

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes the **Joint Honours Degree programmes in History and International Relations**. For Joint and Combined Honours Degree programmes, please also refer to the equivalent document(s) for the other subject(s). This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2007**.

The Joint Degree's principal aim is to allow students to pursue the study of International Relations alongside that of History, placing International Relations in an international historical context as well as achieving an understanding of historical developments enhanced by the insights provided through the study of International Relations and its more significant theoretical frameworks. In meeting this principal aim the programme also:

- Provides a systematic understanding and knowledge of International Relations theory and institutions in an historical context;
- Encourages a critical awareness of current problems at the international level, in terms of both their contemporary complexities and their historical bases;
- Provides theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in History and International Relations and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in the fields;
- Fosters an independent learning ability for continued intellectual development;
- Provides an opportunity for students to obtain an undergraduate qualification in History and International Relations.

The programme is normally delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which the student must follow courses to the value of four units (one unit is equivalent to 30 national credits). The programme comprises 'core' disciplinary courses, including a compulsory stage one common to all degree programmes in the departments, and 'optional' specialist courses, with an extended essay in the final stage. Whilst the development of disciplinary-specific skills are emphasised in the 'core' courses, the specialist options provide focused opportunities to examine the application of these skills. Moreover, the multi-disciplinary common first year, and the opportunity to take courses offered in complementary disciplines gives a heightened appreciation of disciplinary distinctiveness.

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This document provides a summary of the main features of the programme(s), and of the outcomes which a student might reasonably be expected to achieve if full advantage is taken of the learning opportunities provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, the College Regulations and in various handbooks issued to students upon arrival. Whilst Royal Holloway keeps all its information for prospective applicants and students under review, programmes and the availability of individual courses are necessarily subject to change at any time, and prospective applicants are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect their decision to follow a specific programme. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform applicants and students as soon as is practicable of any substantial changes which might affect their studies.

Learning outcomes

Teaching and learning on the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff. In general terms, the programmes provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes:

Knowledge and Understanding

- Extensive knowledge and critical understanding of recent and current developments in the fields of History and International Relations, and of the issues and controversies associated with these developments.
- A sound knowledge of the theories, techniques and concepts used to further our understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with the fields of History and International Relations.
- A critical understanding of data relating to the fields of History and International Relations and of the results of analysis based thereon.

Skills and other attributes

The Programme is designed to allow students to acquire competence in the following range of discipline-specific and transferable (denoted with an asterisk*) skills:

- Assess the merits of theories, models and explanations in History and International Relations and situate them in a wider disciplinary context.
- Apply the concepts and methods used in History and International Relations to the analysis of the international political system and its institutions.
- Analyse qualitative and quantitative data relating to the fields of History and International Relations.
- Evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by historians and International Relations scholars.
- Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and assess their nature and value.
- Carry out an independent investigation of an international political and/or historical topic or issue and produce a coherent written account.
- Communicate complex ideas and present arguments and complex information in a clear and concise manner in writing.*
- Analyse and interpret complex issues, and develop reasoned arguments and make sound, critical judgements in the absence of complete data.*
- Use literature, internet and database searches to gain necessary information.*
- Develop the intellectual autonomy and self-direction needed for independent investigation of intellectual problems, taking responsibility for one's learning, and developing habits of reflection on that learning.*
- Exercise of initiative and personal responsibility.*
- Ability to take decisions in complex and uncertain situations.*
- The ability to work autonomously and collaboratively with other.*
- Self-awareness and self-management of research.*
- Awareness of one's responsibility as a local, national and international citizen.*
- Ability to learn independently and to take advantage of life-learning.*
- Skills of oral presentation.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching and Learning

Teaching and learning on the Programme draws on the methods and concepts used to investigate international political phenomena and to conduct historical scholarship. It is also very strongly informed by the current research interests of the teaching staff from the two departments contributing courses to the Programme. This is particularly the case with the 2nd and 3rd Year options, all of which are offered by staff based on their own individual research interests (fully consistent with the College's approach to Research led Teaching).

The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are: formal lectures by academic staff, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff led sessions and student participation (including presentations). There is also guided independent research and study for the 3rd Year Dissertation.

Assessment will be by a combination of assessed coursework and examination as indicated in individual Course Specifications. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department of History](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#).

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Details of the programme structure

Please note that the list of options offered is subject to change and not all courses run each year. A full list of courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department of History](#) and the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#).

Stage One

Students must take the following courses:

PR1500 Introduction to International Relations (1 unit)

HS1002 History and Meanings Part 1 (½ unit)

HS1280 British Social and Economic History 1945-97 (½ unit)

PLUS Two more units, one from each Department:

Either: HS1107 Republics, Kings and People: The Foundations of Modern Political Culture (1 unit)

Or: HS1109 Conflict and Identity in the Modern World from 1789 to the present (1 unit)

Or: HS1113 From Mao to Mandela: Twentieth-Century Political Leaders in the non-Western World (1 unit)

PLUS

Either: PR1520 Classic and Contemporary Readings in Politics and International Relations (1 unit)

Or: PR1600 Introduction to Research Methods in Politics and International Relations (1 unit)

Stage Two

Students must take the following courses:

PR2440 International Relations Theory (1 unit)

HS2300 Independent Essay (½ unit)

HS2209 International Economic Relations (½ unit)

Two Group 1 half-units from the available History options.

PLUS

One unit of courses from the available International Relations options.

Stage Three

Students must take the following courses:

EITHER

PR3000 Dissertation (1 unit)

PLUS courses from the available International Relations options equivalent to one full unit
and

One Group 3 taught course from the available History options (1 unit)

One Group 2 course from the available History options (1 unit)

OR

Two units of taught courses from the available International Relations options.

and

One Group 3 course (taught course and Dissertation) from the available History options (2 units)

In each year the options chosen must equal two full units from each 'side' (International Relations / History) of the Programme.

The optional course will vary from year to year and the full list of those available will be promulgated prior to the commencement of each academic session.

History and International Relations with an International Year (4 years)

Stage one:

As Stage one, listed above.

Stage two:

As Stage two, listed above.

Stage three, part 1 - Extra-curricular year:**

Students must take courses at an overseas university nominated through the Erasmus or Student Exchange Programmes. The equivalent of a full academic load at the overseas university must be taken. The courses to be taken overseas are to be agreed with the Tutor for International Studies in History. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit, HS3400. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

Stage three, part 2 – Final year in the History Department:

As Stage three, listed above. These courses will contribute 80% to the final stage three marks.

**Students commencing stage three, part 1 on this four year programme will not be permitted to transfer back to one of the three year programmes offered by the Department of History. The Department will give consideration in the case of extreme hardship, documented by extenuating circumstances and supporting material, as it normally would, should a student not be able to complete their year abroad.

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Progression and award requirements

The progression and award requirements are essentially the same across all Honours Degree programmes at Royal Holloway. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. On some programmes there may be a requirement to pass specific courses in order to progress to the next stage, or to qualify for a particular degree title. Progression through the programme is monitored through attendance and performance in coursework assignments and the completion and passing of courses each year. Students are considered for the award and classified on the basis of a weighted average. This is calculated from marks gained in courses taken in stages two and three, and gives twice the weighting to marks gained in stage three. In order to qualify for the award, students must gain a weighted average of at least 35%.

In addition, with effect from September 2010, all first year students on single, joint or combined honours programmes offered by the Department of History are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Merit are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. 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 [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: *Conditions for progression to the next stage*) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

To be awarded the degree of History and International Relations, students must complete all their stage one courses, HS2209 and PR2440 and the 3rd year dissertation (whether in History or International Relations).

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser in each department who meets with them in the induction week and then regularly through the programme. The tutor's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- All tutors and academic staff, including the Head of Department, are available for consultation at advertised office hours.
- The Departmental Academic Coordinator provides guidance and advice on a range of academic, administrative, pastoral and welfare matters.
- The Department operates an 'open door' policy such that any member of staff may be consulted by students.
- Induction programme to the Department and College for orientation at the start of the first year.
- Detailed and comprehensive Departmental Student Handbook.
- The Departmental Staff/Student Committee acts as a channel of communication between staff and students.
- Extensive supporting material and learning resources available from the College libraries. In addition students also have access to a wide range of resources available through other University of London libraries.
- College Careers Service and Departmental Careers Service liaison officer.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Education Support Unit for students with special needs.

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Admission requirements

The Department's standard conditional offer is available on the [Course Catalogue](#) web page. However, the Department also has considerable flexibility in its admissions and offers policy and strongly encourages applications from non-standard applicants. Students whose first language is not English may also be asked for a qualification in English Language at an appropriate level. It may also be helpful to contact the [Admissions Office](#) for specific guidance on the entrance requirements for particular programmes.

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Further learning and career opportunities

The programmes provide a firm foundation for postgraduate study and research, and some of the more successful graduates can expect to go on to postgraduate programmes in both Royal Holloway and elsewhere. The programmes also provide graduates with a range of intellectual, personal and social skills that are transferable to a wide variety of employment opportunities. Careers which will especially suit International Relations and History graduates include work in the civil service, local government, public and private sector management, political research and lobbying, teaching, and journalism and the media. Students on the programmes are able to take full advantage of the resources available at the College [Careers Service](#).

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Indicators of quality and standards

Royal Holloway's position as one of the UK's leading research-intensive institutions was confirmed by the results of the most recent Research Assessment Exercise (RAE 2008) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The new scoring system for the RAE 2008 measures research quality in four categories, with the top score of 4* indicating quality that is world-leading and of the highest standards in terms of originality, significance and rigour. 60% of the College's research profile is rated as world-leading or internationally excellent outperforming the national average of 50%. The College is ranked 16th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research.

In the 2008 RAE, 70% of the Politics and International Relations Department's research publications were judged to be in the top three categories, from 'internationally excellent' to 'world leading'. These results ranked the Department in ninth place among departments of politics and international relations with fewer than 20 staff and second place among departments with fewer than 15 staff. In the same research exercise, 90% of the History Department's research publications were judged to be in the top three categories, including 20% in the category of 'world leading'.

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List of programmes

The programme is taught entirely by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and leads to awards of the University of London. The programme in History and International Relations is not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in History and in International Relations describe the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in these subjects, and can therefore be used as a point of reference when reading this document (see www.qaa.ac.uk). UCAS codes are given in parentheses (see www.ucas.ac.uk).

Joint Honours Degree programme in History and International Relations

BA History and International Relations (VL12)

BA History and International Relations with an International Year (Banner code 2656)

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