



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY

Course Specification

PG Cert International Relations

Course Code: PGCIR

2026/27

PG Certificate International Relations

(PGCIR)

Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 10/2025

General Information

Award	Postgraduate Certificate in International Relations
Contained awards	N/A
Awarding body	Leeds Beckett University
Level of qualification and credits	Level 7 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 60 credit points at Level 7 of the Higher Education Credit Framework for England.
Course lengths and standard timescales	<p>Start dates will be notified to students via their offer letter. The length and mode of delivery of the course is confirmed below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• 5 months (September and January start, full time, campus based)• 9 months (September start, part-time, campus based)• 12 months (January start, part-time, campus based)
Part time study	<p>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. PT students will be supported by the course team to determine an appropriate selection of modules from the level for each year of study. Some modules may be delivered in a different sequence from that defined within this information set but the modules offered within each level are consistent. Please note that a work placement option is not generally available to PT students.</p>
Location(s) of delivery	<p>The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.</p> <p>The majority of teaching will be at Headingley campus but on occasion may be at City campus.</p>

Entry requirements

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.

Course fees

Course fees are confirmed in your offer letter. A breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

Fees enquiries may be directed to Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk.

Policies, Standards and Regulations

<https://www.leedsbeckett.ac.uk/our-university/public-information/academic-regulations/>

Standard regulations apply to this course.

Professional Accreditation or Recognition Associated with the Course

Professional body

N/A

Accreditation/recognition summary

N/A

Timetable

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.

Key Contacts

Your course director

Dr Robin Redhead

R.Redhead@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Your course administrator

You will be informed of your Course Administrator during induction week. The email address for the admin team is:

PIRAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course Overview

Aims

The aims of the programme are to develop in students:

1. Transform students into sophisticated, independent and critical thinkers in the field of international relations.
2. Provide students with an understanding of the concepts, theories and methods used in the study of international relations.
3. Provide students with knowledge of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and challenges to it.
4. 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.
5. 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 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.

The range of learning activities not only provides an opportunity for students to develop communication skills via different media, but also accommodates different learning styles amongst students.

The course ensures that teaching and learning contexts are (i) non- discriminatory and tailored for each student with a reasonable adjustment plan; (ii) respectful and valuing the perspectives and experiences each individual can offer; (iii) promoting the values and practices associated with inclusive attitudes and behaviours in others.

Your modules

This information is correct for students progressing through the programme within standard timescales. 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. 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. Details of module delivery will be provided in your timetable.

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Theorising International Relations	20	1
Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights or Theorising Human Rights*	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	40	

*Only one of the core modules, Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights or Theorising Human Rights will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Gendering the International	20	1
Security, Conflict and Development	20	1
Cultures of Confinement: The United States, 1800-2020	20	1
Developing and Managing Projects	20	2
Out of Control: Global Crime, Risk and Insecurity	20	2
War, Crime and Violence	20	2
From Field to Fork: Food History in a Global World	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

Core and option 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 the following modules:

- Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights or Theorising Human Rights*
- Theorising International Relations

*Only one of the core modules, Global Policymaking: Environment & Human Rights or Theorising Human Rights will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

Part-Time students will take their core modules in Year 1 and their option module in Year 2.

Assessment 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.

Assessment

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

Workload

Overall Workload	
Teaching, learning and assessment	126 hours
Independent study	1274 hours
Placement	-