



# Politics & International Relations

Undergraduate Studies



ROYAL  
HOLLOWAY  
UNIVERSITY  
OF LONDON

# Welcome



The last few years have shown how important and yet unpredictable politics is. Brexit, Trump, and North Korea are just some of the recent events that many had considered impossible. Our fantastic staff—excellent teachers and leading experts in their fields—might not have all the answers, but if you come to Royal Holloway, they will help you ask the right questions.

These may be questions about what the world is: how does Latin American politics differ from Western Europe's, or when is political protest effective? Or questions about what the world ought to be: what is just or fair, or what limits should we place on our freedoms? Sometimes they will be questions about knowledge itself: how can we be certain which development policies work and which do not?

I hope that you will join us and start to craft your own answers to these vital questions.

## **Professor Chris Hanretty**

Head of School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy  
(2018–2021)



**92%**  
SAY THE COURSE IS  
**INTELLECTUALLY  
STIMULATING**

*(National Student Survey, 2017)*

## Contact details

### Admissions enquiries

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### Connect with us

 @RHULpir

 RHULpir

# Politics and International Relations at Royal Holloway

We are a dynamic, research-led teaching department with a curriculum that includes specialist courses across the whole range of the discipline. We cover traditional areas of British politics, EU institutions, and international political economy, as well as new areas of enquiry such as human security, development politics, political protest, migration and refugee studies, the role of new media in politics, and more. We also offer courses in the politics and international relations of the Africa, south Asia, the Middle East, China, and both US domestic politics and foreign policy.

- We teach an advanced and internationally-focused curriculum, taught by specialists who are renowned experts in their fields.
- We have an internationally diverse and active student community.
- We offer a dedicated support network, including Personal Advisors and student Peer Guides.
- We offer you a work-placement scheme, 'Politics in Action', which forms part of the degree programme.
- You will also benefit from University of London resources, including the Senate House Library and the facilities of the Students' Union in central London.
- You will graduate with a highly valued University of London degree.



# Choosing your degree

The Department of Politics & International Relations is part of the School of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy, and is home to programmes in Politics, International Relations and a four year BA European and International Studies that includes a year of work and/or study in Europe. We offer a wide variety of single, joint, and combined honours programmes that allow you to study politics and international relations alongside Economics, History, Modern Languages, and Philosophy. A new set of programmes with Law will be offered from September 2019.

Our first year programme consists of a common core of four year-long courses taken by students on the BA Politics, BA International Relations, and BA Politics & International Relations degrees. This allows students on one of these degrees to switch to one of the others at the end of their first year and vary the study of politics and international relations in their second and third years. Students on Combined Honours or Joint Honours degrees will take one or two of our first year courses as appropriate.

Courses become more specialised in the second and third years and your freedom to shape your degree programme increases as well. The third year programme comprises research-led courses on subjects that reflect the research specialisms of our staff.

With the exception of the BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations, all our degrees include a compulsory final year dissertation, written on a topic of the student's choice and developed through independent research working one-to-one with an academic supervisor. Single and Joint Honours students are also eligible for our final year work-placement course, 'Politics in Action'.

DEGREE PROGRAMMES	UCAS code
<b>BA International Relations</b>	LF50
<b>BA Politics</b>	L200
<b>BA Politics and International Relations</b>	L290
<b>POLITICS AS A MAJOR SUBJECT</b>	
<b>BA Politics with Philosophy</b>	L2V5
<b>EUROPEAN AND INTERNATIONAL STUDIES</b>	
<b>BA European and International Studies (French)</b>	R100
<b>BA European and International Studies (German)</b>	R200
<b>BA European and International Studies (Italian)</b>	R300
<b>BA European and International Studies (Spanish)</b>	R401
<b>JOINT DEGREES</b>	
<b>BSc Economics, Politics and International Relations</b>	LL12
<b>BA History, Politics and International Relations</b>	VLN1
<b>BA Politics and International Relations &amp; Philosophy</b>	LV25
<b>BA Politics, Philosophy and Economics (PPE)</b>	LOV0
<b>BA Politics and Law*</b>	LM21
<b>BA Politics and Law with a Year in Industry*</b>	LM12
<b>POLITICS OR INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AS A MINOR SUBJECT</b>	
<b>BSc (Econ) Economics with Political Studies</b>	L1L2
<b>BA Modern Languages with International Relations</b>	R9L2
<b>BA Music with Political Studies</b>	W3L2
<b>LLB Law with Politics*</b>	M1L2
<b>LLB Law with Politics with a Year in Industry*</b>	M12L
<b>LLB Law with International Relations*</b>	MF50
<b>LLB Law with International Relations with a Year in Industry*</b>	MF05

\*Programme under development

# Studying here

## Research events

Students are welcome to be part of the department's weekly research seminar, which includes internal and external speakers presenting advanced research on topics across the discipline, as well as the many workshops, conferences, public lectures, and roundtable debates organised by our seven research centres.

## Study abroad opportunities

Undergraduate students on most degrees have the opportunity to apply for study abroad, either by going abroad in the second year of their three year degree or by changing to a four year degree 'with an International Year' and going abroad in their third year. The Study Abroad programme greatly broadens students' horizons and cultural understandings. Students can study at one of the many universities with which we have exchange agreements.

The year abroad is an integral part of the BA European and International Studies programme. Students are expected to spend their third year in a European country appropriate to their main language—students who have taken two languages may divide the year between the two countries—and have the opportunities to study at one of our partner universities and/or pursue an approved work placement.

## Facilities

The Department is based on the west side of the College's beautiful and historic Founder's Building, which is also home to the famous Picture Gallery containing Thomas Holloway's fine collection of Victorian paintings and our beautiful chapel. It also houses a dining hall and provides a home for 500 students.

Directly across from Founder's is Royal Holloway's new Emily Wilding Davison Building, which includes the main library on campus, open 24/7, holding over 400,000 books and providing a wide variety of spaces for individual and group study. Student Services and the Careers &

Employability Service are also based in the building, along with the Union Shop. In addition to on-campus library facilities, students have borrowing privileges and full remote access to all the electronic resources available from the University of London's Senate House Library, which houses some 14 million items.

The Computer Centre on campus is open 24-hours. There are numerous other computer rooms across the campus and a comprehensive wireless network that includes lecture theatres.



# Student Life

## A diverse student body

The Department is one of the most diverse in the College, with around 650 undergraduate students from all over the world and a large international cohort of postgraduate and research students.

## Student societies

Every student in the department is invited to become a member of the Politics and International Relations Society (PIRSoc), one of the most active student societies on campus. PIRSoc organises a variety of social events, debates, international trips and visiting-speaker talks. The society also organises one of the most successful National Model UN (NMUN)

teams in the world, each year recruiting students from all departments to compete in the NMUN conference in New York. Royal Holloway's students have won many individual and delegation awards, including Outstanding or Distinguished Delegation Awards, making them one of the most successful teams at these events over the last decade.

Students in the department also spearheaded the creation of a Diplomatic Society (DipSoc). It organises debates, visiting speaker events, and trips to London embassies and other institutions such as NATO headquarters in Brussels. It has also sent teams to Model UN competitions in the UK, Europe and Harvard University in the USA.



"I chose to study here because of the range of courses available within the PIR Department and all the positive reviews from students. Staff are incredibly supportive, approachable and always happy to help.

The department offers a range of activities such as student-staff socials, careers events and opportunities such as NMUN which provide invaluable insight for the future. The student experience at Royal Holloway is second to none!"

**Marwa Ahmadi**  
**NMUN Head Delegate**  
BA International Relations



Members of Royal Holloway's 2018 student delegation to the NMUN at the United Nations General Assembly hall in New York.

# Your future career

Our programmes embed a wide range of important transferable skills that enable our students to approach problems rigorously, analytically, and critically, and to communicate clearly in both speech and writing. Our graduates leave with skills and knowledge that not only make them attractive to employers in a broad spectrum of careers, but prepare them for further advanced study. In recent years more than 90% of our students have been in employment or further study within six months of graduation. We work with the College's dedicated Careers Service to enhance our students' employability and prepare them for the choices ahead. We also stay well-connected with many of our graduates and have an extensive network of alumni. Many of them return to Royal Holloway for alumni events and offer valuable career advice to current students.

Recent graduates have been employed by:

- Bloomberg
- Citigroup
- The Commonwealth Human Rights Initiative
- The Conservative Party
- Ernst & Young
- The European Commission
- HM Treasury
- The Henry Jackson Society
- House of Commons
- Ipsos MORI
- The Labour Party
- NATO Headquarters
- Oxford Business Group
- Proctor & Gamble
- Quadrangle
- Save the Children



“It was the unique opportunities afforded to me within the PIR department that enabled me to go straight into my chosen career path, working in the Houses of Parliament. Royal Holloway offered the perfect combination of proximity to London for events and internships, teaching excellence and breadth of topics, and the close family-like bond that inevitably comes from such a tight-knit department and university.”

**Daniel Atherton**  
BA Politics and International Relations(2017)

This brochure was produced in Spring 2018 and information was correct at that time. Please make sure you check our website or contact us directly for the very latest information if you are considering an application.



## Royal Holloway, University of London

- Learn from world leading experts
- Highly ranked for student satisfaction
- Beautiful campus in a safe location
- Vibrant and active community
- Award-winning careers service

### Visit us to find out more

Our Open Days are a great way to get a feel for life at Royal Holloway. Look around the campus, meet our students and staff, and find out more about studying and living here.

Find out more and register to attend at [Royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays](https://royalholloway.ac.uk/opendays)

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