

These programme regulations should be read in conjunction with the University's [core regulations for undergraduate programmes](#), and the [marking and classification conventions for undergraduate programmes](#).

BA Politics & International Relations (L253)

BA Politics & International Relations with Placement Year (L254)

BA Politics & International Relations with Study Abroad (L255)

1. This programme is available at Durham City, in a full-time mode of study.

Level 1 (Certificate)

2. Candidates shall study and be assessed in the following modules:

		Credit value
Researching Politics and International Relations	SGIA1201	20
Introduction to Comparative Politics	SGIA1211	20
Introduction to International Relations	SGIA1221	20
Political Theory	SGIA1231	20

3. Candidates shall also study and be assessed in modules to the value of 40 credits from List A:

List A:		Credit value
Democratic Political Systems	SGIA1191	20
International Security, Interdependence and Organisation	SGIA1071	20
Perspectives of Political Economy	SGIA1241	20
One module from those offered by the Centre for Foreign Language Study **		20
OR		
One open module from those offered by another Board of Studies		20

Level 2 (Diploma)

4. Candidates shall study and be assessed in the following module:

		Credit value
Research Project #	SGIA2341	20

5. Candidates shall study and be assessed in modules to the value of 20 credits from List B:

List B:		Credit value
Foundations of Western Political Thought	SGIA2171	20
Analytical Politics	SGIA2361	20

6. Candidates shall study and be assessed in modules to the value of 20 credits from List C:

List C:		Credit value
International Theory	SGIA2131	20
International Organisations	SGIA2261	20

7. Candidates shall also study and be assessed in modules to the value of 60 credits from List D:

List D:		Credit value
International Theory	SGIA2131	20
Politics and International Relations of East Asia	SGIA2161	20
Foundations of Western Political Thought	SGIA2171	20
International Organisations	SGIA2261	20
Sovereignty, State and Empire	SGIA2281	20
Middle East in the International System *	SGIA2311	20
Debates in Political Theory	SGIA2321	20
Class, Nation and Party in British Politics	SGIA2351	20

Analytical Politics	SGIA2361	20
Challenges and Conflicts in European Politics *	SGIA2371	20
Democracy, Conflict and American Society	SGIA2381	20
Capitalism: History and Theory	SGIA2401	20
Middle East and the International System	SGIA2391	20
Gender and Politics	SGIA2411	20
One module from those offered by the Centre for Foreign Language Study **		20
OR		
One open module at Level 1 or Level 2 from those offered by another Board of Studies		20

Level 3 (Degree)

8. Candidates shall study and be assessed in the following module:

	Credit value
Dissertation ~	SGIA3142 40

9. Candidates shall also study and be assessed in modules to the value of 80 credits from List E:

List E:	Credit value
British Political Thought *	SGIA3171 20
Muslims and Politics in the Modern World *	SGIA3271 20
Theories of Liberty	SGIA3291 20
The American Presidency *	SGIA3311 20
China in Global Political Economy	SGIA3381 20
Israel: Politics and Society *	SGIA3421 20
Elections and British Politics *	SGIA3441 20
Parties, MPs, and Parliamentary Politics in Britain *	SGIA3461 20
Political Psychology in International Relations *	SGIA3511 20
Special Topic on Pacific Asia *	SGIA3521 20
Democratic Practise in the US Campaigns	SGIA3531 20
Advanced Topics in International Relations *	SGIA3541 20
Social and Political Philosophy	SGIA3561 20
Democracy and Discontent in the European Union	SGIA3571 20
Global China: Domestic Transformations, International Rise *	SGIA3601 20
Politics into Schools *	SGIA3591 20
Women, Gender and Politics in the US *	SGIA3611 20
Youth and Youth Policy in the Global Political Economy *	SGIA3621 20
Social Justice and Marginalised Groups *	SGIA3631 20
The Theory and Ethics of Political Violence *	SGIA3641 20
Politics of Inequality	SGIA3671 20
Political Economy Development *	SGIA3681 20
Decolonising International Society	SGIA3741 20
Global Politics in Anthropocene: Securing the Environment *	SGIA3731 20
Climate, Nature and the Global Economy	SGIA3711 20
Digital Democracy *	SGIA3721 20
The Culture Wars: Past, Present, Future	SGIA3811 20
Crises, Governance, and Struggle: Finance and the World Economy *	SGIA3751 20
Intelligence, The State and International Security *	SGIA3771 20
Marx and Marxism	SGIA3761 20
Diasporas and Global Politics	SGIA3781 20
Advanced Topic in International Political Theory: The International Politics of the Everyday	SGIA3801 20
Advanced Readings in Political Economy	SGIA3821 20
The Politics of Deglobalisation *	SGIA3871 20
Special Topic on the American Presidential Election *	SGIA3861 20
Can Voters Make Democracy Work? *	SGIA3841 20
Environmental Politics	SGIA3851 20
Are Voters Really Rational? The Political Economy of Political Behaviour and Its Discontents	SGIA3831 20

One open module at Level 2 or Level 3 from those offered by another Board of studies	20
OR	
One credit-bearing language module offered by the Centre for Foreign Language Study **	20

Assessment, progression and award

10. Modules marked with a ~ must be passed at 40% or above for the award of an honours degree. A mark of 30 – 39% cannot be compensated.
11. Modules marked with # must be passed at 40% or above in order to proceed to the next level of study.
12. Module marked # SGIA 2341 Research Project must be taken at Level 2 and must be successfully completed in order to undertake SGIA 3142 Dissertation at Level 3.
13. Modules marked * are not available in 2025-26.
14. Optional modules are subject to timetable compatibility. Not all optional modules will run every year

Year Abroad

15. Students admitted to the BA Politics & International Relations (L255) are able to apply to transfer to the BA Politics & International Relations (with Year Abroad) programme (L255). Students undertaking the BA Politics & International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L255) programme will undertake an approved study placement in an overseas university taking a course of study chosen in consultation with the programme director and the host institution. During the year abroad students will be assessed at module level by the host University. Assessment does not contribute to the marks used to determine the award of the degree but successful completion is required to qualify for the BA Politics & International Relations with Year Abroad.
16. Candidates wishing to transfer to the BA Politics & International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L255) must:
 - a. have successfully completed Level 1 of the BA Politics & International Relations (L253) and progressed to Level 2 of the programme; and
 - b. during the first term of Level 2 study, apply to the Board of Studies in the School of Government and International Affairs to be admitted to the BA Politics & International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L255) and have their application approved by the Chair of the Board of Studies in the School of Government and International Affairs; and
 - c. successfully complete Level 2 of the BA Politics & International Relations (L253) so as to be eligible to progress to Level 3 of the BA Politics & International Relations (L253) programme; and
 - d. meet any specific academic requirements necessary for transfer to the partner institution.
17. Students who the Board of Examiners for the School of Government and International Affairs deem to have made satisfactory progress on the year abroad will continue to Level 3 of the BA Politics & International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L255). Students who have not made satisfactory progress on the year abroad will not be permitted to continue on the BA Politics & International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L255) programme, but must instead proceed to Level 3 of the BA Politics & International Relations (L253) programme.

Placement Year

18. Students admitted to the BA Politics & International Relations programme (L253) are able to apply to transfer to the BA Politics & International Relations (with Placement Year) programme (L254). Students taking the BA Politics & International Relations (with Placement Year) (L254) will undertake an approved placement in a UK or overseas organisation consisting of at least 40 weeks of professional-level work experience.
19. During the placement year, students will be required to successfully complete the placement assessments outlined in the Faculty Placement Year module ([FSOC3099](#)) to determine whether

the programme learning outcomes have been met. Assessment does not contribute to the marks used to determine the award of the degree but successful completion is required to qualify for the BA Politics & International Relations (with Placement Year) (L254). If a student fails, they will transfer to the BA Politics & International Relations programme (L253).

20. Candidates wishing to transfer to the BA Politics & International Relations (with Placement Year) (L254) must:
 - a. have successfully completed Level 1 of the BA Politics & International Relations programme (L253) and progressed to Level 2 of the programme; and
 - b. secure a Placement Year opportunity comprising at least 40 weeks of professional-level work experience, approved by the Departmental Placement Year Convenor and Faculty Placement Manager; and
 - c. successfully complete Level 2 of the BA Politics & International Relations programme (L253) so as to be eligible to progress to Level 3 of the BA Politics & International Relations (L253).
 - d. to have a minimum record of 80% attendance at both Level 1 and Level 2, unless there are any serious adverse circumstances that explain lower attendance and have successfully completed 240 credits at Level 1 and 2. Students who fail to meet these criteria will continue to Level 3 of the BA Politics & International Relations programme (L253).
21. Students whom the Board of Examiners for the School of Government and International Affairs deem to have fulfilled the programme learning outcomes and who successfully pass the three required on-placement assessments will continue to Level 3 of the BA Politics & International Relations (with Placement Year) (L254). Students who fail will not be permitted to continue on the BA Politics & International Relations (with Placement Year) (L254) programme, but must instead proceed to the final year of the BA Politics & International Relations programme (L253).