Introduction

The BA (Hons) Politics programme is located within the Division of Peace Studies, an internationally recognised centre for excellence in teaching and research on peace and conflict issues. Staff teaching on the BA Politics programme are published experts in the field, with the Politics programme...
informed by our interest in contemporary global affairs and the drivers of conflict, violence and insecurity at local, regional and international level.

Politics is the study of power and influence, or conversely, marginalisation and exclusion. In seeking to understand ‘who gets what, when and how’, studying Politics involves exploring the processes by which decisions are made, the ideologies and behaviours that underpin them, and the mechanisms through which they are pursued and implemented. The BA Politics programme at the University of Bradford provides a solid grounding in political theory, concepts and analysis, it is international in focus and it is embedded in the unique Peace Studies perspective that while conflict and difference are natural, violence and war are not.

As you progress through the programme, you will develop knowledge and understanding of the ideas, actors and interests that shape politics and the struggle for influence. This will require you to engage with current events; to study unfamiliar concepts and topics; to critically engage with perspectives and judgments that conflict with your own; and to widen your intellectual horizons. Our methods of teaching and assessing develop your individual and team based ability to research, evaluate and present issues and debates, ensuring that when you graduate from your programme, you will have a range of subject specific and transferable skills.

Your knowledge and learning on the BA Politics programme is built around a number of core modules that you have to take at each level; 6 in Stage 1, 3 in Stage 2 and 2 in Stage 3, in addition to a dissertation on a subject of your choosing. The programme also provides flexibility, with option modules in related subject areas that include International Relations and Security Studies, Development, Peace Studies, History and Philosophy. This reflects the multidisciplinary approach of Peace Studies, while enabling you to follow either specialised or multi-disciplinary study pathways.

Through Erasmus partnerships with the Universities of Brussels, Coimbra, Toulouse, Salamanca, Prague and Munich, and exchange programmes with the California State University (USA), Clarkson University (USA), Sogang University (Seoul, Korea), Hosei University (Tokyo, Japan) and Slippery Rock University (USA) we encourage you to consider undertaking a portion of your undergraduate programme studies overseas or add an extra year to your studies to graduate with an International Diploma based on extra work or study options overseas.

**Programme Aims**

The programme is intended to:

A1. Provide knowledge and understanding of political theory and political analysis.

A2. Develop understanding of concepts, approaches and methods in political science and the skills to apply them.

A3. Embed an independent, critical and scholarly approach to the study of Politics and political affairs.
A4. Relate the study of Politics to practical aspects of implementation and issues of public concern as these relate to peace and conflict.

A5. Provide a curriculum supported by active scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate.

A6 Develop a range of key skills and personal attributes including retrieval, organisation, application and presentation of primary and secondary data and other information sources in line with ethical requirements; the use of presentation skills; independent and collaborative capacity to identify and analyse problems; and time and workload management.

Programme Learning Outcomes

Certificate in Higher Education
When you have successfully completed Level 4 of the programme you will be able to:

LO1. Understand the nature and significance of politics as a human activity.

LO1. Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices.

Diploma in Higher Education
When you have successfully completed Level 5 of the programme you will be able to:

LO2. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power within them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate, and the relationships between them.

LO3. Evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events.

BA Ordinary
When you have successfully completed Level 6 of the programme you will be able to:

LO4. Gather, organise and analyse relevant primary and secondary evidence or data so as to present coherent and clearly reasoned arguments which address specific problems.

LO5. Communicate effectively and fluently in speech and writing, use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, work independently, demonstrating initiative, self organisation and time management and collaborate with others to achieve common goals.
BA Honours

When you have successfully completed Level 6 of the programme you will be able to:

LO7 Research a development and conflict related topic by accessing, retrieving, and synthesising primary and secondary evidence or data, applying critical thinking, constructing reasoned arguments and presenting empirical evidence and demonstrate mastery of non-academic writing style and presentation..

Curriculum

The programme consists of 360 credits, made up of core and optional modules. You will take 120 credits at each stage.

Stage 1 [Level 4]

Stage 1 is designed to provide you with a solid intellectual foundation for the BA programme. In order for you to acquire the fundamentals of the discipline and to ensure that you possess the requisite skills, all of the Stage 1 modules are 'core'; that is, there are no options available in the first year. The BA in Politics is one of four programmes that approach the study of peace and peaceful societies through a distinct disciplinary lens. Along with students of the BA in International Relations, BA in Peace Studies and BA in Peace Studies and Development you will take six core modules starting with Introduction to Peace Studies, Introduction to International Relations and Study Skills for Peace Studies, History and Politics in semester one, and Poverty, Development and Globalisation; Political Systems, Theories and Ideologies, and Conflict, War and Political Violence in semester 2. The topics and theories that you will cover in each of these cores links across the modules, engaging you in a diversity of approaches and understandings around a common concern for conditions of justice, freedom and security.

By the end of your first year, you will be able to understand approaches, concepts and theories in the study Politics and political ideas and have acquired study skills relevant to the subject area.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
<th>Module Title</th>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Study period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PES4002-B</td>
<td>Study Skills for Peace Studies, History and Politics</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES4004-B</td>
<td>Introduction to International Relations</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES4005-B</td>
<td>Introduction to Peace Studies &amp; Gender Day</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES4006-B</td>
<td>Political Systems, Theories and Ideologies</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES4003-B</td>
<td>Poverty, Development and Globalisation</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES4007-B</td>
<td>Conflict, War and Political Violence</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>4</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
Students who have achieved at least 120 credit points at Level 4 may exit the programme and are eligible for the award of Certificate of Higher Education.

Stage 2 [Level 5]

Stage 2 includes three ‘core’ modules that embed your knowledge and understanding of Politics, with emphasis on developing your understanding of regimes, institutions and political change through global, regional and comparative political approaches.

Three module options from related discipline areas can be taken in Stage 2 which build on themes, concepts and areas that are important in the study of politics.

By the end of your second year, you will have developed confidence in your intellectual grasp of your discipline, competence in your research skills and a clear sense of the contexts, significant elements and research horizons of your particular areas of interest. In short, you will be prepared to undertake the creative endeavour of conceiving, researching and writing your undergraduate dissertation and advancing your analytical and conceptual skills in Stage 3 of your programme.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PES5004-B</td>
<td>Regional Politics</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES5009-B</td>
<td>Conflict Research Skills</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES5008-B</td>
<td>Global Governance</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES5011-B</td>
<td>War, Democracy and Consensus: Britain, 1914 to the present</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES5012-B</td>
<td>The International Politics of the Cold War 1945-1991</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES5007-B</td>
<td>Peace and Change</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES5010-B</td>
<td>Security: Theories and Concepts</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES5013-B</td>
<td>Understanding Violence</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES5017-B</td>
<td>Responding to Conflict: Approaches, Ethics and Experience</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>5</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Students who have achieved at least 120 credit points at Level 5 may exit the programme and are eligible for the award of Diploma of Higher Education.

Stage 3 [Level 6]

At Stage 3 of the BA Politics programme, emphasis is placed on applying your knowledge and developing the employability skills necessary for professional life. You will take the core 60 credit dissertation module, a 15,000 word research project on a topic of your own choosing, which will draw on the knowledge and skills you have developed in Stages 1 and 2. You
will be expected to show initiative, demonstrate a sceptical, questioning perspective, secure the requisite research materials, conceive a workable research question and outline structure and adopt an appropriate methodology. You will have a dissertation supervisor who will advise you on producing this major piece of work.

In addition to the dissertation, you will take one core module, **Democracy and Authoritarianism**, and two optional modules.

By the end of stage 3 you will have the intellectual and personal transferable skills expected of a BA Politics graduate. In particular, you will be able to apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices; you will also be able to demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems, the nature and distribution of power in them, and the relevance of the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Module Code</th>
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<th>Type</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Level</th>
<th>Study period</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PES6012-D</td>
<td>Dissertation</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1+2</td>
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<tr>
<td>PES6003-B</td>
<td>Democracy and Authoritarianism</td>
<td>Core</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES6009-B</td>
<td>Security: Threats and Security Analysis</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES6006-B</td>
<td>Britain, Germany and Central Europe</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES6002-B</td>
<td>Human Rights</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PES6004-B</td>
<td>Peace, Conflict and Development</td>
<td>Option</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>University Elective</td>
<td>Elective</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The curriculum may change, subject to the University's programme approval, monitoring and review procedures.

**Teaching and Assessment Strategies**

Teaching, learning and assessment is structured around a range of approaches that embed progression, which encourage you to apply your knowledge and take greater responsibility for your learning at each stage of your programme of studies.

Through the core and optional modules you will experience a diversity of teaching styles. The approach of Peace Studies is to encourage interaction and the sharing of ideas by maximising your participation and engagement. Learning methods and approaches include team based learning and group work, participatory lectures, seminars, simulations and detailed case study analysis. Social and broadcast media, Skype and podcasts are some of the digital learning technologies that are used to develop ideas and deepen your understanding of contexts and events. You will be familiarised with the use of our online learning tool Blackboard in the first week of your studies.
through the Stage 1 Study Skills module. The mixture of teaching and learning strategies will enable you to develop a range of intellectual and professional skills.

Throughout the programme, you will acquire skills that will be useful not only in Peace Studies, but in whatever profession you choose to follow. These will be taught, practised and assessed. They are listed on the front cover of this document as personal transferable skills. For example, through the project work within some of the modules you learn skills in planning, negotiating, team working and presenting.

The programme has a diversity of assessment strategies that enable you to demonstrate your learning according to explicit and transparent criteria. The assessment strategies aim to develop and embed a range of discipline specific and generic skills that are determined by the aims and intended learning outcomes of the BA Politics programme.

The assessments that you will undertake will develop your skills of researching, analysing, evaluating and critiquing ideas, information and approaches. You will develop a range of written and transferable skills by demonstrating your learning in a range of different formats that include book reviews, report writing, essays, team based learning, group presentations, personal reflection and formal examinations. In stage three, you will undertake a dissertation, a substantial project of autonomous research with one-to-one supervision from a member of staff.

Assessment Regulations

This Programme conforms to the standard University Regulations which are available at the following link:

http://www.bradford.ac.uk/aqpo/ordinances-and-regulations/

Admission Requirements

The University welcomes applications from all potential students regardless of their previous academic experience; offers are made following detailed consideration of each individual application. Most important in the decision to offer a place is our assessment of a candidate’s potential to benefit from their studies and of their ability to succeed on this particular programme. Entrance requirements for each programme will vary but consideration of your application will be based on a combination of your formal academic qualifications and other relevant experience.

If you have prior certificated learning or professional experience which may be equivalent to parts of this programme, the University has procedures to evaluate this learning in order to provide you with exemptions from specified modules contained within the curriculum. Please talk to us if you do not fit the standard pattern of entry qualifications.

The University of Bradford has always welcomed applications from disabled students, and these will be considered on the same academic grounds as are applied to all applicants. We are continually reviewing and developing our
practices and policies to make the University more inclusive, but if you are disabled we may need to make some adjustments to make sure that you are not disadvantaged. We would advise you to contact the programme leader before you apply to discuss these.

A typical offer to someone seeking entry through the UCAS scheme would be 240-280 UCAS tariff points to include 2 full GCE A levels or equivalent qualification plus GCSE English grade C or above or equivalent qualification.

Applications are welcome from mature students (those over 21 years of age on entry) and candidates with non-standard qualifications or who, lacking academic qualifications, have significant relevant experience. On completion of a UCAS form you will be invited to the Faculty for an Open Day when you will have the opportunity to meet staff, view the facilities and discuss “the Bradford experience” with current students.

**Placements or periods of study abroad**

In addition to the possibility of studying abroad at one of our approved ERASMUS partners during your three years of study (for which your earn academic credits and have your grades added in to your final degree and transcript) we offer you the unique option of expanding your three year programme into a four year programme.

We encourage you to consider an optional year of study, work, or volunteering abroad, taken between stage 1 and 2 or stage 2 and 3 of your programme at Bradford. You may take advantage of Study Abroad opportunities in three ways: through studying at one of our partner institutions; through studying at a University that does not have formal links with Bradford; or through developing your own combination of work and study. Most students choose to go abroad, to spend time in one or more countries, but work/volunteering can also be undertaken with local or UK-based organisations.

This option enables you to: i) benefit from studying and living abroad ii) develop intercultural awareness and competence through reflection on the experience; iii) enhance your personal development allowing you the scope to transfer the skills acquired to both academic work and future vocational work; iv) widen your knowledge and understanding, and embrace different academic approaches in one or more of your programme subject areas by studying appropriate modules; v) where appropriate, enhance your language skills and develop strategies for more effective language learning.

Undertaking a suitable internship, working with local or international voluntary or inter-governmental organisations is designed to provide you with an opportunity to apply the knowledge, understanding and skills gained on your programme in a professional setting; to help you develop autonomy and initiative, and work effectively as a member of a professional team; to help you gain experience of the working environment and assess career opportunities available on graduation; to encourage critical reflection on your personal and skills development.

Note that you are to identify your own placement opportunities, with support from the University and agreed by the Programme Director. The duration
must be between 38 and 52 weeks. Your placement work is directed by the supervisor appointed by the provider, but you will be appointed an academic tutor who will remain in contact to check that integration into the workplace is proceeding and that the work being required of you is appropriate and at a later stage to assist and advise both you and your employer as to the requirements of the assessment process. Your performance during this placement will be considered (including a monthly diary, reflective end of placement report, oral presentation and placement supervisor assessment). Placements or periods of study abroad will be recognised on the student transcript.

The contents of this programme specification may change, subject to the University's regulations and programme approval, enhancement and review procedures.