

Royal Holloway, University of London

Course specification for an undergraduate award

BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Italian) (LR23)

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 Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Italian) is delivered in three stages at Royal Holloway, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages is an interdisciplinary modular course and for each of the language pathways (French, German, Italian, and Spanish) this includes a year abroad between Stages two and three. You spend the year in a country appropriate to your major language option. If you are studying two languages you may, if approved by the relevant department and by the Director of Study Abroad, spend your year abroad in two countries. You take modules to the value of 420 credits overall. This is based on 120 credits in each stage in residence at Royal Holloway and 60 credits based on the year abroad between Stages two and three.

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 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.

Section 2 – Course details

Date of specification update	August 2020	Location of study	Egham Campus
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Course award and title	BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Italian)	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3486	UCAS code	LR23
Year of entry	2021/22		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Politics, International Relations and Philosophy	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the course	Four 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:	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)	Language Level***
1	PR1500	Introduction to International Relations	40	260	50%	0%	50%	30	4	MC	N/A
1	PR1400	Introduction to Politics and Government	40	260	40%	0%	60%	30	4	MC	N/A
1	IT1601	Italian Ab Initio Oral I	60	90	100%	0	0	15	4	MNC	Ab Initio
1	IT1602	Italian Ab Initio Oral I	40	110	0	100%	0	15	4	MC	Ab Initio
1	IT1701	Italian Advanced Written I	50	100	100%	0	0	15	4	MNC	Post A-Level
1	IT1702	Italian Advanced Oral I	20	130	0	100%	0	15	4	MC	Post A-Level
2	IT2000	Advanced Italian II for Post-Beginners	100	200	50%	50%	0	30	5	MNC	Ab Initio
2	IT2050	Advanced Italian II	60	240	50%	50%	0	30	5	MNC	Post A-Level
3	ML2999	Year Abroad Placement: Intercultural Competency and Professional Skills	0	300	0	0	100%	30	5	MC	All
4	IT3009	Italian: Advanced Italian III	60	240	50%	50%	0	30	6	MNC	All

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.

*** Please note, the combination of mandatory modules you will be registered for will vary in accordance with your language level pathway.

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 Politics, International Relations and Philosophy [webpage](#) or the Languages, Literatures and Cultures [webpage](#).

Year 1	Year 2	Year 4
IT1950 Italian: Building the Italian Nation	IT2400 Italian: Renaissance Art and Literature	IT3860 Italian: Shooting History
IT1230 Italian: Politics, Religion and Love	IT2840 Italian: Italian Crime Fiction	IT3980 Italian: Italian Fashion and Design
IT1980 Italian: Fascist Italy	IT2340 Italian: Post-War Italian Cinema	IT2230 Italian: Dante's Divine Comedy: Paradiso
	Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Comparative Politics	Politics and International Relations: Modules exploring Comparative Politics
	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 Political Theory

3.3 Optional module requirements

First Year – Italian

In addition to your mandatory modules you must choose a further 30 credits from Modern Languages.

Second Year

In addition to your mandatory modules you must choose either:

30 credits from Modern Languages and 60 credits from Politics and International Relations;

Or:

90 credits from Politics and International Relations.

Third Year

In addition to the mandatory module, students who choose to spend a full year in an Italian speaking country must take:

IT2501 Oral Examination in Italian (30 credits)

Students who are taking Italian and another language should split the year between countries speaking two different languages. In addition to ML2999 you must take the following mandatory modules in each of your chosen languages:

FR2502 Oral examination in French (15 credits)

GM2502 Oral examination in German (15 credits)

SN2502 Oral examination in Spanish (15 credits)

IT2502 Oral examination in Italian (15 credits)

Fourth Year

In addition to the mandatory module in Italian languages, you will take 60 credits in Politics and International Relations. You will also take a further 30 credits chosen from either Modern Languages or Politics and International Relations.

Students are not permitted to write dissertations from the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Students may choose to take the Politics and International Relations dissertation (PR3000).

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.

Additional notes on the Period of Residence Abroad:

There are three main schemes:

- Spain or Spanish-speaking University: students spend the academic year following modules of their choice at the host university. Most students choose a host university which has an Erasmus link with RHUL. Students studying more than one language may choose to spend the year in two countries.
- Assistant post (co-ordinated by the British Council): students are employed to teach English in a school of their chosen language normally for up to 12 hours per week.
- Other work placement: although the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures does not undertake to find work placements abroad for students, students themselves, or their families, are sometimes able to make such arrangements, which must be approved by the School. Students in such approved work have similar academic work commitments to those in assistant posts.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to produce students who are well prepared with the knowledge and skills to live in and contribute to a rapidly changing international environment;
- to produce students who will graduate with a commitment to continue to improve their knowledge and expand their skills;
- to place questions of European political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic development at the centre of the analysis;
- to foster an understanding of how European political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic developments are inter-related;
- to encourage an interdisciplinary theoretical approach based on these inter-related phenomena;
- to enable you to understand and use the key concepts, approaches and methods of at least one social science and at least one European language /or a comparative literature and culture module, a literature and culture option;
- to develop in you a capacity to think critically about events, ideas and institutions;
- to encourage you to relate the academic study of Europe to questions of public concern;
- to assist you to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to your intellectual, vocational and personal development;
- to provide a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate;
- to create a learning environment that is receptive to your needs and views and encourages you to achieve your full potential;

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 (*)*)

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| <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. of the development, workings, policies and limitations of European institutions (K);2. of the major social, political and economic trends in Europe, especially integration (K);3. advanced linguistic competencies in at least one of the following languages – French, German, Italian, Spanish or, for the Politics Society and Culture pathway, advanced understanding of different aspects of European politics, society and culture (K);4. of the cultural and social context of at least one of the major languages mentioned above (K);5. of the major concepts, theories, methodologies and literature of at least one social science (K);6. an ability to apply the major concepts, theories, methodologies and literature of the social science subject(s) to the empirical setting of Europe (K);7. use information to support an argument, hypothesis or proposition (S*);8. present information with high levels of written accuracy (S*); | <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. transfer linguistic skills to a specialist social science literature (S);10. gather, structure and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources (S*);11. identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems (S*);12. construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement (S*);13. reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback (S*);14. continually analyse and question their own assumptions and those of others (S*);15. demonstrate oral competence and the confidence to use these skills in at least one language additional to the mother tongue (S*);16. use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information (S*);17. engage in theoretical and conceptual debate (S*);18. work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management (S*);19. collaborate with others to achieve common goals (S*); |
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on the courses draw on the methods and concepts used to investigate political phenomena at both national and international levels. It is also strongly informed by the current research interests of the core teaching team within the Department. The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are formal lectures by academic staff within the Department, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff led sessions and student presentations.

Assessment will be by a combination of assessed coursework and examination, as indicated in individual module specifications. The aim through the course is to use a variety of different assessments (essays, examinations, other set coursework, presentations) to gauge your performance in as comprehensive a way as possible. If you are studying Politics and International Relations, the assessment process culminates in guided independent research/study with the production of a dissertation, which is a mandatory module in the final year.

Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the [Department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy](#).

Section 8 – Additional costs	
<p>Living costs for your year abroad will vary by country. Typical living costs to consider will be accommodation, food/household items, entertainment, travel, books/equipment and bills (including mobile phone). Students will also need to budget for travel to and from the country of study. Additional costs compared to study in the UK will also depend on personal choices and it is important to research the cost of living before the year commences. Further detail on living costs for year abroad students, by country of study, will be available on the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures website from January 2020.</p>	
<p>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.</p>	

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
<p>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.</p>	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
<p>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.</p>	

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)

BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (French) (LR21)
BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (German) (LR22)

BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Spanish) (LR24)
BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Politics, Society and Culture)