Royal Holloway, University of London
Programme specification for an undergraduate award
BA Politics with Philosophy (L2V5)

Section 1 – Introduction to your programme

This programme specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your programme 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 polices can be found here. Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found here.

Your degree programme in Politics with Philosophy is delivered in three stages, each of which comprises one year of full-time study during which you must follow courses to the value of 120 credits. The programme comprises mandatory disciplinary courses, including a mandatory stage one common to all degree programmes in the department, and 'optional' specialist courses, with an extended essay in the final stage. Whilst the development of disciplinary-specific skills are emphasised in the mandatory courses, the specialist options provide focused opportunities to examine the application of these skills. For Minor programmes, one unit each year is taken from a list of approved courses validated specifically for philosophy programmes. Each year three units are taken in the Major subject (Politics).

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, programmes and the availability of individual course units, especially optional course units 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 programme. 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 programme – Also referred to as 'degree course' or simply 'course', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.
Course unit – Also referred to as 'module', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree programme. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise four full units, or a combination of full and half units, to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree programmes a certain number of optional course units must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Programme details			
Date of specification update	April 2019	Location of study	Egham Campus
Programme award and title	BA Politics with Philosophy	Level of study	Undergraduate
Programme code	2278	UCAS code	L2V5
Year of entry	2019/20		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Politics, International Relations and Philosophy	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the programme	N/A
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the programme	Three 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 programme structure |

3.1 Mandatory course unit information
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study

Year	Course code	Course title	Contact hours*	Self-study hours	Written exams**	Practical assessment**	Coursework**	Credits	FHEQ level	Course status (see below)
1	PR1400	Politics and International Relations: Introduction to Politics	40	260	40%	0	60%	30	4	MNC
1	PR1520	Politics and International Relations: Classic Readings in Politics and International Relations	40	2	50%	0	50%	30	4	MC
1	PR1000	Politics and International Relations: Researching Politics and International Relations: Methods, Techniques and Analysis	60	240	40%	0	60%	30	4	MC
1	PY1101	Philosophy: Problems of Knowledge	30	120	40%	0	60%	15	4	MNC
2	PR2000	Politics and International Relations: Researching Politics and International Relations: Analysis, Design and Practice	60	240	40%	0%	60%	30	5	MC
2	PR2490	Contemporary Political Theory	60	240	50%	0%	50%	30	5	MC
2	PY2001	Kant	20	130	50%	0	50%	15	5	MC
2	PY2002	Mind and World	21	129	0	0	100%	15	5	MC
3	PR3000	Politics and International Relations: Dissertation	15	185	0	0	100%	30	6	MC

This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory courses on your degree programme. These courses are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree programme will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these courses each year. Mandatory courses fall into two categories; 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) courses, you must pass the course before you can proceed to the next year of your programme, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) courses, 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 programme 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 programme 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 course on your degree programme 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 course, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the course 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 course.

3.2 Optional course units

In addition to mandatory course units, there will be a number of optional course units available during the course of your degree. The following table lists a selection of optional course units 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 programme 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 and International Relations webpage, Philosophy webpage.

Year 1	Year 2	Year 3
Philosophy: Units exploring Formal Logic or Morals	Politics: Units exploring Comparative Politics	Philosophy units as available
	Politics: Units exploring Political Theory	Politics: Units exploring Political Theory
	Politics: Units exploring Political Communication	Politics: Units exploring Political Communication

3.3 Optional course unit requirements

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree programme

 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 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 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.

All second year students on single, joint or combined honours programmes for which the Department of Politics and International Relations is the lead department are also required to undertake and pass a short 'reflecting on feedback' exercise in order to progress into the final year of study. Students undertaking this exercise will be supported by their personal tutor and will be marked on a pass/fail basis. Students who fail the exercise will have an opportunity to resubmit. 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 'reflecting on feedback' exercise will not be permitted to progress into their final year of academic study at the College.

Programmes including an International Year
You 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 the Department. The marks achieved are converted into equivalent College marks and count as a thirteenth unit. This will contribute 20% to the final stage three marks.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the programme

The aims of this programme are:

- to provide a systematic understanding and knowledge of political theory and institutions in both a domestic and international context.
- to encourage critical awareness of current political problems at national and international levels.
- to provide theoretical insights and methodological techniques relevant to the development and interpretation of knowledge in Politics and International Relations and to the evaluation of current research and scholarship in the field.
- to foster an independent learning ability for continued intellectual development
- to expose you to a broad and coherent philosophical curriculum that draws on both the European and Anglo-American traditions;
- to present an appreciation of philosophy that stresses its pertinence to other areas of intellectual inquiry;
- to provide you with sufficient choice to allow them to pursue their philosophical interests where possible;
- to engender a range of subject-specific and general intellectual skills through a variety of learning activities geared to the study and practice of philosophy.

Section 6 - Programme learning outcomes

In general terms, the programmes 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 (*)*)

1. 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 **(K)**;
2. a sound basic understanding of social science and international relations methodology **(K)**;
3. a critical understanding of result and data relating to the field of political science **(K)**;
4. familiarity with a broad selection of the principal classic and contemporary texts in the fields of politics and international relations **(K)**;
5. 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 and international relations **(K)**;
6. a sound understanding of the principal approaches and current issues in a range of options taught during the second and third years of the programme **(K)**;
7. a grounding in some central theories in the fields of logic, epistemology, metaphysics, ethics, aesthetics and philosophy of mind **(K)**;
8. an informed awareness of some of the topics that are of interest to philosophers working today **(K)**;
9. an ability to summarise complex philosophical arguments and to present critical evaluations both orally and writing **(S)**;
10. command of a wider vocabulary and appropriate critical and theoretical terminology **(S)**;
11. the capacity to work in groups in order to further understanding, and to communicate and defend arguments to peers **(S*)**;
12. competence in the analysis of arguments, and an awareness of such features as persuasion and intended audience **(S*)**;
13. bibliographical skills appropriate to the subject including accurate citation of sources and consistent use of conventions in the presentation of scholarly work **(S)**;
14. the capacity to evaluate and adjudicate between competing normative claims **(S*)**;
15. the ability to assimilate and communicate complex ideas **(S*)**;
16. assess the merits of theories, models and explanations in political science, and situate them in a wider disciplinary context **(S)**;
17. apply the concepts and methods used in political science and international relations to the analysis of political theories and institutions within the international system **(S)**;
18. analyse qualitative and quantitative data relating to the field of politics and international relations **(S)**;
19. evaluate current research and scholarship in the field, and evaluate and, where appropriate, develop critiques of the methodologies employed by political scientists **(S)**;
20. gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of sources, and assess their nature and value **(S)**;
21. carry out an independent investigation of a political topic or issue and produce a coherent written account **(S)**;
22. communicate complex ideas and present arguments and complex information in a clear and concise manner in writing **(S*)**;
23. analyse and interpret complex issues, and develop reasoned arguments and make sound, critical judgements in the absence of complete data **(S*)**;
24. use literature, internet and database searches to gain necessary information **(S*)**;
25. 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 **(S*)**;
26. exercise of initiative and personal responsibility **(S*)**;
27. ability to take decisions in complex and uncertain situations **(S*)**;
28. the ability to work autonomously and collaboratively with others **(S*)**;
29. self-awareness and self-management of research **(S*)**;
30. awareness of one's responsibility as a local, national and international citizen **(S*)**;
31. ability to learn independently and to take advantage of life-learning **(S*)**;
32. skills of oral presentation **(S*)**;

Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment methods sub serve 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. Consequently, at stage 1 and 2 the primary method of teaching is to combine lectures, which are used to map out a conceptual area and help orientate students in it, with small-group seminars where students are able to test their developing understanding through presentations and discussion and focussed learning tasks (précis, timed analysis, etc.). These formative modes are supplemented with summative essays and examinations. From stage 2 onwards the emphasis on independent learning arising from the students' growing knowledge, and their desire to follow their interests is reflected in more specialised courses for which a formal distinction between lecture and seminar is no longer entirely appropriate. Here the shift in formative assessment is towards presentations of work-in-progress and one-to-one advice on essay planning at both the conceptual and structural level. Full details of the assessments for individual courses can be obtained from the Department Philosophy and the Department of Politics and International Relations.

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no other associated costs on this degree programme.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree programme 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.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your programme 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 programmes 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 programmes 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 programme 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 course units, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online Course 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 programme 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 programme 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 programme as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory course units, 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 with Philosophy with an International Year	BA Politics and International Relations and Philosophy (LV25) BA Politics and International Relations and Philosophy with an International Year