



**LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY**

Course information for applicants

This information applies to the course as it will be delivered to students starting the course in 2027/28.

Information provided here was confirmed on 24/09/2026

General information

Programme code

POLTS

Target award

If you complete this course successfully you will be eligible for the award of:

BA (Hons) Politics

BA (Hons) Politics with Human Rights

BA (Hons) Politics with International Relations

Delivery mode

- ☒ On campus
☐ Distance learning

Where you will study

The majority of teaching will be at City campus but on occasion may be at Headingley campus.

Awarding body

Leeds Beckett University

Regulator

Office for Students

Level of qualification

Level 6 of the Framework for Higher Education Qualifications

Course duration

If you are made an offer of a place on the course, your offer letter will include the start date.

This course can be studied:

3 years full-time

6 years part-time

Part-time study

This course can be studied part-time.

If you study the course part-time, it will usually take twice as long to complete compared with the equivalent full-time course. The modules may be delivered in a different sequence than on the full-time course, but you will study the same modules at each academic level. With the agreement of the course team, you may be able to increase your pace of study to shorten the overall course duration.

As a part-time student, you will not usually have the option of a work placement.

Work placement

This course includes a compulsory placement module(s).

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.

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.

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

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

Entry requirements

Admissions criteria are available on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have previous relevant qualifications or experience, you could be exempt from certain parts of your course. Recognition of prior learning (RPL) allows you to start your course at a point appropriate to the learning and skills that you may have developed in a professional, vocational or community setting.

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

If you have questions about entry requirements and admissions, contact AdmissionsEnquiries@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Course fees

Course fees and a breakdown of any additional costs is included on the online prospectus entry for this course.

If you have questions about fees for this course, contact Fees@leedsbeckett.ac.uk

Timetable

You will receive your full timetable for the year during induction week.

What you will study

Course 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.

Teaching and learning activities

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.

Course structure

This information is correct for students progressing through the course within standard timescales. If you have to repeat study or take time out during your course, you may be taught alternative modules which meet the overall course learning outcomes.

The option modules listed may vary. Those listed here are likely to be offered in a typical year.

BA (Hons) Politics

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 Governance	20	2
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Active Citizenship	20	1
Britain in the World	20	1
Decolonising Politics	20	2
Global Inequalities	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	80	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Politics and International Relations Option Modules:		
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
Interdisciplinary Option Modules		
Content Creators: Media skills for a changing world	20	2
Media Professionals' Workshop	20	2
Thatcher's Britain	20	2
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	40	

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

Level 6

Compulsory modules

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

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

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Politics and International Relations Option Modules:		
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
Interdisciplinary Option Modules:		
Communist Eastern Europe	20	1
Heretics and Renegades	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
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	40	

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

BA (Hons) 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 Governance	20	2
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	120	

Level 5**Compulsory modules**

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Active Citizenship	20	1
Britain in the World*	20	1
International Human Rights	20	1
Decolonising Politics*	20	2
Global Inequalities	20	2
Slavery and Unfree Labour	20	2
Total 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
Politics and International Relations Option Modules:		
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1
Environment and World Politics	20	2
State and Power	20	2
Interdisciplinary Option Modules		
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
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	20	

Level 6**Compulsory modules**

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
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

Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	100	
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*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
Politics and International Relations Option Modules:		
Advanced Surveillance	20	2
International Peacekeeping	20	2
Migration and Displacement	20	2
Rethinking Diplomacy	20	2
The Politics of Human Rights	20	2
Interdisciplinary Option Modules:		
Apartheid and After: Twentieth-Century South Africa	20	2
Four Seasons of Modern Italy: Nationalism, Liberalism, Fascism and Democracy	20	2
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	20	

Students choose one option in Semester 2.

BA (Hons) Politics with International Relations

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 Governance	20	2
Introduction to Political Economy	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	120	

Level 5

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Active Citizenship	20	1
Britain in the World	20	1
Environment and World Politics	20	1
Global Inequalities	20	2
Total number of credits of compulsory modules:	80	

Option modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
Politics and International Relations Option Modules:		

International Human Rights	20	1
Peacebuilding and Conflict Resolution	20	1
Understanding Security	20	1
Decolonising Politics	20	2
State and Power	20	2
Interdisciplinary Option Modules		
Content Creators: Media skills for a changing world	20	2
Media Professionals' Workshop	20	2
Thatcher's Britain	20	2
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	40	

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

Level 6

Compulsory modules

Module title	Credits	Semester/teaching period
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
Total 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
Politics and International Relations Option Modules:		
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
Interdisciplinary Option Modules:		
Communist Eastern Europe	20	1
Heretics and Renegades	20	1
Race, Culture, Media	20	1
Surveillance Cultures	20	1
Total number of credits of elective modules a student must enrol on:	20	

Students choose one option in Semester 1.

Assessment and feedback

The balance of assessment may change depending on which option modules you choose.

Level 4

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

Level 5

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

Level 6

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

Workload

You can expect to spend a total of 100 hours learning per 10 credits.

Typically, a student on this course can expect to divide their time like this:

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 study	-	35 hours	-