

PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION

This document describes **Honours Degree programmes in Politics, Philosophy and Economics**. This specification is valid for new entrants from **September 2015**.

The aims of all Honours Degree programmes in Politics, Philosophy and Economics are:

- to provide a systematic understanding and knowledge of political theory and institutions;
- to expose students to a broad and coherent philosophical curriculum that draws on both the European and Anglo-American traditions;
- to provide training in the principles of economics and in their application appropriate to the type of degree concerned;
- to stimulate students intellectually through the study of philosophy, politics and economics, and to lead them to appreciate its application to a range of problems and its relevance in a variety of contexts;
- to encourage critical awareness of current political, philosophical and economic problems at both national and international levels;
- to provide theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in philosophy, politics and economics and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in these fields;
- to equip students with appropriate tools of analysis with which to tackle issues and problems of economic policy;
- to develop in students a range of transferable skills that will be of value in employment and self-employment;
- to provide students with the knowledge and skill base from which they can proceed to further studies in politics, philosophy, economics and related areas;
- to enable students to develop independent critical thinking and judgement by taking progressive responsibility for their own learning, concluding the process in the final year through the production of an extended piece of writing;
- to develop a friendly, stimulating, and supportive academic environment that encourages each student to strive to achieve their potential in the subjects studied;

The programme is 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). It provides progressive structures in which students are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. The programmes contain a combination of compulsory core courses to introduce students to the foundations of each of the disciplines of politics, philosophy and economics, with a range of stage two and three specialist options. In each case the structure encourages students, in stages two and three, to develop their own interests through informed choice among specialist options. In stage three all students are required to write a dissertation.

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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.

For students registered in or after September 2015

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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 in the programme are closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly with respect to advanced courses. 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 field of political science and international relations, and of the issues and controversies associated with these developments;
- a grounding in central theories in the fields of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics and philosophy of mind, as well as an informed awareness of topics that are of interest to philosophers working today;
- extensive knowledge and understanding of a coherent core of economic principles, and understanding of relevant mathematical and statistical techniques;
- knowledge of relevant analytical methods in economics and knowledge necessary to apply core economic theory and economic reasoning to applied topics;
- understanding required to analyse economic data;
- a sound knowledge of the theories, techniques and concepts used to further our understanding of the issues, processes and phenomena associated with the field of politics;
- a sound understanding of the principal approaches and current issues in a range of politics, philosophy and economics options taught during the second and third years of the programme;
- a grasp of the methodological and conceptual relations between the disciplines of politics, philosophy and economics;

Skills and other attributes

- ability to assess the merits of theories, models and explanations in politics, philosophy and economics and to situate them in a wider disciplinary context;
- ability to apply the concepts and methods used in politics, philosophy and economics;
- ability to evaluate current research and scholarship in the fields of politics, philosophy and economics, and to evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies and approaches employed in these disciplines;
- ability to carry out an independent investigation of a political, philosophical, and/or economic topic or issue and produce a coherent written account;
- an ability to summarise complex philosophical arguments and to present critical evaluations both orally and writing;
- abstraction (the ability to simplify while still retaining relevance);
- analysis and deduction (economic reasoning is highly deductive and logical analysis is applied to assumption based models);
- quantification (the organisation and presentation of economic data);
- framing and specification (the ability to decide what should be taken as given or fixed for the purposes of setting up and solving a problem);
- command of a wider vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology;*
- decision-making;*
- numeracy and computation;*
- ability to gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and assess their nature and value;*
- ability to communicate complex ideas and present arguments and complex information in a clear and concise manner in writing;*

- ability to analyse and interpret complex issues, and develop reasoned arguments and make sound, critical judgements in the absence of complete data;*
- ability to use literature, internet and database searches to gain necessary information;*
- the intellectual autonomy and self-direction needed for independent investigation of intellectual problems;*
- exercise of initiative and personal responsibility;*
- ability to work autonomously and collaboratively with others;*
- Self-awareness and self-management of research;*
- time management;*
- skills of oral presentation, including the ability to communicate and defend arguments to peers;*
- bibliographical skills appropriate to the subject including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work;*
- the capacity to evaluate and adjudicate between competing normative claims;*
- confidence in the planning and execution of essays and project-work.*

* transferable skills

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Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment methods subserve the programme aims by recognising the students' expanding knowledge and command of correlated skills as they progress from stage 1 to stage 3 and both acknowledging and encouraging their increased intellectual independence. Teaching and learning on the programme draws on the methods and concepts used to investigate political, philosophical and economic issues, and are also strongly informed by the current research interests of the core teaching team. The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are formal lectures, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff-led sessions and student presentations.

Assessment is by a combination of assessed coursework and examination, as indicated in individual course specifications. The aim through the programme is to use a variety of different assessments (essays, examinations, other set coursework, presentations) to gauge the performance of students in as comprehensive a way as possible. There is a compulsory dissertation unit in the final year assesses students on the basis of their organization and management of student-led seminars, as well as on a final 10,000 word dissertation produced through independent research. Throughout the duration of the programme the required word lengths for coursework are gradually increased. This allows for student development and for their increased ability to articulate their knowledge, understanding of text and their arguments at a more advanced level. Full details of assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#), the [Department of Economics](#) and the [Royal Holloway Philosophy Team](#).

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Details of the programme structure(s)

Please note that not all courses run each year. A full list of courses including optional courses for the current academic year can be obtained from the [Department of Politics and International Relations](#), the [Department of Economics](#) and the [Royal Holloway Philosophy Team](#).

Stage one:

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

EC1101: Principles of Economics (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

EC1102: Quantitative Methods of Economics (1 unit)

PR1400: Introduction to Politics and Government (1 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

PY1101: Epistemology and Metaphysics (0.5 unit) [**Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**]

EC1101, PR1400 and PY1101 must be passed in order to progress to the next stage.

and choose a further 0.5 unit from PY1103 Introduction to Logic (0.5 unit), PY1105 Mind and Consciousness (0.5 unit), or PY1106 Introduction to Aesthetics and Morals (0.5 unit)

Stage two:

Students must take the following **mandatory** courses:

PY2001: Introduction to European Philosophy 1: From Kant to Hegel (0.5 units)

PY2002: Mind and World (0.5 units)

and students must choose **at least one, and no more than two** units from available courses in each discipline of politics, philosophy and economics, for a total of four course units for the year.

Please note, as part of their second year philosophy programme Economics courses are limited to:

EC2201: Microeconomics (1 unit)

EC2202: Macroeconomics (1 unit)

Stage three:

Students must take the following **mandatory** course:

PE3000: Advanced Seminar and Dissertation in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (1 unit) **[Non-condonable fail – must be passed in order to qualify for the degree]**

PE3000 must be passed in order to qualify for the degree.

and a further three units of courses from available options in politics, philosophy and economics. Students may concentrate their choices on courses from one of the disciplines, but must take courses from at least two of the three, and must take courses so as to ensure that they may pass the minimum number of courses in each discipline (detailed in Progression and Award Requirements below) required to complete the degree. Choices in Economics are subject to the following conditions:

1) Students can take third year Economics courses **ONLY** if they have taken and passed both EC2201 and EC2202 in year 2.

2) Students who have taken only EC2201 or EC2202 in year 2 may only take the other course in year 3.

Courses from other Departments

Students may be permitted to take courses offered by other departments, but only if these courses are consistent with the aims and objectives of the PPE programme and with the permission of the PPE Programme Director.

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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 as outlined in the College's Undergraduate Regulations. Students must pass units to the value of at least three units on each stage of the programme. Failing marks of 30 – 39% can normally be condoned in up to 30 credits across stages 1 and 2. In the final stage failing marks in up to 30 credits can normally be condoned. However, 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 and this will put restrictions on courses in which failing marks can be condoned (see programme structure above for details). Additionally there are requirements on the number of courses that must be passed in order to qualify for particular joint or combined Honours degrees.

All first year students on single joint or combined honours programmes offered all or in part by departments or schools in the Faculty of Arts & Social Science 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 Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no

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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.

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. The College's Undergraduate Regulations include full details on progression and award requirements for all undergraduate programmes offered by the College.

Students must pass EC1101, PR1400, and PY1101 to progress to stage 2 of the degree. Students must pass at least three units of Economics courses, at least two units of Politics, and at least two units of Philosophy courses over the duration of their degree. Students must also pass PE3000.

Depending on course selections and achievement, students who meet the minimum College requirements for award of degree will exit with one of the following degree titles.

- 1) Students who pass at least two units worth of dedicated third year Economics courses will graduate with a **BSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics**.
- 2) Students who pass dedicated third year Economics courses of at least 0.5 units but less than two units will graduate with a **BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics**.
- 3) Students who do not pass any third year Economics courses will graduate with a **BA Politics and Philosophy with Economics**.

Students who do not achieve the required degree-specific minimums for any of these awards may be eligible for another degree award, such as a BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations or BA Philosophy, Politics and International Relations, albeit at an ordinary rather than honours degree level, and subject to consideration by the appropriate Examinations Sub-Board.

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Student support and guidance

- Personal Advisers: All students are allocated a personal adviser who is available to meet with them regularly through the programme. The adviser's role is to advise on academic, pastoral and welfare issues.
- All tutors and academic staff, including the Heads of the Politics and International Relations Department and the Economics Department, and the PPE Programme Director, are available for consultation at advertised office hours.
- The Departmental Academic Coordinators for each Department provide guidance and advice on a range of academic, administrative, pastoral and welfare matters. There is also a PPE Programme Coordinator.
- An induction programme to the Departments and the College for orientation at the start of the first year.
- Detailed student handbook and course resources: there are detailed and comprehensive Departmental Student Handbooks, and course resources usually include resources on the College's virtual learning environment (VLE) system, Moodle.
- Representation on the Student-Staff Committee: the Departmental Staff/Student Committees act as a channel of communication between staff and students. Issues relating to specific courses should be raised with the Staff/Student Committee in the Department in question. More general programme issues will be relayed to the PPE Programme Coordinator or Heads of Department as appropriate.
- There are extensive supporting materials and learning resources in College libraries and Computer Centre. In addition, students also have access to a wide range of resources available from other University of London libraries, particularly Senate House Library.
- College Careers and Employability Service and Departmental Careers and Employability Tutor.
- Access to all College and University support services, including Student Counselling Service, Health Centre and the Disability and Dyslexia Services for students with disabilities and Specific Learning Difficulties.

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Admission requirements

Details of the Department's typical offer for each programme of study is available on the [Course Finder](#) web page. However, the Department also has 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. For further guidance it may be helpful to contact the [Recruitment and Partnerships Office](#).

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Further learning and career opportunities

Students who graduate with good results from Politics, Philosophy and Economics degrees can find routes to a wide range of professions, as well as continuation onto Postgraduate studies. For further details please refer to the [Careers & Employability 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 Excellence Framework (REF 2014) conducted by the Higher Education Funding Council (HEFCE). The scoring system for the REF 2014 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 and 3* indicating research that is internationally excellent. 81% of the College's research profile was deemed to be within the 4* or 3* categories, an increase of over 20% since 2008. This result placed Royal Holloway 31st overall in the UK for 4* and 3* research and 33rd based on an overall Grade Point Average (GPA) score.

The Department of Politics and International Relations is ranked 37th in the UK for research of 4* standard and 18th for 3* and 4* research.

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List of programmes

All the programmes are taught by staff at Royal Holloway, University of London, and lead to awards of the University of London. Programmes in Politics, Philosophy and Economics are not subject to accreditation by a professional body. The QAA subject benchmark statements in each subject area describe the general features which one might expect from Honours Degree programmes in the subject, 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).

Degree programmes in Politics, Philosophy and Economics

There is a single degree programme in Politics, Philosophy and Economics (LoVo) with the following possible exit awards.

BSc Politics, Philosophy and Economics
BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics
BA Politics and Philosophy with Economics

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