



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# **Course Specification**

## **PG Cert**

## **International Relations**

**Course Code: PGCIR**

**2024/25**

[leedsbeckett.ac.uk](https://leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

# ***PG Certificate International Relations (PGCIR)***

## **Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2024/25 Postgraduate Entrants**

Confirmed at DEC/2023

### **General Information**

<b>Award</b>	Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations
<b>Contained Awards</b>	N/A
<b>Awarding Body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of Qualification and Credits</b>	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
<b>Course Lengths and Standard Timescales</b>	Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:

<b>ONSITE Full-time</b>			<b>ONSITE Part-time</b>
Sept start: 5 months Jan start: 5 months	Part-time	X	Sept start: 9 months Jan start: 12 months
<b>DISTANCE LEARNING Full-time</b>			<b>DISTANCE LEARNING Part-time</b>
Sept start: 5 months Jan start: 5 months	Part-time	X	Sept start: 9 months Jan start: 12 months

<b>Part Time Study</b>	PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. PT delivery is usually at half the intensity of the FT equivalent course, although there may be flexibility to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence to that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent.
<b>Location(s) of Delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus, or by Distance Learning delivery.
<b>Entry Requirements</b>	Admissions criteria are confirmed in your offer letter. Details of how the University recognises prior learning and supports credit transfer are located here:

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/student-information/course-information/recognition-of-prior-learning/>

Admissions enquiries may be directed to:  
[AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## **Course Fees**

Course fees and any additional course costs are confirmed in your offer letter. Fees enquiries may be directed to:  
[Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk).

## **Timetable Information**

Timetables for Semester 1 will be made available to students during induction week via:

- i) The Student Portal (MyBeckett)
- ii) The Leeds Beckett app

Any difficulties relating to timetabled sessions may be discussed with your Course Administrator.

**Policies, Standards and Regulations** (<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>)

There are no additional or non-standard regulations which relate to your course.

## **Key Contacts**

<b>Your Course Director</b>	Dr. John Willott: <a href="mailto:J.Willott@leedsbeckett.ac.uk">J.Willott@leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>
<b>Your Academic Advisor</b>	An Academic Advisor will be allocated on arrival.
<b>Your Course Administrator</b>	You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the admin team is: <a href="mailto:PIRAdmin@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk">PIRAdmin@Leedsbeckett.ac.uk</a>

## **Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course**

### **Professional Body**

N/A

### **Accreditation/ Recognition Summary**

N/A

## Course Overview

### Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

- Transform students into sophisticated, independent and critical thinkers in the field of international relations.
- Provide students with an understanding of the concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations.
- Provide students with knowledge of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and challenges to it.
- Support students in their transition to postgraduate study so that all students will become confident in their academic and professional abilities and be able to apply their knowledge and skills within complex situations.
- Provide students with a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment.

### Course Learning Outcomes

At the end of the course, students will be able to:

1	Demonstrate a sophistication in their critical thinking that reflects independence of thought and understanding of the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices.
2	Apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations to analyse political ideas, practices and issues in the international system.
3	Demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it.
4	Evaluate different interpretations of world political events within complex international situations.
5	Demonstrate a thorough understanding of research, both as a practice and as a product, and be fully prepared for further development in either an academic, or professional, environment.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Teaching will be delivered via blended learning, with in person seminars, and additional online sessions and learning resources provided via our Virtual Learning Environment. Teaching methods will focus on small group discussion and debate, supported by mini lectures where appropriate, and supplemented by sessions in IT labs to develop skills using appropriate software. Students are encouraged to set their own tasks, within clearly identified structures, to meet the learning outcomes and assessment criteria.

Similarly, reading lists are less prescriptive and encourage students to locate their own resources. Students will benefit from having access to outside speakers through the Politics & International Relations Festival

and seminar series which will broaden their learning experience. The VLE (My Beckett) is used to provide materials, but is also a forum for discussion, assessment and the sharing of resources and feedback.

## Your Modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. Option modules listed are indicative of a typical year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules. Students who are required to undertake repeat study may be taught alternate modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes. Part time students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

The modules typically run in the following semesters:

Semester 1 (September-January)	Semester 2 (January-May)
Theorising International Relations* (20 credits)	Theorising Human Rights* (20 credits)
Gendering the International* (20 credits)	Political Economy of Environmental Crisis* (20 credits)
Theorising Development* (20 credits)	Developing and Managing Projects* (20 credits)
	Security, Conflict and Development (20 credits)

\*modules available for distance learning mode

## Level 7 Core Modules (2022/23 for full-time students and for standard part-time students)

Core and elective modules will partially be determined by entry point and mode. Please contact the Course Director if you would like further information regarding module delivery.

In order for a student to satisfy the subject requirements, they must have completed two of the four following modules:

- Theorising International Relations\*
- Gendering the International\*
- Theorising Human Rights\*
- Political Economy of Environmental Crisis\*

## Level 7 Option Modules (delivery years as per Level 7 core modules above)

The following option modules are indicative of a typical delivery year. There may be some variance in the availability of option modules:

- Theorising Development\*
- Developing and Managing Projects\*

- Security, Conflict and Development

## Assessment Balance and Scheduled Learning and Teaching Activities

The assessment balance and overall workload associated with this course are calculated from core modules and typical option module choices undertaken by students on the course. They have been reviewed and confirmed as representative by the Course Director but applicants should note that the specific option choices students make may influence both assessment and workload balance.

A standard module equates to 200 notional learning hours, which may be comprised of teaching, learning and assessment, any embedded placement activities and independent study. Modules may have more than one component of assessment.

### Assessment

On this course students will be assessed by coursework predominately, with some examinations and practical assessments.

### Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	70 hours
Independent Study	530 hours
Placement	0 hours

## Learning Support

If you have a question or a problem relating to your course, your Course Administrator is there to help you. Course Administrators work closely with academic staff and can make referrals to teaching staff or to specialist professional services as appropriate. They can give you a confirmation of attendance letter, and a transcript. You may also like to contact your Course Rep or the Students' Union Advice team for additional support with course-related questions.

## Student Services

If you have any questions about life at University, call into our Student Services Centre at either campus or contact Student Advice directly. This team, consisting of trained officers and advisers are available to support you throughout your time here. They will make sure you have access to and are aware of the support, specialist services, and opportunities our University provides. They also work on a wide range of projects throughout the year all designed to enhance your student experience and ensure you make the most of your time with us. Student Advice are located in the Student Services Centre in the Leslie Silver Building at City Campus and on the ground floor of the Priestley Building at Headingley Campus. The team can also be contacted via email at [studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:studentadvice@leedsbeckett.ac.uk), telephone on 0113 812 3000, or by accessing our online chat link, available on the student homepage.

## **Support and opportunities**

Within MyBeckett you will see two tabs (Support and Opportunities) where you can find online information and resources for yourselves. The Support tab gives you access to details of services available to give you academic and personal support. These include Library Services, the Students' Union, Money advice, Disability advice and support, Wellbeing, International Student Services and Accommodation. There is also an A-Z of Support Services, and access to online appointments/registration.

The Opportunities tab is the place to explore the options you have for jobs, work placements, volunteering, and a wide range of other opportunities. For example, you can find out here how to get help with your CV, prepare for an interview, get a part-time job or voluntary role, take part in an international project, or join societies closer to home.