

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations (LL12)

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 College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

Your degree course in Economics, Politics and International Relations is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. The curriculum is based around a core of mandatory modules. Stage one provides a foundation for the later stages through a grounding in mathematical and statistical techniques, and in contemporary micro and macroeconomics, and some experience of the application of mathematics to formal economic argument. In stage two, you develop your core economic knowledge further and use increasingly sophisticated analytic methods. For those of you studying Single Honours and some Combined Honours Degree courses with Economics as a major component you also develop your statistical and econometric skills further at this stage. In stage three, you have the option to research and write an extended essay. You also select specialist options which provide the opportunity to learn how the general theory and methods you have acquired can be applied in areas which are of specific interest to you.

For joint and combined honours courses, please refer to the course specification for your secondary department's corresponding single honours course for further information on educational aims, and learning outcomes.

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 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.

| Section 2 – Course details | | | |
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| Date of specification update | May 2021 | Location of study | Egham Campus |
| Course award and title | BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations | Level of study | Undergraduate |
| Course code | 2357 | UCAS code | LL12 |
| Year of entry | 2021/22 | | |
| Awarding body | Royal Holloway, University of London | | |
| Department or school | Economics | Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course | Politics, International Relations and Philosophy |
| Mode(s) of attendance | Full-time | Duration of the course | Three years |
| Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s) | On completion of the course you may be able to apply for certain CIMA exemptions. | | |
| Link to Coursefinder for further information: | https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/ | For queries on admissions: | study@royalholloway.ac.uk . |

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 | Contact hours* | Self-study hours | Written exams** | Practical assessment** | Coursework** | Credits | FHEQ level | Module status (see below) |
|------|-------------|---|----------------|------------------|-----------------|------------------------|--------------|---------|------------|---------------------------|
| 1 | EC1101 | Principles of Economics | 79 | 221 | 60% | 0 | 40% | 30 | 4 | MNC |
| 1 | EC1108 | Data Skills for Economists | 136 | 164 | 80% | 0 | 20% | 30 | 4 | MNC |
| 1 | EC1220 | Introduction to Mathematics for Economics | 10 | 65 | 100% | 0 | 0% | 0 | 4 | MNC |
| 1 | EC1107 | Employability 1 | 5 | 45 | 0 | 0 | 100% | 0 | 4 | MNC |
| 1 | PR1400 | Introduction to Politics | 40 | 260 | 40% | 0 | 60% | 30 | 4 | MC |
| 1 | PR1500 | Introduction to International Relations | 40 | 260 | 50% | 0 | 50% | 30 | 4 | MC |
| 2 | EC2202 | Macroeconomics | 76 | 224 | 80% | 0 | 20% | 30 | 5 | MNC |
| 2 | EC2201 | Microeconomics OR | 133 | 167 | 60% | 0 | 40% | 30 | 5 | MNC |
| | EC2501 | Microeconomics A | 78 | 222 | 60% | 0 | 40% | 30 | 5 | MNC |
| 2 | EC2107 | Employability 2 | 8 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 100% | 0 | 5 | MNC |
| 3 | EC3107 | Employability 3 | 8 | 42 | 0 | 0 | 100% | 0 | 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.

*Contact hours come in various different 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, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it 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. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional modules that are likely to be available. However, not all may be available every year. 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, so it is important that this specification is read alongside your department's Student Handbook, which you can access via the Economics webpage or the Politics and International Relations [webpage](#).

| Year 1 | Year 2 | Year 3 |
|--------|---|---|
| None | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Political Communication | EC3315: Economics: Understanding Financial Crises |
| | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Political Theory | EC3113 Economics: Industrial Economics 1 |
| | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring International Relations | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring International Relations |
| | | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Political Theory |
| | | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Comparative Politic |
| | | Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Political Communication |

3.3 Optional module requirements

In stage 2 you must take 60 credits of options from the 2nd year options offered by the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy
 In stage 3 you must take 60 credits of options from the 3rd year options offered by the Department of Economics and 60 credits from the 3rd year options offered by the Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy. EC3400 Extended Essay is subject to the successful completion of a preliminary report being submitted at the end of the autumn term. Those failing this will be asked to complete two additional 15 credit modules in the spring term.

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](#).

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy 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 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.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to provide training in the principles of economics and their application appropriate to the type of degree concerned;
- to stimulate students intellectually through the study of economics and to lead them to appreciate its application to a range of problems and its relevance in a variety of contexts;
- to develop in students the ability to apply the knowledge and skills they have acquired to the solution of theoretical and/or applied problems in economic policy;
- to equip students with appropriate tools of analysis to tackle issues and problems of economic policy;
- to develop in students, through the study of economics, a range of transferable skills that will be of value in employment and self-employment;
- to provide students with analytical skills and an ability to develop simplifying frameworks for studying the real world and to be able to appreciate what would be an appropriate level of abstraction for a range of economic issues;
- to provide students with the knowledge and skill base from which they can proceed to further studies in Economics and related areas.

| Section 6 - Course learning outcomes | |
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| <p>In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (<i>Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*)</i>)</p> | |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a coherent core of economic principles (K); 2. relevant mathematical and statistical techniques (K); 3. applying core economic theory and economic reasoning to applied topics (K); 4. relevant analytical methods (K); 5. analysing economic data (K); 6. a number of specialised areas in Economics (K); 7. abstraction (the ability to simplify while still retaining relevance) (S); 8. analysis and deduction (Economic reasoning is highly deductive and logical analysis is applied to assumption based models) (S); 9. quantification (the organisation and presentation of economic data) (S); 10. 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) (S); | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 11. decision making (S*); 12. numeracy (S*); 13. understanding of the key concepts of opportunity cost, incentives, equilibrium, strategic thinking, expectations and surprises and the relevance of marginal considerations (S*); 14. learning and study (S*); 15. written and oral communication (S*); 16. numeracy and computation (S*); 17. information technology (S*); 18. team working (S); 19. independent study and time management (S*). |

| Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment |
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| <p>Teaching is mostly by means of lectures and seminars, the latter generally providing a forum for you, with the support of your instructors, to work through problem sets and applications in a smaller and more interactive setting. Learning is through participation in lectures and seminars, designated reading and completion of problem sets and online exercises. Essays and short written answers ensure that the skills of exposition and critique are developed and evaluated. At the end of the course and if the extended essay is undertaken, you will apply the knowledge and skills you have acquired in the conduct of a piece of original research under the close supervision of a member of staff. It is expected that with an interest in research you will develop the relevant skills for future use. Assessment of knowledge and understanding is typically by formal, unseen written examination, although continuous assessment in the form of unseen tests features in the assessment of a number of modules. Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the Economics Department.</p> |

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| Section 8 – Additional costs | |
| There are no other essential costs 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. | |

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| 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 – Further information

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the course and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate when taking full advantage of the learning opportunities that are available. More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module 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, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Your course will be reviewed regularly, both by the university as part of its cyclical quality enhancement processes, and/or by your department or school, who may wish to make improvements to the curriculum, or in response to resource planning. As such, your course may be revised during the course of your study at Royal Holloway. However, your department or school will take reasonable steps to consult with students via appropriate channels when considering changes. All continuing students will be routinely informed of any significant changes.

Section 11 – 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 |

| Section 12 - Associated award(s) | |
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| BSc (Econ) Economics (L101) JACS code L100 BSc (Econ) Financial and Business Economics (L111) JACS codes L100, L110, L111 BSc (Econ) Economics with French (L1R1) ¹ JACS codes L100, R110 BSc (Econ) Economics with German (L1R2) ¹ JACS codes L100, R120 BSc (Econ) Economics with Italian (L1R3) ¹ JACS codes L100, R310 BSc (Econ) Economics with Management (L1N2) JACS codes L100, N100 BSc (Econ) Economics with Mathematics (L1G1) JACS codes L100, G100 | BSc (Econ) Economics with Music (L1W3) ¹ JACS codes L100, W100 BSc (Econ) Economics with Political Studies (L1L2) ¹ JACS codes L100, L200 BSc (Econ) Economics with Spanish (L1R4) ¹ JACS codes L100, R410 BSc Economics and Management (LN12) JACS codes L100, N100 BSc Economics and Mathematics (LG11) JACS codes L100, G100 BSc Finance and Mathematics (NG31) JACS codes G100, L100 BSc Economics, Politics and International relations (LL12) JACS codes L100, L200 |