

# Politics & International Relations



Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Welcome



There has never been a more urgent time to understand politics. With everything going on in the world, global politics is at a particularly volatile and uncertain moment.

At Royal Holloway, we and our students use cutting-edge tools to get underneath how power works today: when does protest work? How can we address pressing public policy issues to do with the environment and global health? How do we think about the legacy of colonialism? What are our rights, and how do we defend them?

Here, we think the point of a degree is to help students come to their own view on these questions. We are a diverse department, but small enough that we can help our students find out about what they want to study.

We have a broad curriculum with a range of options, meaning that you can tailor your studies to fit your own interests. As a student here, you'll enjoy a supportive learning environment and be taught by internationally recognised experts in their fields.

## **Professor Laura Sjoberg**

Head of Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
**in the UK**  
**for research overall**

*(THE, REF Institutions ranked by subject, 2022)*

**30**  
**More than 30 optional modules**  
**to choose from in your third year**

*(Undergraduate Politics degrees, 2022)*



## **Contact details**

### **Course enquiries**

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### **General enquiries**

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### **Connect with us**

 @RHULpir  
[royalholloway.ac.uk/politicsandir](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/politicsandir)

# Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway

We are a dynamic, research-led teaching department with a curriculum that includes specialist modules across the whole range of the discipline. We cover traditional areas of British politics, EU institutions, and international political economy, as well as new areas of enquiry such as human security, development politics, political protest, migration and refugee studies, the role of new media in politics, and more. We also offer modules in the politics and international relations of Africa, south Asia, the Middle East, China, and both US domestic politics and foreign policy.

- We teach an advanced and internationally-focused curriculum, taught by specialists who are renowned experts in their fields.
- We have an internationally diverse and active student community.
- We offer a dedicated support network, including Personal Advisors and student Peer Guides.
- We offer you a work-placement scheme, 'Politics in Action', which forms part of the degree course..
- You will also benefit from University of London resources, including the Senate House Library in central London.
- You will graduate with a highly valued University of London degree.
- Part of the School of Law and Social Sciences, focusing on social inquiry, democracy, justice, human rights and economic development.



Students on a trip to Runnymede.



# Choosing your degree

We offer a wide variety of single, joint, and combined honours courses that allow you to study politics and international relations alongside Economics, Law, History, Modern Languages, and Philosophy.

Our first year programme consists of a common core of four year-long modules taken by students on the BA Politics, BA International Relations, and BA Politics & International Relations degrees. This allows students on one of these degrees to switch to one of the others at the end of their first year and vary the study of politics and international relations in their second and third years. Students on Combined Honours or Joint Honours degrees will take one or two of our first year modules as appropriate.

Modules become more specialised in the second and third years and your freedom to shape your degree course increases as well. The third year programme comprises research-led modules on subjects that reflect the research specialisms of our staff.

With the exception of the BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations, all our degrees include a compulsory final year dissertation, written on a topic of your choice and developed through independent research working one-to-one with an academic supervisor. Single and Joint Honours students are also eligible for our final year work-placement module, 'Politics in Action'.

For details of current module options and our entry requirements, please see our website.

DEGREES	UCAS code
<b>BA International Relations</b>	LF50
<b>BA Politics</b>	L200
<b>BA Politics and International Relations</b>	L290
<b>POLITICS AS A MAJOR SUBJECT</b>	
<b>BA Politics with Philosophy</b>	L2V5
<b>JOINT DEGREES</b>	
<b>BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations</b>	LL12
<b>BA History, Politics and International Relations</b>	VLN1
<b>BA Politics, International Relations &amp; Modern Languages (French)</b>	LR21
<b>BA Politics, International Relations &amp; Modern Languages (German)</b>	LR22
<b>BA Politics, International Relations &amp; Modern Languages (Italian)</b>	LR23
<b>BA Politics, International Relations &amp; Modern Languages (Spanish)</b>	LR24
<b>BA Politics and International Relations &amp; Philosophy</b>	LV25
<b>BA Politics, Philosophy &amp; Economics (PPE)</b>	LOV0
<b>BA Politics &amp; Law*</b>	LM21
<b>POLITICS OR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A MINOR SUBJECT</b>	
<b>BSc (Econ) Economics with Political Studies</b>	L1L2
<b>BA Modern Languages with International Relations</b>	R9L2
<b>BA Music with Political Studies</b>	W3L2
<b>BA Philosophy with International Relations</b>	V5L2
<b>BA Philosophy with Politics</b>	V5L9
<b>LLB Law with Politics*</b>	M1L2
<b>LLB Law with International Relations*</b>	MF50

\*Available with a Year in Industry

# Studying here

## Research events

Students are welcome to be part of the department's weekly research seminar, which includes internal and external speakers presenting advanced research on topics across the discipline, as well as the many workshops, conferences, public lectures, and roundtable debates organised by our research centres. Our research centres include the Global Politics and Development Centre, the Centre for European Politics and our Gender Institute.

## Study abroad opportunities and optional placement year

Undergraduate students on most degrees have the opportunity to apply for study abroad, either by going abroad in the second year of their three year degree or by changing to a four year degree 'with an International Year' and going abroad in their third year. The Study Abroad programme greatly broadens students' horizons and cultural understandings. Students can study at one of the many universities with which we have exchange agreements.

A year abroad is an integral part of the BA Politics, International Relations & Modern Languages programme. Students are expected to spend their third year in a European country appropriate to their main language—students who have taken two languages may divide the year between the two countries—and have the opportunities to study at one of our partner universities and/or pursue an approved work placement.

You will also have the opportunity to take an additional Placement Year, which can be spent studying abroad, working, carrying out voluntary work or a combination of all three.

## Facilities

The Department is based right in the centre of campus and the beautiful and historic Founder's Building, which is also home to the famous Picture Gallery containing Thomas Holloway's fine collection of Victorian paintings and our beautiful chapel. It also houses a dining hall and provides a home for 500 students.

Directly across from Founder's is Royal Holloway's modern Emily Wilding Davison Building, which includes the main library on campus, open 24/7, holding over 400,000 books and providing a wide variety of spaces for individual and group study. Student Services and the Careers & Employability Service are also based in the building, along with the Union Shop. In addition to on-campus library facilities, students have borrowing privileges and full remote access to all the electronic resources available from the University of London's Senate House Library, which houses some 14 million items.



# Student life

## A diverse student body

The department is diverse, with undergraduate students from all over the world and an international cohort of postgraduate and research students.

## Student societies

Every student in the department is invited to become a member of the Politics and International Relations Society (PIRSoc), one of the most active student societies on campus. PIRSoc organises a variety of social events, debates, international trips and visiting-speaker talks. The society also organises one of the most successful National Model UN (NMUN) teams in the world, each year recruiting students from all departments

to compete in the NMUN conference in New York. Royal Holloway's students have won many individual and delegation awards, including Outstanding or Distinguished Delegation Awards, making them one of the most successful teams at these events over the last decade.

Students in the department also spearheaded the creation of a Diplomatic Society (DipSoc). It organises debates, visiting speaker events, and trips to London embassies and other institutions such as NATO headquarters in Brussels. It has also sent teams to Model UN competitions in the UK, Europe and Harvard University in the USA.



"I chose to study here because of the range of courses available within the PIR Department and all the positive reviews from students. Staff are incredibly supportive, approachable and always happy to help.

The department offers a range of activities such as student-staff socials, careers events and opportunities such as NMUN which provide invaluable insight for the future. The student experience at Royal Holloway is second to none!"

**Marwa Ahmadi**  
**NMUN Head Delegate**  
BA International Relations



National Model United Nations delegation

# Your future career

Our courses embed a wide range of important transferable skills that enable our students to approach problems rigorously, analytically, and critically, and to communicate clearly in both speech and writing. Our graduates leave with skills and knowledge that not only make them attractive to employers in a broad spectrum of careers, but prepare them for further advanced study.

We work with the College's dedicated Careers Service to enhance our students' employability and prepare them for the choices ahead.

Volunteering is one of the best extra-curricular activities you can take part in at University, whether you want to develop your own skills, try out future career paths, meet likeminded people or make a genuine difference in the local community.

We also stay well-connected with many of our graduates and have an extensive network of alumni. Many of them return to Royal Holloway for alumni events and offer valuable career advice to current students.

Our graduates work in a range of careers including public affairs, political organisations, journalism, international development, law and charities.

Roles include Ministry of Justice Fast Stream, political analyst at merchant banks, Foreign Office Fast Stream and graduate entry into a wide array of large companies.

**Our graduates have found work for the House of Commons, Unilever, the Ministry of Defence, Amazon, Nestle, Ipsos MORI and MPs' offices**



“I had the opportunity to apply for a placement in a Member of Parliament's office through the Politics in Action module so thought I'd give it a go and succeeded. The role is so varied, one minute I could be drafting parliamentary questions and next, even though it was done remotely, sitting in meetings with stakeholders.

At university we're grappling with new topics every week, conducting research for essays, writing those essays - all these things create transferable skills that are the responsibilities in many jobs.”

**Chloe**  
BA Politics and International Relations

This brochure was produced in January 2023 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



## **Royal Holloway, University of London**

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

### **Visit us to find out more**

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at [Royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)

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