

**Kingston
University**
London



International Relations BSc(Hons)

joint honours

■ FACULTY OF ARTS AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

www.kingston.ac.uk/internationalrelations



International Relations BSc(Hons)

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International relations is the study of politics and power in the international system, and the ways in which states and human beings interact on a global level.

Our programme

International Relations at Kingston offers a radical and critical questioning of the global order of today from a variety of disciplinary viewpoints. It enables you to learn more about international relations by analysing wars, invasions, imperialism, conflict resolution and the role of nation states and international organisations in the international system. It explores themes of conflict and co-operation between nation-states, armed conflicts, global political organisations and non-state actors (such as transnational civil society groups or transnational corporations). As a foundation for this, you will be introduced to the wider historical context in which international politics has evolved, and the key theories that help us to unlock some of the mysteries associated with global events and processes.

You will examine international relations theory, nationalism, the nation state and the evolution of the international system. You will look at case studies (eg Iraq, Israel-Palestine, Libya) to find out how international problems can be analysed and understood. You will study the processes and structures of international bodies; in particular, the United Nations, European Union, World Bank, International Monetary Fund, etc. You will also examine competing perspectives on globalisation and post-colonialism.

This International Relations course will encourage you to look critically at issues of conflict and co-operation across the world and consider questions such as:

- Why did 9/11 happen?
- What is terrorism?
- What is the challenge posed by fundamentalism today?
- Do elections really change anything?
- How important is nationalism, and what is its future in a globalised world?
- Is the European Union going to replace the nation state?
- Has the United Nations been a success, and what is its future?
- What is happening today in Africa, Latin America and the Middle East?
- Why do genocide and mass murder continue to happen 50 years or more since the Genocide Convention was passed?
- What is the future of democracy in Europe and beyond?

These are just a few of the complex and controversial questions you will encounter while studying International Relations. Our aim is to help you build the skills and knowledge to develop your own answers and responses to these big questions.

Joint honours options

International Relations is offered as a joint honours degree, which enables you to combine your studies with another subject within the Schools of Economics, Humanities, Performance and Screen Studies or Social Sciences, either as a major, minor or half field. Students wishing to combine International Relations with Politics or Human Rights should apply for the Politics and International Relations BA(Hons) (single honours).

Teaching, assessment and student support

The course is taught through a mixture of lectures, seminars and workshops, and there is a strong emphasis on debate and discussion throughout. You will be assessed in a number of different ways, including portfolios of reflections on your work, presentations, essays and examinations. By the end of the degree you will have a sound knowledge and understanding of the subject and be fully equipped with a range of analytical skills.

International relations is a discursive subject, and we want you to gain confidence and understanding in developing and articulating your own opinions and views on political life. To do this well, we recommend that you read around the subject regularly to help provide a solid foundation for these ideas. As international relations is often fast moving, with events unfolding on a day-to-day basis, there is an expectation that students bring an awareness of current events to the classroom.

A degree is a major commitment, and we work hard to provide you with the help you will need to succeed. Compared with other universities, we provide high levels of contact with academic staff in terms of class contact time and in our office hours – we will be introducing a personal tutor system in 2012–2013 to provide a consistent source of advice throughout your university career.

From our induction programme in your first year, to support with dissertations and choosing your future direction in your final period at University, you will have access to learning support and guidance to ensure that, whatever your educational background, you achieve your full potential.

Careers

Studying international relations will help you develop the communication skills that employers value, as well as enter a wide variety of careers both in the public and private sector. International relations graduates work in a wide variety of sectors, including diplomacy, international organisations (state and non-governmental organisations), journalism, business and finance, marketing, sales and media, commercial, industrial and public-sector management, IT and healthcare, and teaching. A significant number of International Relations graduates go on to study at postgraduate level in International Relations, International Conflict, Politics, Human Rights and other professional entry courses, such as the Law Society's postgraduate conversion diploma.

Why study international relations at Kingston University? What makes us different?

- Our academic staff are all active researchers and experts in their field, and regularly participate in major international conferences and publish their research in a variety of arenas. Our focus on research-informed teaching ensures that new insights gained from our recent research are integrated into our teaching, providing you with a truly cutting-edge learning experience.
- You will receive high levels of support and guidance and enjoy direct contact with our internationally diverse and relatively young team, all of whom are passionate about teaching and improving the student experience, with a particular focus on innovative approaches to teaching.
- Lectures and seminars are regularly supplemented with visiting guest speakers – MPs, MEPS, local government representatives, think-tank policy specialists, campaigners and activists. Visiting speakers provide an excellent opportunity to learn about the 'real world' of politics and make contacts for future careers.
- Kingston's location on the outskirts of London and its excellent transport links into the city means that you can study in the safe, pleasant and less hectic surroundings of Kingston and Surbiton but can travel into Central London – the centre of political life in the UK – in just 25 minutes by train. There is a wide variety of lectures, workshops, talks and political events held in London throughout the year, and students are encouraged to participate in these and learn beyond the classroom.
- With graduate employment increasingly challenging, our Work Placement module offers you the opportunity to gain real-world work experience for credit. The module provides the framework and support necessary for expanding your skills and improving your employability.
- Our Study Abroad programme gives you the option of studying abroad in your second year. This popular programme enables students to study at a university in Continental Europe, Australia or the United States for either a half or a full academic year.
- This joint honours subject enables you to combine your study of politics with a complementary subject, expanding your intellectual horizons and boosting your employability (see overleaf).

What you will study

Examples of the modules currently offered are shown below. The number of modules taken each year and the choices available will vary depending on whether you study International Relations as a major, half or minor field (joint honours). The module list varies from year to year as the course structure is reviewed and refined.

Year 1

This year provides a foundation of knowledge and skills for your subsequent years of study. There is a strong focus in the first year on the development of the study skills necessary for success in your degree and on supporting you in your transition into higher education.

Studying Politics

This module introduces different perspectives in the study of politics. It will focus on a significant, contemporary theme, such as globalisation or political power and authority. You will develop critical and analytical skills in reading and reflecting on the diverse arguments of a variety of writers. This module also helps to manage your transition to higher education and to develop some of the core academic skills that you will need.

An Introduction to International Relations

This module will introduce you to the key concepts associated with the study of international politics. It looks at how recent history has influenced the ways in which we understand the world. You will be encouraged to critically examine the key debates on the state, the international system, violence, global ethics and international law.

Issues in International Politics

This module acts as a companion to your initial introduction to international relations. It provides a closer examination of specific real-life issues in international political life – globalisation, terrorism, migration and the environment. These modules, taken together, are designed to provide a solid foundation for more-advanced study of international relations theories, international organisations and specialist modules on armed conflict, nationalism, area studies and terrorism.

Centre for Academic Skills and Employability (CASE)

CASE offers students from the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences one-to-one help with their studies. We help both undergraduate and postgraduate students with:

- researching and presenting;
- structuring and editing traditional academic writing;
- structuring and editing multimedia texts; and
- referencing.

CASE also provides a range of resources to enhance employability, including help with writing CVs, application forms and preparing you for interviews. Results show that students who use the centre are significantly more likely to complete their degree. As they are better equipped to act on feedback, they also tend to do better in their studies.

Year 2

The second year takes a more-advanced look at some of the major theories that shape our understanding of international politics, and at the major international organisations that help to regulate international political life. You can begin to specialise in areas that particularly interest you in Year 2, and many students take up the opportunity to participate in a work placement module or study abroad during their second year.

Modules:

- International Relations Theory
- International Organisations
- Nationalism
- Apocalypse Now: International Politics Goes to the Movies
- Politics Work Placement
- Terrorism in the Contemporary World
- The Holocaust
- Theories of Justice
- Comparative European Politics
- Contemporary Balkan Politics
- Introduction to Middle Eastern Politics
- Introduction to Contemporary African Politics
- Introduction to Latin American Countries

Year 3

The third year allows for greater levels of specialisation and builds on the themes encountered in Years 1 and 2. You will carry out a dissertation on a topic of your choice, supervised by a member of the course team with associated research interests. To help you prepare for this, you will receive research skills training to introduce you to the key research methods and help support the design of your personal project.

Modules:

- Contemporary US Foreign Policy
- Human Rights and Armed Conflict
- Crimes of the Powerful
- The Politics of Globalisation
- Politics of Conflict: The New Tribalism?
- Fascism and the Post War Extreme Right
- Gender and Politics
- Issues in Political Philosophy
- Contemporary European Protest Movements
- Party Politics in European States
- Contemporary Russian Politics
- Themes in Latin American Politics
- Politics of Nationalism in the Contemporary Middle East
- The Politics of Mass Murder

Languages, Work Placement and Study Abroad

Kingston Language Scheme

All students may substitute one of the subject modules in their first year for a language module from the Kingston Language Scheme (KLS), providing a unique opportunity to incorporate a language into your programme of studies. We offer modules in Arabic, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Mandarin (Chinese) and Spanish. You can learn a new language from the beginning or continue with the study of a language you have previously learned. Each module is credit-rated and will count towards your degree. If your first language is not English, we offer an English Language module in Year 1, which is designed to assist you with language difficulties.

Work placement

Kingston Politics students have the opportunity to take a work placement module for credit in Year 2. This allows students to gain valuable work experience and improve their graduate employment prospects while still completing their degree in three years. Students are supported by a member of staff to help ensure that they optimise their experience and skills development.

Studying abroad

You can also strengthen your language expertise by studying abroad during Year 2. We have links with universities in France, Spain, Hungary and Germany; and Politics and International Relations students regularly spend either one semester or their full second year in one of these partner institutions. Should you wish to study in America or Australia, we also have exchange arrangements with universities in these countries.



Want to know more?
[www.kingston.ac.uk/
internationalrelations](http://www.kingston.ac.uk/internationalrelations)

International Relations staff

Our teaching team includes staff from a variety of disciplines within the School of Social Sciences.

Dr Orna Almog specialises in international relations of the Middle East; the history and politics of Arab-Israeli conflict, Israeli foreign policy, conflict resolution and international mediation in the Middle East.

Dr Radu Cinpoes specialises in the politics of nationalism and identity. His teaching and research interests include ethnicity and conflict, European politics, transition from communism, human rights and migration.

Dr Paul Dixon specialises in researching conflict. In particular he specialises on the Northern Ireland conflict, theories of conflict management and counterinsurgency strategy.

Dr Jonathan Gilmore specialises in international relations and security studies. His recent research has explored the links between human rights and violent conflict with specific reference to the question of whether military force can or should be used to protect human rights.

Dr Andrew Higginbottom specialises in Latin America.

Professor François Nectoux research interests include: the French economy; French politics; French socio-cultural studies; European social policies; European media and cultural policies; international relations and international aspects of the environment.

Dr Hannah Miller lectures in human rights, international relations and politics. Her research examines the meaning and protection of human rights, with a focus on forms of human rights activism.

Dr Sam Raphael specialises in international security and human rights. His research expertise covers US foreign policy, terrorism, energy security, counterinsurgency, the arms trade and extraordinary rendition.

Mike Roberts specialises in social movements and popular music and political films. His research interests include black music/black nationalism and the politics of Bob Dylan.

Dr Robin Redhead researches human rights in world politics. She is interested in how indigenous people contest their rights against colonial powers and how human rights activists campaign on behalf of the oppressed.

Our working relationship with our students has always been strong, and Kingston's politics students are part of a close knit and supportive community. Our students are a diverse group, bringing different perspectives, experiences and ideas to the study of politics and international relations.



UN Headquarters, New York

"Our emphasis on teaching subjects relevant to the world today, and producing graduates able to make a positive contribution to that world, makes the educational experience on offer in our Faculty at Kingston unique amongst universities in the United Kingdom."

Professor Martin McQuillan
Dean of Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences

Entry requirements

Typical offer

- Points: 240–360, depending on combination
- Units: to include two A-levels or equivalent
- Subjects: General Studies accepted as one of three A-levels or equivalent
- Key Skills: points not accepted in tariff
- Plus GCSE: Mathematics and English or English Literature (grade A–C preferred)

Further requirements for combinations

Please see the course webpage for details.

International students

All non-UK applicants must meet our English language requirements. For this course it is IELTS of 6.5 overall, with special conditions for students who require a Tier-4 student visa. Please make sure you read our full guidance about English language requirements on the course webpage, which includes details of other qualifications we'll consider.

Other entry routes

- Access course
- International applicants and mature applicants with relevant qualifications are welcomed.

Duration

Three years full time or six years part time

Joint honours combinations

International Relations is offered as a major, half or minor field in combination with the following subjects:

- Business
- Creative Writing
- Criminology
- Drama
- Economics (Applied)
- English Language & Communication
- English Literature
- French
- History
- Journalism
- Law
- Media & Cultural Studies
- Psychology
- Sociology
- Spanish
- Television & New Broadcasting Media

UCAS codes

For UCAS codes, please see the course webpage.

Open days

Several open days are held each year. Please contact the admissions office or visit the University website for more details.
www.kingston.ac.uk/opendays

Contact details

Course enquiries

Modular Admissions Office
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Kingston University
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Kingston upon Thames
Surrey KT1 2EE
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E: fassundergrad-info@kingston.ac.uk

Accommodation

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3829
E: accommodation@kingston.ac.uk
www.kingston.ac.uk/accommodation

Student Funding Service

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3560
www.kingston.ac.uk/studentfunding

Disability and Dyslexia Support Services

T: +44 (0)20 8417 4284/4252
Minicom: +44 (0)20 8417 4447
F: +44 (0)20 8417 4443
www.kingston.ac.uk/disability-and-dyslexia

International Office

T: +44 (0)20 8417 3411
www.kingston.ac.uk/international