

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Joint Honours Degree programme in Economics, Politics and International Relations**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2011**.

The principal aim of all programmes is to allow students to pursue the study of Politics and International Relations alongside Economics. This includes relating politics at the domestic level with that at the international level and vice versa. In meeting this principal aim the programmes also aims:

- to provide training in the principles of economics and in their application appropriate to the type of degree concerned;
- to provide a systematic understanding and knowledge of political theory and institutions in both a domestic and an international context;
- to stimulate students intellectually through the study of economics, politics and international relations and to lead them to appreciate its application to a range of problems and its relevance in a variety of contexts;
- to encourage critical awareness of current political problems at national and international levels;
- to provide theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in politics and international relations and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in the field.
- to equip students with appropriate tools of analysis to tackle issues and problems of economic policy;
- to develop in students, through the study of economics, politics and international relations a range of transferable skills that will be of value in employment and self-employment;
- to provide students with the knowledge and skill base from which they can proceed to further studies in economics, politics/international relations and related areas;
- to foster an independent learning ability for continued intellectual development

Programmes are normally delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The programme comprises 'core' disciplinary courses in the early stages and 'optional' specialist courses in the later ones. Whilst the development of disciplinary-specific skills are emphasised in the 'core' courses, the specialist options provide focused opportunities to examine the application of these skills.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning on the programmes are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and understanding

The programme is designed to enable students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding of the following aspects of the disciplines:

- extensive knowledge and understanding of a coherent core of economic principles;
- understanding of relevant mathematical and statistical techniques;
- knowledge necessary to apply core economic theory and economic reasoning to applied topics;
- knowledge of relevant analytical methods in economics;
- understanding required to analyze economic data;
- knowledge of a number of specialised areas in economics;
- extensive knowledge and critical understanding of recent and current developments in the field of political science and international relations, and of the issues and controversies associated with these developments.;
- a sound basic understanding of social science and international relations methodology;
- a critical understanding of result and data relating to the field of political science;
- familiarity with a broad selection of the principal classic and contemporary texts in the fields of politics and international relations;
- a sound knowledge of the theories, techniques and concepts used to further our understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with the field of politics and international relations;
- a sound understanding of the principal approaches and current issues in a range of options taught during the second and third years of the programme.

Skills and other attributes

The programme fosters the development of a range of personal skills and attributes that will strengthen a student's abilities to engage in continuing professional development, engage in further academic research and contribute to the wider academic community. It is also designed to allow students to acquire competence in the following range of discipline-specific and transferable (denoted with an asterisk*) skills:

- abstraction (the ability to simplify while still retaining relevance);
- analysis and deduction (economic reasoning is highly deductive and logical analysis is applied to assumption based models);
- quantification (the organisation and presentation of economic data);
- framing and specification (the ability to decide what should be taken as given or fixed for the purposes of setting up and solving a problem);
- ability to assess the merits of theories, models and explanations in political science, and situate them in a wider disciplinary context;
- ability to apply the concepts and methods used in political science and international relations to the analysis of political theories and institutions within the international system;
- ability to analyze qualitative and quantitative data relating to the field of politics and international relations;
- ability to evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by political scientists;
- ability to carry out an independent investigation of a political topic or issue and produce a coherent written account;
- decision-making;*
- numeracy;*
- understanding of the key concepts of opportunity cost, incentives, equilibrium, strategic thinking, expectations and surprises and the relevance of marginal considerations;*
- numeracy and computation;*
- ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and assess their nature and value;*
- ability to communicate complex ideas and present arguments and complex information in a clear and concise manner in writing;*

- ability to analyse and interpret complex issues, and develop reasoned arguments and make sound, critical judgements in the absence of complete data;*
- ability to use literature, internet and database searches to gain necessary information;*
- the intellectual autonomy and self-direction needed for independent investigation of intellectual problems;*
- ability to manage one's learning and to reflect on that learning;*
- exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;*
- ability to take decisions in complex and uncertain situations;*
- ability to work autonomously and collaboratively with others;*
- Self-awareness and self-management of research;*
- awareness of one's responsibility as a local, national and international citizen;*
- ability to learn independently and to take advantage of life-learning;*
- time management;*
- skills of oral presentation.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on the programme draws on the methods and concepts used to investigate economic and political phenomena at both national and international levels. It is also strongly informed by the current research interests of the core teaching team within the two departments. The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are formal lectures, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff-led sessions and student presentations.

Assessment is by a combination of assessed coursework and examination, as indicated in individual course specifications. The aim through the programme is to use a variety of different assessments (essays, examinations, other set coursework, presentations) to gauge the performance of students in as comprehensive a way as possible. Throughout the duration of the programme the required word lengths for coursework are gradually increased. This allows for student development and for their increased ability to articulate their knowledge, understanding of text and their arguments at a more advanced level. Full details of assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department of Economics](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#).

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Details of the programme structure

The programme is designed to be completed in three stages, each stage comprising one year of full-time study. Students are to complete a total of twelve full course units. Economics courses in Stage One and Stage Two are compulsory. Students choose from available course options on the politics and international relations side on all three stages and on the economics side on Stage Three. The only stipulation is that options must be chosen in equal measure from both 'sides' (Economics and Politics/International Relations) of the programme.

As second and third year course options change from year-to-year, affected by changes in staff and sabbatical leaves, they will not be specified in this document. Specific options are listed each year in options booklets used by students when they choose their Stage Two and Stage Three courses.

Please note that the list of options offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department of Economics](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#).

Stage One:

Students are required to take the following courses and must pass these by the end of the programme:

- (1) EC1101: Principles of Economics (1.0)
EC1102: Quantitative Methods of Economics (1.0)

Students must also take:

- (2) PR1400: Introduction to Politics and Government (1.0)
PR1500: Introduction to International Relations (1.0)

Stage Two:

Students are required to take the following courses and must pass these by the end of the programme:

- (1) EC2201: Microeconomics (1.0)
EC2002: Macroeconomics (1.0)

Students must also take:

- (2) Two units from available PIR second year options (including ES2001)

Stage Three:

- (1) Two units from available Economics third-year options
- (2) Two units from available PIR third-year options (including ES3001)

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. On some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage, or to qualify for a particular degree title. In order to qualify for the degree, students must pass EC1101, EC1102, EC2201 and EC2002 by the end of the programme. Progression through the programme is monitored through attendance and performance in coursework assignments and the completion and passing of courses each year. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser who meets with them in the induction week and then regularly through the programme. The tutor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- All tutors and academic staff, including the Head of Department, are available for consultation at advertised office hours.
- The Departmental Academic Coordinator provides guidance and advice on a range of academic, administrative, pastoral and welfare matters.
- The Department operates an 'open door' policy such that any member of staff may be consulted by students.
- A Departmental common room and a study room are available to all students.
- Induction programme to the Department and College for orientation at the start of the first year.
- Detailed and comprehensive Departmental Student Handbook.
- The Departmental Staff/Student Committee acts as a channel of communication between staff and students.
- Extensive supporting material and learning resources available from the College libraries. In addition students also have access to a wide range of resources available through other University of London libraries.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Education Support Unit for students with special needs.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to

contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

The programmes provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and some of the more successful graduates can expect to go on to postgraduate programmes in both Royal Holloway and elsewhere. The programmes also provide graduates with a range of intellectual, personal and social skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment opportunities. Careers which will especially suit International Relations graduates include work in the civil service, local government, public and private sector management, political research and lobbying, teaching, and journalism and the media. Students on the programmes are able to take full advantage of the resources available at the College [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research.

In the 2008 RAE, 80% of the Economics Department's research submitted was ranked as world-leading or internationally excellent (rated 3* and 4*). A recent analysis of the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE) shows that the Economics Department at Royal Holloway is the third best department in the UK for publications. [The study by Jim Taylor and Ian Walker](#) provides further insight into the research standing of UK economics departments. Previous rankings from the data already showed the Department in the top 10 in the UK.

The politics and international relations courses within the programme are informed by the current and past research of staff, who are all research active and many of whom enjoy international recognition. In the 2008 RAE, 70% of the Politics and International Relations Department's research publications were judged to be in the top three categories, from 'internationally excellent' to 'world leading'. These results ranked the Department in ninth place among departments of politics and international relations with fewer than 20 staff and second place among departments with fewer than 15 staff.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Economic and in Politics and International Relations are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in Economics and in Politics and International Relations describes the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Joint Honours Degree programme in Economics, Politics and International Relations.

BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations (LL12)

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