and receipt of the award(s) (A certain level of attainment which <u>must</u> be achieved in a specific module; any mdules exempted from condonement, any deviation from the standard institutional stipulations for award classification, eg. exclusion of Level 4 module marks from Foundation Degree classification)
The placement modules at Level 4 and Level 5 must be passed and are not subject to condoned passes.

10.   Prerequisites

Details of modules which <u>must</u> be passed before enrolment on a module at a higher level *Include the rationale which justifies imposition of the prerequisite(s) and the mark/grade required.*
None

11.   External examining arrangements

External examining arrangements (eg. joint with another programme – extended duties for someone already in post – or separate, single/multiple examiners; if multiple examiners, which subjects / types of module are to be allocated to each; any PSRB requirements)
Under the current external examiner arrangements there will be multiple examiners: • The Politics and International Relations external examiner will scrutinise work from the PTC modules. • The History external examiner will scrutinise work from the option module, HIS 6792 *History and Media: Reporting Crisis.* These arrangements and those for the external examiner with oversight of the programme are subject to annual approval.

12. Additional information

Details regarding arrangements in respect of any special features of the programme/scheme, (eg. a non-standard delivery pattern, study abroad, a field course, specific work placement, opportunities for onward progression from foundation degrees, constraints on out-of-programme optional module choices)
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13. Additional support needs

Arrangements made to accommodate students with additional support needs and any unavoidable restrictions on their participation in the programme/scheme
Students with disabilities or other support needs are welcome and will be able to participate fully in the course. Arrangements will be made, via the normal Leeds Trinity University's support network, to accommodate students with additional support needs wherever possible.