



LEEDS  
BECKETT  
UNIVERSITY

# Course Specification

## BAH Politics and Related Pathways

Course Code: POLTS

2026/27

# BA (Hons) Politics and Related Pathways (POLTS)

## Applicant Facing Course Specification for 2026/27 Entrants

Confirmed at 10/2025

### General Information

<b>Award</b>	Bachelor of Arts (with honours) Politics Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Politics with Global Development Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Politics with Human Rights Bachelor of Arts (with Honours) Politics with International Relations
<b>Contained awards</b>	Bachelor of Arts (Politics and all Pathway Titles) (Level 6) Diploma of Higher Education (Politics and all Pathway Titles) (Level 5) Certificate of Higher Education (Politics only) (Level 4)
<b>Awarding body</b>	Leeds Beckett University
<b>Level of qualification and credits</b>	Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications, with 120 credit points at each of Levels 4, 5 and 6 of the UK Credit Framework for Higher Education (360 credits in total).
<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: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• 3 years (full time, campus based)</li><li>• 6 years (part time, campus based)</li></ul>
<b>Part time study</b>	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.
<b>Location(s) of delivery</b>	The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.  The majority of teaching will be at Headingley campus but on occasion may be at City campus.

## **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](mailto: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](mailto: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

## **'In Year' Work Placement Information**

### **Summary**

At Level 5 students take the Active Citizenship module. This module provides students with an opportunity to engage with the practice of politics and international relations by undertaking a volunteering placement. Students gain practical experience of a professional work area related to their course of study.

### **Placement Delivery**

Students are responsible for obtaining their own placement, with assistance from the University.

Students will undertake a period of volunteering amounting to 35 hours in total.

## Location

The nature, format and location of the volunteering will be determined on a year-by-year basis through negotiation with the Module Leader.

## Approval

Whilst students source their own placements, they will need to meet requirements which will be outlined before module enrolment.

## 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 Gráinne Goodwin

[G.Goodwin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:G.Goodwin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

### Your course administrator

The name of your Course Administrator/s will be confirmed during induction, their contact details are:

[PIAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk](mailto:PIAdmin@leedsbeckett.ac.uk)

## Course Overview

### Aims

The aims of the programme are to:

1. Provide a coherent and progressive programme of study in politics which centres of questions political and international order and disorder, decision-making and political contestation.
2. Enable students to acquire knowledge and understanding in appropriate areas of theory and analysis, to critically examine and use the concepts, approaches and methods of politics and international relations, and to understand the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry and knowledge in the discipline.
3. Relate the academic study of politics to questions of public concern, political action and policies focusing on contemporary issues and challenges confronting governance at the national, regional and global level.

4. Enable students to think critically, ethically and independently about political events, ideas and institutions.
5. Offer students opportunities to shape the direction of their studies through choice of option modules and dissertation topic.
6. Enable students to develop a range of personal, cognitive, social, academic and employability skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.
7. Provide a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate.
8. Create a learning environment that is receptive to the needs and views of students and encourages them to achieve their full potential.

Reflecting the breadth of the discipline, the course encompasses the following overlapping and interrelated themes:

### **Governance**

Key institutions, processes and actors, in the public, private and third sectors and at a variety of levels from the local to the global.

### **Power, influence and political behaviour**

Nature of political power, the play of power in policy-making, political movements and parties, political participation.

### **Political theory and ideas**

Political ideologies including classical and contemporary approaches, key thinkers and debates within political philosophy, explanatory and normative political theories.

### **World Politics**

International relations; globalisation, regions and interdependence; global issues; actor and system approaches; human rights.

### **Social and economic context of politics**

Historical development, social and economic structure, forms of social division.

### **Research**

Research principles and practice, evaluating and using research, doing research, the status of knowledge claims.

### **Personal development**

Develop a range of skills relevant to intellectual, vocational and personal development.

## Big issues

The course will enable students to examine some of the pressing political issues and challenges confronting the world today, including: climate change, global justice, human rights, war and peace, migration and cultural diversity, inequality, the crisis of capitalism.

## Course learning outcomes

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

1	Examine, understand and evaluate politics as a human activity with a global outlook, through the ability to describe, analyse and assess the nature and distribution of power in systems, processes and institutions of governance and comprehend different interpretations of world political events and issues, synthesising relevant information, exercising critical judgement and constructing reasoned arguments.
2	Outline, contrast, evaluate and apply key theories, concepts and ideas within the study of Politics synthesising relevant information, exercising critical judgement and constructing reasoned arguments.
3	Engage in and reflect on political participation; develop the academic, personal and employability skills necessary for intellectual, vocational and personal development and demonstrate global awareness and outlook in their application.
4	Gather, organise and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and primary sources, and demonstrate digital literacy in the critical and reflective use of ICTs in the retrieval and presentation of research.
5	Creatively and effectively devise, plan and carry out research using a range of appropriate sources, methods and technologies, and present findings in a range of formats.
6	Identify, critically analyse and advocate solutions to problems, while recognising the importance of communicating effectively in speech and writing, referencing and ethical requirements of study and time management skills, to become a mature, enterprising and independent learner.

## Teaching and Learning Activities

### Summary

Teaching will be delivered via in-person lectures and seminars. Additional learning resources will also be provided online via our Virtual Learning Environment. There will be some variation in learning and teaching activities between modules, depending on the learning outcomes and different approaches taken by module leaders (see Module Specifications for details). However, learning and teaching activities will generally take the following form:

- Emphasis is placed on the importance of face-to-face student-tutor and student- student contact in a classroom situation.
- Learning and teaching is built around a programme of lectures and seminars. Typically, students will be involved in one lecture and one seminar each week for each module through the semester.
- Lectures and seminars provide a foundation and guidance for students' independent study and a forum for feedback.

A strong emphasis is placed on challenging and stimulating students and encouraging them to think critically and independently, e.g. by exploring the contested nature of political ideas through lectures, reading and seminar discussions.

The nature of lectures can vary within and between modules, for example in terms of the nature of student participation. In general lectures provide a framework for independent study and for the learning and teaching in seminars.

Seminars usually involve a smaller group , are usually more participatory in style, and focus on week-by-week directed study and learning activities and providing feedback. Seminars provide opportunities for students to clarify their understanding, present and defend their ideas, and engage in dialogue and debate.

Lectures and seminars are supported by learning resources usually provided in electronic (VLE) formats. The module handbook is normally posted on the VLE at the start of the semester, and further resources e.g. lecture presentations may be added throughout the semester. Learning resources typically include:

- Module specification and/or other description of aims and learning outcomes.
- Lecture/seminar programme.
- Assessment tasks, including reassessment.
- Assessment criteria.
- Arrangements for submission of assessments and feedback.
- Seminar tasks e.g. discussion questions.
- Programme of 'reading' including utilising a range of print and on-line resources.
- Lecture presentations e.g. PowerPoint.
- Tutor contact details and arrangements.

Tutors will be available for scheduled office hours and drop-in sessions. Scheduled contact may also be organised utilising the VLE, e.g. on-line discussions. Tutors will also be available for non-scheduled contact with students via telephone, email or face-to-face meetings.

## **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.

## **BAH Politics**

### **Level 4**

#### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Politics, Ethics and Justice	40	1 and 2
Political Movements and Ideologies	20	1
World Politics	20	1
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Introduction to Governance	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

### **Level 5**

#### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Active Citizenship	20	1
Britain in the World	20	1
Decolonising Politics	20	2
Global Inequalities	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

#### ***Option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
International Human Rights	20	1
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1
Understanding Security	20	1
Environment and World Politics	20	2
Political Economy of Development	20	2
State and Power	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Content Creators: Media skills for a changing world	20	2
Media Professionals' Workshop	20	2
Thatcher's Britain	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

Students choose one option in Semester 1 and one option in Semester 2.

## Level 6

### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Dissertation in Politics	40	1 and 2
Governing Globalisation	20	1
Policy Making or Making Sense of British Politics*	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

\*Only one of the core modules, Policy Making and Making Sense of British Politics will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

### ***Option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period*</b>
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
Migration and Displacement	20	1
Resist! Confronting State Harm	20	1
Advanced Surveillance	20	2
International Peacekeeping	20	2
Rethinking Diplomacy	20	2
The Politics of Human Rights	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Heretics and Renegades	20	1
Communist Eastern Europe	20	1
Race, Culture, Media	20	1
Surveillance Cultures	20	1
Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa	20	2
Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism and Democracy	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

Students choose one option in Semester 1 and one option in Semester 2.

## BAH Politics with Global Development

### Level 4

#### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Politics, Ethics and Justice	40	1 and 2
Political Movements and Ideologies	20	1
World Politics	20	1
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Introduction to Governance	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

### Level 5

#### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Britain in the World*	20	1
Active Citizenship	20	1
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1
Decolonising Politics*	20	2
Global Inequalities	20	2
Political Economy of Development	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	100	

\*Students choose to study either the core module Britain in the World or Decolonising Politics, and choose an option in the Semester where a core has not been chosen.

#### *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
International Human Rights	20	1
Environment and World Politics	20	2
State and Power	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Genocide and the politics of memory	20	1
Content Creators: Media skills for a changing world	20	2
Media Professionals' Workshop	20	2
Thatcher's Britain	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

## Level 6

### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Dissertation in Global Development	40	1 and 2
Governing Globalisation	20	1
Migration & Displacement	20	1
Policy Making or Making Sense of British Politics*	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	100	

\*Only one of the core modules, Policy Making and Making Sense of British Politics will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

### *Option modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period*
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
Advanced Surveillance	20	2
International Peacekeeping	20	2
Rethinking Diplomacy	20	2
The Politics of Human Rights	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa	20	2
Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism and Democracy	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

Students choose one option in Semester 2.

## **BAH Politics with Human Rights**

### Level 4

#### *Compulsory modules*

Module title	Credits	Semester/ teaching period
Politics, Ethics and Justice	40	1 and 2
Political Movements and Ideologies	20	1
World Politics	20	1
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Introduction to Governance	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

## Level 5

### *Compulsory modules*

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Britain in the World*	20	1
Active Citizenship	20	1
International Human Rights	20	1
Decolonising Politics*	20	2
Global Inequalities	20	2
Slavery and Unfree Labour	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	100	

\*Students choose to study either the core module Britain in the World or Decolonising Politics, and choose an option in the Semester where a core has not been chosen.

### *Option modules*

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1
Environment and World Politics	20	2
State and Power	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Genocide and the Politics of Memory	20	1
Content Creators: Media skills for a changing world	20	2
Media Professionals' Workshop	20	2
Thatcher's Britain	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

## Level 6

### *Compulsory modules*

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Dissertation in Human Rights	40	1 and 2
Governing Globalisation	20	1
Resist! Confronting State Harm	20	1
Policy Making or Making Sense of British Politics*	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	100	

\*Only one of the core modules, Policy Making and Making Sense of British Politics will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

### ***Option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period*</b>
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
Advanced Surveillance	20	2
International Peacekeeping	20	2
Migration and Displacement	20	2
Rethinking Diplomacy	20	2
The Politics of Human Rights	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa	20	2
Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism and Democracy	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	20	

Students choose one option in Semester 2.

### **BAH Politics with International Relations**

#### **Level 4**

#### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Politics, Ethics and Justice	40	1 and 2
Political Movements and Ideologies	20	1
World Politics	20	1
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Introduction to Governance	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	120	

#### **Level 5**

#### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Active Citizenship	20	1
Britain in the World	20	1
Environment and World Politics	20	2
Global Inequalities	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	80	

### ***Option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
International Human Rights	20	1
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1
Understanding Security	20	1
Decolonising Politics	20	2
State and Power	20	2
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Content Creators: Media skills for a changing world	20	2
Media Professionals' Workshop	20	2
Thatcher's Britain	20	2
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

Students choose one option in Semester 1 and one option in Semester 2.

### **Level 6**

#### ***Compulsory modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period</b>
Dissertation in International Relations	40	1 and 2
Governing Globalisation	20	1
Policy Making or Making Sense of British Politics*	20	2
Rethinking Diplomacy	20	2
Number of credits of compulsory modules	100	

\*Only one of the core modules, Policy Making and Making Sense of British Politics will run in a given year, depending on staff deployment.

### ***Option modules***

<b>Module title</b>	<b>Credits</b>	<b>Semester/ teaching period*</b>
<b>Politics and International Relations Option Modules:</b>		
Advanced Surveillance	20	1
International Peacekeeping	20	1
Migration and Displacement	20	1
Resist! Confronting State Harm	20	1
The Politics of Human Rights	20	1
<b>Interdisciplinary Option Modules:</b>		
Communist Eastern Europe	20	1

Heretics and Renegades	20	1
Race, Culture, Media	20	1
Surveillance Cultures	20	1
Number of credits of option modules a student should choose	40	

Students choose one option in Semester 1.

## 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.

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

#### *Level 4*

Level 4 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

#### *Level 5*

Level 5 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

#### *Level 6*

Level 6 is assessed by coursework predominantly, with some practical assessments.

### Workload

Overall Workload	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Teaching, learning and assessment	198 hours	198 hours	154 hours
Independent study	1002 hours	967 hours	1046 hours
Placement	-	35 hours	-