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International Relations BA

Sometimes referred to as international studies, you do not have to look too far to find examples of how international relations impact our everyday lives. From international conventions on human rights; how environmental issues shape domestic legislation; or why the prospect of local military interventions can have an adverse impact on a global economy. The International Relations degree at Birmingham allows you to look at the role of states and organisations in an ever interconnected world.

88% of our students are satisfied with the quality of this course at Birmingham. Our students particularly enjoy the opportunities to hear from influential guest speakers about their lives in politics. Recent speakers have included Alistair Darling, David Miliband and John Bercow.

With 95% of students rating our course as intellectually stimulating and 98% of our students rated staff good at explaining things, there has never been a better time to study International Relations at Birmingham.

Unlike a distinct academic discipline, this course will enable you to gain an appreciation of how politics, history, geography, economics and law all require international co-operation if we are to resolve and effectively manage a wide range of problems on a global scale. It's no wonder our graduates go on to such diverse and successful careers.

This degree at Birmingham is ranked 3rd out of the Russell Group of UK universities. The Russell Group is committed to maintaining the very best research, an outstanding teaching and learning experience and unrivalled links with business and the public sector.

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

Study here and find out why the University of Birmingham has been awarded The Times and The Sunday Times University of the Year 2013-14 (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2013/09/20-sep-Birmingham-announced-as-University-of-the-Year.aspx)

Course fact file

UCAS code: L250

Duration: 3 years

Places Available: 215 across the department

Applications in 2012: 874

Typical Offer: ABB (**More detailed entry requirements and the international qualifications accepted can be found in the course details (?OpenSection=EntryRequirements)**)

Start date: September

Related courses

International Relations with Year Abroad BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx)

International Relations with Economics BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-economics.aspx)

International Relations with Economics with Year Abroad BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-economics-year-abroad.aspx)

International Relations with German BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-german.aspx)

International Relations with French BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-french.aspx)

International Relations with Spanish BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-spanish.aspx)

International Relations with Political Science BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-political-science.aspx)

International Relations with Political Science with Year Abroad BA (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-political-science-year-abroad.aspx)

Contact

Admissions Tutor

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School of Government and Society (/schools/government-society/index.aspx)

Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/index.aspx)

Details

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

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.

In addition to our Single Honours programme, International Relations can also be studied as part of a **Joint Honours option** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations.aspx?OpenSection=JointHonourCombinations) with Russian Studies.

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 with Year Abroad BA** (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations-year-abroad.aspx)
- **Joint honours combinations** (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/international-relations.aspx?OpenSection=JointHonourCombinations)

Why study this course

Students applying for the BA International Relations 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.

International Relations at Birmingham is ranked 3rd out of the Russell Group of UK Universities. 98% of our students rated staff good at explaining things and 95% of students rated our course as intellectually stimulating in the latest NSS survey. 85% of the research conducted in POLSIS was evaluated as being internationally recognised in the latest Research Assessment Exercise.

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 - **Understanding Politics** (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/understanding-politics.aspx)
- 20 credits - **Introduction to International Relations Theory** (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-international-relations-theory.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 Method in Social Sciences** (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/research-skills-literacy-philosophy-method-social-sciences.aspx)
- 10 credits - **End of Empire: Problems of International History** (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/end-empire.aspx)
- 10 credits - **Introduction to Problems of World History in the Twentieth Century** (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/introduction-problems-world-history-twentieth-century.aspx)

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 - **Social Divisions (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/social-divisions.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Sociology of Self and Everyday Life (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-one/sociology-self-everyday-life.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)**

Optional modules

Choose 80 credits from the following modules (where linked, both elements must be chosen), or choose 60 credits from the list and 20 credits of MOMDs only with permission from the Undergraduate Director:

- 20 credits - **Analysing Political Worlds (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/analysing-political-worlds.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Comparative European Government (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/comparative-european-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Data Analysis and Research Design (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/data-analysis-research-design.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Europeanization (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/europeanization.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Institutions, Politics 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 Thought (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/modern-political-thought.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 - **Politics and Policy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/politics-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Public Choice Theory (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-two/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)**

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):

- 20 credits - **Advanced Contemporary Russian and East European Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-contemporary-russian-east-european-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Advanced Cultural Politics of Russia and Eastern Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-cultural-politics-russia-eastern-europe.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 Modern Asia (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/advanced-modern-asia.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary International Political Economy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-international-political-economy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Contemporary US Foreign and Security Policy (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/contemporary-us-foreign-security-policy.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Controversies in Contemporary Democracies: Comparative Perspectives (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/controversies-contemporary-democracies.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Critical Approaches to Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/critical-approaches-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Democracy and Democratisation in Contemporary Europe (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/democracy-democratisation-contemporary-europe.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/diplomacy-arab-israeli-conflict.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Europe in a Globalised World (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/europe-globalised-world.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **European Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/european-security.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Gender in World Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/gender-world-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Global Capitalism and Migration (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/global-capitalism-migration.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Global Governance (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/global-governance.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Issues in American Domestic Politics (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/issues-american-domestic-politics.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **Left Parties and Protest Movements (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/left-parties-protest-movements.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Political Economy of Energy and Energy Security (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/political-economy-energy-security.aspx)**

- 20 credits - **Professional Development Module (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/professional-development.aspx)**
- 20 credits - **The Russian Economy: From Plan to Market (/undergraduate/courses/govsoc/modules/year-three/russian-economy-plan-market.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)**

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.

Fees and funding

Standard fees (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/fees.aspx) apply.
Learn more about **fees and funding (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/undergraduate/fees/index.aspx)**.

Home/EU students

Fee Band	Full-time	Part-time
Undergraduate (*registered during or after 2012-13 AY*)	£9,000	£4,500
Undergraduate (*registered before 2012-13 AY*)	£3,465	£1,725

Overseas students entering in 2015-16

Fee Band (Undergraduate)	Full-time
Band D (Classroom)	£13,195
Birmingham Foundation Academy	£13,500

Scholarships

At Birmingham we ensure that fears about finance do not constrain prospective students from considering university and that excellence is rewarded.

The University offers a range of additional financial support for students studying at Birmingham in the form of bursaries, grants and scholarships.

Learn more about our **scholarships and awards. (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/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: **L250**.
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.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. Get the latest Flash Player Get the latest version of QuickTime

Joint Honours combinations

You can study Political Science as part of a Joint Honours degree with the following subject:

- **Russian Studies and International Relations Joint Honours BA (/undergraduate/courses/jointhonours/russian-studies-and-international-relations.aspx)** (UCAS code: RL72)

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)

Learning and teaching

How will I be taught?

As a Birmingham student you are part of an academic elite and will learn from world-leading experts. From the outset you will be encouraged to become an independent and self-motivated learner. We want you to be challenged and will encourage you to think for yourself.

Teaching and learning in the Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) is based around three principles: student-centred, responding to individual needs, developing transferable skills and encouraging preparation for future careers; research-led, ensuring students are taught by experts in their field and prioritising 'learning by doing' to foster critical thinking and active enquiry; committed to social justice, concerned with issues of equality, inclusion, responsibility and reflexive awareness, and committed to an ideal of democratic decision-making – consulting all students about their learning experience.

Your learning will take place in a range of different settings, from scheduled teaching in lectures and small group tutorials, to self-study and peer group learning (for example preparing and delivering presentations with your classmates).

To begin with you may find this way of working challenging, but rest assured that we'll enable you to make this transition. You will have access to a comprehensive support system that will assist and encourage you, including personal tutors and welfare tutors who can help with both academic and welfare issues, and a **formal transition review (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** during your first year to check on your progress and offer you help for any particular areas where you need support.

Our Academic Skills Centre also offers you support with your learning. The centre is a place where you can develop your mathematical, academic writing and general academic skills. It is the centre's aim to help you to become a more effective and independent learner through the use of a range of high-quality and appropriate learning support services. These range from drop-in sessions with support with mathematics and statistics based problems provided by experienced mathematicians, to workshops on a range of topics including note talking, reading, writing and presentation skills.

More about **student experience at POLSIS (/schools/government-society/departments/political-science-international-studies/teaching/enhancing-student-experience/index.aspx)**

Personal Tutor

From the outset, you will be assigned your own Personal Tutor who will get to know you as you progress through your studies, providing academic and welfare advice, encouraging you and offering assistance in any areas you may feel you need extra support to make the most of your potential and your time here at Birmingham.

Contact hours

As well as time with your lecturers and personal tutor, academic and professional services staff (like our dedicated Careers Network team) will be avialable to offer

individual and group support throughout your time here at Birmingham.

Learning settings

This degree is taught by our internationally renowned Department of Political Science and International Studies (POLSIS) which is located in Muirhead Tower on own main Edgbaston campus.

Departments from across the School of Government and Society are all based within the recently refurbished Muirhead Tower. Following a £50million refurbishment, Muirhead Tower offers state-of-the-art teaching and research study facilities including free wifi throughout the building and dedicated study areas for postgraduate research students.

Muirhead Tower comprises 12,000sq.m of floor space between two towers. The tower includes a number of sustainable features including solar shading (known in the trade as brise soliel) to control temperatures, as well as low energy fans; timed lighting to reduce energy waste; natural ventilation systems and a heat source taken from the University's combined heat and power generator.

If you can see this message rather than a virtual tour then please click here to install the adobe flash player.
If you are still unable to view the virtual tour then you may need to enable javascript in your browser (click here for instructions).
If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at support@revolutionviewing.com

The space has been designed to create modern, attractive spaces for teaching and research accommodating 150 academic offices, 230 "hubs" for post graduate research students, teaching rooms for up to 100 people and a 200 seat lecture theatre.

Your lectures and teaching will take place in a variety of versatile lecture theatres and breakout rooms which have moved on a lot since the traditional whiteboard and pen. Our rooms are all equipped with wireless connection and constantly updated technology including all the audio-visual equipment that you would expect from one of the UK's premier insitutions.

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If you are still unable to view the virtual tour then you may need to enable javascript in your browser (click here for instructions).
If you are still experiencing problems then please email Revolution Viewing at support@revolutionviewing.com

Small-group tutorials/personal tutorials run alongside our lectures, addressing any individual problems you may have and allowing you to consolidate lecture material, as well as test your understanding through problem-solving exercises.

Self study is an essential part of the programme and requires self motivation and enthusiasm for your subject. It also allows you to pursue your own lines of enquiry and become an independent thinker.

Assessment methods

Studying at degree-level is likely to be very different from your previous experience of learning and teaching. You will be expected to think, discuss and engage critically with the subject and find things out for yourself. We will enable you to make this **transition to a new style of learning (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** , and the way that you are assessed during your studies will help you develop the essential skills you need to make a success of your time at Birmingham.

You'll be assessed in a variety of ways, and these may be different with each module that you take. You will be assessed through coursework which may take the form of essays, group and individual presentations, laboratory-based work (depending on your chosen degree) and formal exams.

During your first year you will undergo a **formal 'transition' review (https://intranet.birmingham.ac.uk/student/transitionreview/index.aspx)** to see how you are getting on and if there are particular areas where you need support. This is in addition to the personal tutor who is based in your school or department and can help with any academic issues you encounter.

At the beginning of each module, you'll be given information on how and when you'll be assessed for that particular programme of study. You'll receive feedback on each assessment within four weeks, so that you can learn from and build on what you have done. You'll be given feedback on any exams that you take; if you should fail an exam we will ensure that particularly detailed feedback is made available to enable you to learn for the future.

Employability

The average starting salaries for our graduates is £21,000 (KiS 2013) with 95% of our graduates going on to work or undertake further study after graduation (KiS 2013)

Preparation for your career should be one of the first things you think about as you start university. Whether you have a clear idea of where your future aspirations lie or want to consider the broad range of opportunities available once you have a Birmingham degree, our **Careers Network (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/careers-network.aspx)** can help you achieve your goal.

Our unique careers guidance service is tailored to your academic subject area, offering a specialised team (in each of the five academic colleges) who can give you expert advice. Our team source exclusive **work experience opportunities (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/work-experience.aspx)** to help you stand out amongst the competition, with **mentoring (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/mentoring/index.aspx)**, **global internships (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/generic/internships/index.aspx)** and placements available to you. Once you have a career in your sights, one-to-one support with CV's and job applications will help give you the edge. In addition, our employer-endorsed award-winning **Personal Skills Award (PSA) (http://www.birmingham.ac.uk/students/careers/psa.aspx)** recognises your extra-curricular activities, and provides an accredited employability programme designed to improve your career prospects.

We also offer voluntary work which complements your studies by helping you gain practical experiences in occupational settings while contributing back to society. This can bring new skills that will be useful throughout your future and can make a positive impact on your learning whilst at university. Volunteering enables you to develop skills such as communication, interpersonal skills, teamwork, self-confidence and self-discipline all of which can be transferred into your studies.

Your Birmingham degree is evidence of your ability to succeed in a demanding academic environment. Employers target Birmingham students for their drive, diversity, communication and problem-solving skills, their team-working abilities and cultural awareness, and our graduate employment statistics have continued to climb at a rate well above national trends. If you make the most of the wide range of services you will be able to develop your career from the moment you arrive.

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.

Career opportunities

Our graduates enter a variety of careers in international and non-governmental organisations, teaching, the media, the Civil Service and business, as well as pursuing further postgraduate study.

Adobe Flash Player or QuickTime is required for video playback. Get the latest Flash Player Get the latest version of QuickTime

95% Students agreed staff are good at explaining things

BA (Hons) International Relations
Full time

To see more details and compare with other courses
Visit UNISTATS
Official data collected by HEFCE

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