

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
Politics and Law (BA) (LM21)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the University's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in BA Politics and Law is delivered in three stages with a combination of mandatory modules and a range of optional modules. Your degree courses at Royal Holloway, University of London, will be delivered over three years, each of which normally involves modules to the value of 120 credits (which is equivalent to 60 ECTS credits¹).

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

¹ The European Credit Transfer and Accumulation System (ECTS) is a learner-centred system for credit accumulation and transfer. ECTS credits reflect the total workload required to achieve defined learning outcomes and their associated workload, including teaching hours and guided independent study. 15 UK credits is equivalent to 7.5 ECTS. 30 UK credits is equivalent to 15 ECTS. Further details on ECTS can be found within the [ECTS User Guide 2015](#).

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	March 2024	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Politics and Law	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3411	UCAS code	LM21
Year of entry	2027/28	Language(s) of Tuition	English
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department	Politics, International Relations & Philosophy	Other departments involved in teaching the course	Royal Holloway Law School
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the course	3 years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 – Degree course structure					
3.1 Mandatory module information					
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study					
Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
1	LL1001	Public Law (Constitutional, Administrative & Human Rights)	30	4	MC
1	LL1005	The English Legal System	15	4	MC
1	LL1006	Professional and Legal Skills	15	4	MC
1	PR1400	Introduction to Politics and Government	30	4	MNC
1	PR1500	Introduction to International Relations	30	4	MNC
2	LL2003	International and Comparative Human Rights Law	30	5	MC
2	LL2005	Public International Law	30	5	MC
3	LL3001	European Union Law	30	6	MC
3	LL3007	Jurisprudence	30	6	MC
This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'. In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.					
3.2 Optional modules					

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example, where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.

In stage two, in addition to your mandatory modules, you must choose 60 credits worth of modules from available Departmental Stage Two modules in the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy. In stage three, in addition to your mandatory modules, you must choose at least 60 credits worth of modules from available Departmental Stage Three modules in the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy.

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses are required to pass a non credit bearing Moodle-based writing skills quiz (SS1000) in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [Academic Taught Regulations](#) but fail to pass the SS1000 module will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

- to provide students with a systematic understanding and knowledge of Politics at all levels and in all its forms;
- to provide an intellectually exacting and stimulating learning experience in social and political science for students from a wide variety of backgrounds, some of whom will be studying it for the first time;
- to give students the knowledge and understanding of social and political science that will enable them to use its distinctive concepts and approaches, whilst maintaining a reflexive awareness of their contested nature and the problems associated with them;
- to provide a sound and extensive knowledge in the foundations and content of the law of England and Wales;
- to provide a sound and extensive knowledge in the foundations and content of international law;
- to engage students in the process of reading and analysing legal texts, to develop independent thinking and judgement regarding sources of law and how it is made and developed;
- to encourage students to appreciate broader international and comparative perspectives of law;
- to promote critical dialogue on the role of law within a modern societal context and an appreciation of its continuing social and political importance;
- to offer a learning framework that will assist students in gaining those cognitive and social skills that will be part of their intellectual, vocational and personal development, and encourage them to achieve their full potential;
- to foster the intellectual development of students and, in particular, to encourage their capacity for critical analysis and independent thought both as a worthwhile educational goal in its own right and to provide employers with highly skilled and motivated graduates;
- to develop key legal communication skills;
- to develop legal research skills and e-resource search and IT techniques; and
- to provide a curriculum that draws on recent staff scholarship and a broader research culture of intellectual enquiry and debate.

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (*Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)*)

Theme	Course learning outcome	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Knowledge and understanding	Demonstrate understanding of developments in political science.	Demonstrate introductory knowledge of Politics.	Demonstrate knowledge of Politics.	Apply demonstrable knowledge of Politics.
	Demonstrate principal theories of Politics and Law.	Demonstrate a knowledge of classical theories in Politics and international relations.	Demonstrate growth of theoretical knowledge of Politics.	Apply advanced theoretical or comparative knowledge of Politics.
	Acquire knowledge of the concepts, value and rules operating in the foundation and specialist areas of the	Develop knowledge of the English Legal System.	Demonstrate growth of knowledge of Law in England and Wales.	Apply advance theoretical and comparative knowledge of Law.

	English Legal System and develop an appreciation of the wider role of Law in society.		Engage with International and European legal systems.	
Application of theories	Apply theories in Politics to new cases.	Apply theory at an introductory level in Politics.	Apply theory at more advanced level in Politics.	Apply theory at the highest level for an understanding of new cases in Politics.
	Using theory, assess the merits of new developments in Politics and Law.	Apply theory at an introductory level in Law.	Understand the relationship between Law and society.	Apply Law to reflect on contemporary legal challenges.
Knowledge of Methods	Develop legal problem-solving techniques.	Communicate analysis of material at a basic level in Law.	Apply the Law to solve problem-based scenarios.	Communicate the Law, its application, and potential limitations to address contemporary legal challenges.
	Gather, interpret, and communicate a range of material for political analysis.	Communicate analysis of material at a basic level in Politics.	Communicate analysis of material at a more advance level in Politics.	Gather, interpret, and communicate a range of material at an advanced level in Politics.
Skills for Learning	Gain skills to explore novel questions in Politics and Law.	Knowledge to explore basic topics in Politics or Law.	Knowledge to explore more advanced topics in Politics and Law.	Exploration of topics at the most advanced level in Politics or Law.
	To take responsibility for one's own learning in Politics and Law	Improve independent learning in Politics and Law.	Gaining more advanced academic study skills in Politics and Law.	Achieving skills for analysis and writing at the highest level in Politics and Law.
	Learn how to work collaboratively with others or autonomously.	A taste of experience in working with others or alone.	Enhancing the ability to work alone or with others.	Mastering the ability to work alone or with others.
Transferrable Professional Skills	Recognise current issues in Politics and the Law that are of use in public service, the media, the voluntary sector, or NGOs.	Learning to recognise political or legal questions of importance.	Enhancing capacity to analyse political and legal questions of importance that can be deployed in the workplace.	Mastering the capacity to analyse political or legal questions of importance of use in public service, the Law, the media, the voluntary sector, or NGOs.
	Learn to write analytical work on current issues in Politics or the Law.	Development of writing skills in political and legal affairs.	Enhancing the capacity to write analytical work on Politics or the Law.	Mastering the capacity to write analytical work in Politics or the Law.

	Deploy theoretical or legal skills in the workplace.	Development of thinking about theory in Politics or Law.	Enhancing the understanding of theory for application in the workplace.	Successful deployment of theoretical or methods-based skills in the workplace.
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of Politics and Law. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein.

Teaching and learning is mostly by means of lectures, seminars, coursework/essay, oral presentations and guided independent study. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal examinations, coursework, examined essays, oral presentations and the optional dissertation. In addition, students may be involved in workshops and may produce various forms of creative work. The course is informed by national standards of legal education, and good practice across the legal higher educational sector. It includes elements of problem-based learning and encourages students to develop their own independent learning skills and reflective learning practice.

Students are expected to be active partners in their studies with shared responsibilities for their learning and achievement. The course is designed to meet the academic needs of the students, and to producing students who engage fully with the intellectual challenges of undertaking a degree in Politics and Law. The course focuses on developing key (transferable) skills outcomes relevant both to the specific modules and to the overall Politics and Law course as a whole, encompassing both classroom-based teaching methods such as traditional seminars and lectures, and also directed independent study.

Full details of the module and assessments for individual modules can be obtained on the department [webpage](#) and more specific information is listed in the student handbook.

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed.

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Royal Holloway Curriculum Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies.

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards

QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level

4-6

Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.

QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)

<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements>

Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)

You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.

Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College

