

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 International Relations (L250)

BA International Relations with Year Abroad (L251)

BA International Relations with Placement Year (L252)

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
International Security	SGIA1251	20
Perspectives of Political Economy	SGIA1241	20
Researching Politics and International Relations	SGIA1201	20
Introduction to International Relations	SGIA1221	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
Introduction to Political Theory	SGIA1231	20
Introduction to Comparative Politics	SGIA1211	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
International Theory	SGIA2131	20
International Organisations	SGIA2261	20

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

List C:		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 Politics	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 from those offered by another Board of Studies		20

Level 3 (Degree)

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

		Credit value
Dissertation ~	SGIA3142	40

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

List D:		Credit value
Muslims and Politics in the Modern World *	SGIA3271	20
Theories of Liberty	SGIA3291	20
China in Global Political Economy *	SGIA3381	20
Elections and British Politics	SGIA3441	20
Political Psychology in International Relations *	SGIA3511	20
Democratic Practise in the US Campaigns, Elections and Voter Behaviour	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
Social Justice and Marginalised Groups	SGIA3631	20
The Theory and Ethics of Political Violence *	SGIA3641	20
Politics of Inequality	SGIA3671	20
Poverty or Prosperity? The Political Economy of 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 Topics 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
The Dark Side of the Liberal International Order	SGIA3881	20
Democracy and its critics	SGIA3891	20
One open module 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

9. Modules marked with ~ must be passed at 40% or above for the award of an honours degree. A mark of 30 – 39% cannot be compensated.
10. Modules marked with ** can only be taken to a total of 40 credits across two or more separate years of the programme.
11. Modules marked with # must be passed at 40% or above in order to proceed to the next level of study.
12. Modules marked with * are not available in 2026-27.
13. Optional modules are subject to timetable compatibility. Not all optional modules will run every year.

Year Abroad

14. Students admitted to the BA International Relations (L250) are able to apply to transfer to the BA International Relations (with Year Abroad) programme (L251). Students undertaking the BA International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L251) 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 International Relations with Year Abroad.
15. Candidates wishing to transfer to the BA International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L251) must:
 - a. have successfully completed Level 1 of the BA International Relations (L250) 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 International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L251) 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 International Relations (L250) so as to be eligible to progress to Level 3 of the BA International Relations (L250) programme; and
 - d. meet any specific academic requirements necessary for transfer to the partner institution.
16. 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 International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L251). Students who have not made satisfactory progress on the year abroad will not be permitted to continue on the BA International Relations (with Year Abroad) (L251) programme, but must instead proceed to Level 3 of the BA International Relations (L250) programme.

Placement Year

17. Students admitted to the BA International Relations (L250) are able to apply to transfer to the BA International Relations (with Placement Year) programme (L252). Students taking the BA International Relations (with Placement Year) (L252) will undertake an approved placement in a UK or overseas organisation consisting of at least 40 weeks of professional-level work experience.
18. 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 International Relations (with Placement Year) (L252). If a student fails, they will transfer to the BA International Relations (L250) programme.
19. Candidates wishing to transfer to the BA International Relations (with Placement Year) (L252) must:
 - a. have successfully completed Level 1 of the BA International Relations (L250) 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 International Relations (L250) so as to be eligible to progress to Level 3 of the BA International Relations (L250); and
 - d. 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 International Relations programme (L250).
20. 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 International Relations (with Placement Year) (L252). Students who fail will not be permitted to continue on the BA International Relations (with Placement Year) (L252) programme, but must instead proceed to the final year of the BA International Relations programme (L250).