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International Relations with Year Abroad BA

Details

Course details: **Why study this course (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx?OpenSection=WhyStudyThisCourse)** | **Modules (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx?OpenSection=Modules)** | **Fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx?OpenSection=FeesAndFunding)** | **Entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx?OpenSection=EntryRequirements)** | **How to apply (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx?OpenSection=HowToApply)** .

You do not have to look too far to find examples of how international relations impinge on our everyday lives. For example, international conventions on human rights or environmental issues increasingly shape domestic legislation in individual countries, while the prospect of military intervention in specific regions can have an adverse impact on the global economy that reverberates around the world.

This degree addresses a wide range of problems and concerns that have a global dimension or impact, and which require international co-operation if they are to be resolved or managed effectively. While International Relations is a distinct academic discipline, it is by its nature interdisciplinary, requiring you to acquire some knowledge of politics, history, geography, economics and law.

Where can I go?

A lot of our European partner universities teach in the native language and so, if you wish to apply to one of them, it is usually a requirement that you have a good working knowledge of the respective language.

Outside of Europe, we have exchange partners in Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, China, Ecuador, Ghana, Israel, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Mexico, New Zealand, Singapore, the USA, Uruguay, and the West Indies.

For more specific details on the names and locations of our partner universities, you should consult our **study abroad - outgoing students webpage (/undergraduate/studyabroad/outgoingstudents/index.aspx)** .

Recent international universities include:

- University of Minnesota Duluth - USA
- Loyola University, New Orleans - USA
- New Mexico State University - USA
- University of Melbourne - Australia
- University of Lund - Sweden
- University of Maine - USA
- University of Queensland - Australia
- Western University - Canada
- Pontificia Universidad Catolica Argentina - Argentina
- National University of Singapore - Singapore
- University van Amsterdam - Netherlands

For more information about the year abroad visit our **Year abroad and student exchange page (/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx)** .

If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a '**Professional Development (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)** ' module as part of your optional module choices.

You may also be interested in:

- **International Relations BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations.aspx)**

Why study this course

Students applying for the BA International Relations with Year Abroad degree at Birmingham will join the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS), a department that consistently scores high in the National Student Survey (NSS) and is consistently viewed as one of the best departments in the country.

The Department also has an excellent record in the Guardian League Table for Politics. We are consistently viewed as one of the best departments in the country since the Guardian started publishing their League Tables in 2000.

The Department has a balance of expertise that covers all areas of the discipline and has long-established strengths in the fields of political theory, European politics, international relations theory, security studies, diplomatic studies, political sociology, political economy, Pacific Asian politics, environmental politics and British politics.

As well as benefiting from our world-leading expertise, you'll also get the chance to take part in a range of in-house activities that vary by year and are designed to complement your curriculum and enrich your time at Birmingham. These have included:

- Annual Student Conference
- Research Assistance Scheme, where students are paired with a member of staff to help them in specific research tasks
- Simulation exercises using real case examples
- Simulation events and research visits to local and national places of interest

Learn more about our **Student Experience activities (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)** and the work of the Department.

Modules

Modules in the first year

You receive a thorough grounding in the study of international relations, with particular emphasis on the major approaches to the discipline and core issues such as conflict, war, peace, security, international and regional organisations, and international law. You also take a number of complementary courses in the department, and options offered elsewhere.

Compulsory core modules

- 20 credits - **Foundations of Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/foundations-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to International Relations (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-international-relations.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-political-economy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Research Skills and literacy: Philosophy and Methods in Social Sciences (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/research-skills-literacy-philosophy-methods-social-sciences.aspx)**
- 10 credits - End of Empire: Problems of International History
- 10 credits - Problems of World History

Optional modules

Choose one of the following 20 credit lists of modules:

- 20 credits - **Classical Political Thought (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/classical-political-thought.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Twentieth Century Russian Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/twentieth-century-russian-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to the European Union (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-european-union-history-politics-institutions.aspx)**
- 20 credits - Introduction to Media and Culture Society
- 20 credits - **Social Divisions (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/social-divisions.aspx)**

Modules in the second year

The second-year core course further develops your understanding of the discipline, introducing many new perspectives on international relations. As such, it is designed to develop your knowledge and theoretical understanding of this dynamic and changing field. In the second year you can also take a number of related courses within the department.

Compulsory core modules

- 20 credits - **Diplomatic History Post-1945 (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/diplomatic-history-post-1945.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **International Relations Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-relations-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Data Analysis and Research Design (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/data-analysis-research-design.aspx)**

Optional modules

Choose 60 credits from the following modules (where linked, both elements must be chosen), or choose 40 credits from the list and 20 credits of Modules outside the main discipline only with permission from the Undergraduate Director:

- 20 credits - **Comparative European Government (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/comparative-european-government.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Foundations of Modern Political and Social Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/foundations-modern-political-social-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Institutions and Policies of the European Union (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/institutions-politics-policies-european-union.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **International Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-political-economy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **International Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Modern Political Ideologies (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/modern-political-ideologies.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Political Analysis (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/political-analysis.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to American Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/introduction-american-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The International Politics of East Asia (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-politics-east-asia.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Political Economy of European Union Enlargement (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/political-economy-european-union-enlargement.aspx)**

- 20 credits - **Politics and Policy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/politics-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Introduction to Public Choice Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/introduction-public-choice-theory.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **International Politics and Security in Russia and Eurasia (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/international-politics-security-russia-eurasia.aspx)**

Year Abroad

In your third year you will register for the equivalent of 120 credits at the host institution. You will have to undertake and pass the assessment for 60 credits of the modules for which you are registered at the host institution. A Pass is required for progression to the 4th year of the programme. These credits will not contribute to the overall degree classification.

- 60 credits - **POLSIS year abroad (/schools/government-society/teaching/year-abroad.aspx)**

Modules in the final year

If you want to take advantage of a unique opportunity to be supported with a work placement opportunity as part of your final year, this course includes the opportunity to undertake a '**Professional Development (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)** ' module as part of your optional module choices.

In the third year you may take a range of options. These include:

Compulsory core modules

- 40 credits - **Dissertation (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/dissertation-polsis.aspx)**

Optional modules

Choose 80 credits from the following (where linked, both modules must be taken)

OR: Choose 60 credits from this section plus 20 credits from Modules outside the main discipline. Any module not listed below but available in the Department or as an Modules outside the main discipline will need approval from POLSIS.

- 20 credits - **Professional Development Module (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-us-foreign-security-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **International Ethics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/international-ethics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary International Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-international-political-economy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Controversies in Contemporary Democracies: Comparative Perspectives (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/controversies-contemporary-democracies-comparative-perspectives.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **European Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/european-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Democracy and Democratisation in Contemporary Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/democracy-democratisation-contemporary-europe.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Global Governance (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/global-governance.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **War Torn States and Post-Conflict Reconstruction in the South (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/war-torn-states-post-conflict-reconstruction-south.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Critical approaches to Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/critical-approaches-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Advanced Modern Asia (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-modern-asia.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Immigration and Citizenship in Western Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/immigration-citizenship-western-europe.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Devolution and the Politics of Territory in the European Union (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/devolution-politics-territory-european-union.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Europe in a Globalised World (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/europe-globalised-world.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Left Parties and Protest Movements (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/left-parties-protest-movements.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Diplomatic History of Arab-Israeli Conflict (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/diplomatic-history-arab-israeli-conflict.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Europe's Largest Economy - Germany in Comparative Perspective (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/europes-largest-economy-germany-comparative-perspective.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Gender in World Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/gender-world-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Advanced International Politics and Security in Russia and Eurasia (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-international-politics-security-russia-eurasia.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Advanced Cultural Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-cultural-politics-russia-eastern-europe.aspx)**
- 10 credits - **Political History of Central and Eastern Europe in the 20th Century (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/political-history-central-eastern-europe.aspx)**
- 10 credits - **'Returning to Europe': Nation, State and Europe in Post-Communist Central and Eastern Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/returning-to-europe.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Advanced Contemporary Russian and East European Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-contemporary-russian-east-european-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Politics and the Media (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/politics-media.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Politics and Prisons (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/politics-prisons.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Issues in American Domestic Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/issues-american-domestic-politics.aspx)**

Fees and funding

Standard fees (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/fees/standard) apply
Learn more about **fees and funding (/undergraduate/fees/loans.aspx)**

Scholarships
Learn more about our **scholarships and awards (/undergraduate/fees/funding/index.aspx)**

Entry requirements

Number of A levels required: 3

Typical offer: ABB

General Studies: not accepted

Additional information:

Other qualifications are considered – learn more about **entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements)**

International students:

International Baccalaureate Diploma: 34 points

Standard English language requirements apply
Learn more about **international entry requirements (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/requirements/international)**

Depending on your chosen course of study, you may also be interested in the Birmingham Foundation Academy, a specially structured programme for international students whose qualifications are not accepted for direct entry to UK universities. Further details can be found on the **foundation academy web pages (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/foundation-academy/Pathways/index.aspx)** .

How to apply

Apply through UCAS at **www.ucas.com (http://www.ucas.com/)** using code: **L25A**.
Learn more about **applying (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/ug/courses/apply)** .

University of Birmingham's UCAS code number is **B32**.

UCAS

The Universities and Colleges Admissions Service (UCAS) is a UK organisation responsible for managing applications to university and college.

UK, EU and international students applying for most undergraduate degree courses in the UK will need to apply through UCAS.

You submit an application via the **UCAS website (http://www.ucas.co.uk/)** with a list of up to five courses. All choices are confidential during the application process so universities and colleges considering an application cannot see your other choices. Applications must be completed by mid-January of the year that you wish to start university.

You can monitor the progress of your application using the **UCAS Apply (http://www.ucas.com/students/apply)** system.

Key Information Set (KIS)

Key Information Sets (KIS) are comparable sets of information about full- or part-time undergraduate courses and are designed to meet the information needs of prospective students.

All KIS information has been published on the Unistats website and can also be accessed via the small advert, or 'widget', below. On the **Unistats website (http://unistats.direct.gov.uk)** you are able to compare all the KIS data for each course with data for other courses.

The development of Key Information Sets (KIS) formed part of HEFCE's work to enhance the information that is available about higher education. They give you access to reliable and comparable information in order to help you make informed decisions about what and where to study.

The KIS contains information which prospective students have identified as useful, such as student satisfaction, graduate outcomes, learning and teaching activities, assessment methods, tuition fees and student finance, accommodation and professional accreditation.

Related links

International Relations BA flyer (/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/polsis/degrees/ba-international-relations.pdf)

POLSIS Undergraduate brochure (PDF 2MB) (/Documents/college-social-sciences/government-society/polsis/degrees/undergraduate-brochure.pdf)

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