International Relations

Undergraduate Degrees 2021
Welcome

We live in an increasingly globalised world: one in which trade, politics and collaboration takes place across international borders. Studying International Relations at Lancaster will develop your ability to think in global terms – and to understand the nature of the political, economic and environmental challenges that confront us in the twenty-first century.

At Lancaster, a research-led environment will underpin your learning, giving you the chance to explore the complex interactions between key states and non-state actors with experts specialising in different regions of the world.

We offer an exciting atmosphere to think critically about how conflict and cooperation is influenced by issues of power, law, diplomacy, religion and economics. By working closely with our academics, you’ll develop the ability to analyse international events, conduct research, and apply that knowledge effectively.

Whatever your goals, studying International Relations at Lancaster will equip you to think clearly about the international dimensions of the issues you’ll confront in your future. You’ll have the opportunity, via work-based learning on our Richardson Institute Internship Programme, or a Placement Year, to gain experience which will prepare you for your career and to develop skills that will make you more employable. You may also be able to travel abroad, visiting countries you could be studying as part of your degree, either for short-term visits or for a full year on a Study Abroad degree.

Many of our students choose to combine the study of International Relations with Politics, and many with other subjects such as History or Economics. We hope that this booklet provides useful material to inform your own choice, but if you have any questions, please don’t hesitate to contact us.

#8
for International Relations (under Politics)
Times Good University Guide 2020

#3
for International Relations graduate careers (under Politics)
Guardian University Guide 2020

Find your future career

You will be able to gain work experience on our degrees through opportunities in all years of study.

Internships

The department is home to the Richardson Institute, which undertakes cutting-edge peace and conflict research. Typically, the Institute offers over 60 internships per year to our students to undertake research projects for external organisations.

You can also apply for internships as part of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Internship Scheme. Past employers have included Carnegie Publishing, The Dukes Theatre, and the Ethical Consumer Research Association, with roles ranging from marketing and PR to specific research projects with heritage or humanitarian organisations.

placements

The majority of our degrees are also available as placement year degrees that you can apply to via UCAS. With specialist support and dedicated modules, you will apply for a professional, paid work placement in Year 3 and return to Lancaster to complete your degree in Year 4. Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year

Work experience is integrated into the curriculum in optional modules. The third year module, ‘Politics Employability and Engagement through Outreach’ involves working with sixth form students and alumni who work in NGOs, the media, politics and the civil service.

Graduate destinations

An International Relations degree provides you with knowledge and transferable skills relevant to a range of different careers. We will help you determine your direction and support you in getting there. We do this by offering subject-specific support from academic tutors and specialist careers advisers.

Employers look for clear thinking, broad vision, independence, the capacity to locate and analyse problems and exercise judgement in their solution. It is also very useful to be able to present information lucidly and argue effectively for favoured courses of action. Our graduates find that their analytical and organisational skills, plus their ability to achieve insights into problems, are greatly valued by employers in many areas, including:

- Civil and Diplomatic Services
- Politics and Government
- International Charities and Non-Government Organisations
- Teaching and Education
- International Finance and Banking
- Journalism and Media
- Business, Management and Consultancy

Careers service

We offer life-long careers support for our students. Our career advisers are available to support you with subject-specific careers guidance, as well as application and interview practice. You can take part in the Lancaster Award, which is a formal recognition of extra-curricular activity that enhances your employability, for example volunteer work, training and attending careers workshops.

Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/careers

(under Politics)
Your degree
BA (Hons) International Relations

Year 1

In your first year, you will be introduced to the methods and theoretical approaches involved in the study of International Relations in higher education, and the challenges that confront states and international organisations in an increasingly global world. You will take one core module and two optional modules.

Core Module
International Relations: Theory and Practice

We will introduce you to central aspects of the discipline of International Relations, providing a firm grounding in the major concepts and debates necessary to understand the modern world of international politics. You will learn about: the dominant features and power relations of the contemporary global system; the nature of sovereignty and security, their expression and limitations; the real-world problems confronting the international community today.

Areas of study typically include:
+ International Relations Theory: the study of how relations between states can and should be viewed and theorised, Realism, Liberalism, Constructivism and Feminism.
+ Regional Studies: the study of key regions of the world, and the politics of their interactions.
+ International Institutions and Law: the international organisations, customs, and rules that govern inter-state relationships.
+ Global Politics and Belief: the study of how religious and ideological belief can shape international politics and the relation of states.
+ International Crises: the study of pressing issues confronting the international community, such as environmental collapse, technological advance, the rise of non-state actors, and terrorism.
+ International Relations and the Domestic: the study of how the domestic agendas can shape and influence international politics.

Because of the increasing interdependence of the national and global, domestic politics and international relations can no longer be properly understood in isolation from one another. To ensure the best possible foundation for a degree in International Relations, in first year, we strongly recommend you also take Politics in the Modern World.

Recommended Module
Politics in the Modern World

This module introduces you to key themes in the study of modern politics, and allows you to gain critical insight into the nature and use of political power in the contemporary world. You will learn about: the foundations of the modern nation-state, and the ways in which our institutions can reflect or fail to meet the ideals of liberal democracy; the behaviour of individuals and groups in political contexts; the workings of national constitutions and international organisations; the interaction of global events and domestic agendas.

Areas of study typically include:
+ Political Theory: the study of the scope, nature, and justification of state authority, and the history of political thought.
+ Comparative Politics: the study of the various institutions of the nation-state, in a comparative context.
+ Ideologies: the study of political ideologies such as (neo-)liberalism, (neo-)conservatism, socialism, and fascism, their cohesiveness and social/political function.
+ Political Behaviour: the study of the ways in which agents and groups engage with politics in the age of mass and social media.
+ Politics in a Global World: the influence of global movements and events on domestic and international politics.

Minor Module
You will select a third module to complement your studies in International Relations from among the following subjects:
Criminology, History, Economics, Sociology, Philosophy, Gender and Women’s Studies.

The choice available will be subject to any timetabling restrictions or entry prerequisites.

Year 2

In your second year, you will examine more advanced theories of international interaction by studying the recommended module: International Relations, Security and Sustainability. You will also begin to develop expertise in particular regional dimensions of the subject by choosing from a range of geographically-focused modules.

You will study up to eight modules from an extensive range of 15-credit International Relations modules:

You may wish to complement some of the above with 15-credit Politics modules:

You can read module descriptions online at: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Meet Bianka

I have just completed the Richardson Institute internship programme. The skills I have gained through this experience will prove invaluable later on in my career. It gave me the opportunity to develop practical research skills and data processing knowledge. It was also a good chance to network with people from various organisations engaged in the international security, development, and humanitarian fields.

Bianka Venkataramani
BA (Hons) Peace Studies and International Relations

Studying International Relations at Lancaster has been an absolute joy. The atmosphere is so welcoming, the academics always kind and generous with their time, and the department always there to offer any support you might need. It is home to an impressive collective of global experts on a wide array of topics within both politics and international relations, and getting the opportunity to engage with them on a daily basis has truly enriched my educational experience and broadened my horizons as a burgeoning academic myself.
At third year level, we offer specialist modules on the international politics of various regions in the world, as well as various sub-disciplines of International Relations, such as International Relations Theory, Security Studies, and International Political Economy. Other options available include the interdisciplinary study of religion, philosophy, and technology and their relevance to the study of global change.

You can choose eight modules, or combine six modules with a dissertation:

- Politics of Global Danger
- Understanding External Intervention in Violent Conflicts
- Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
- Africa and Global Politics
- Contemporary Issues in Human Rights
- Britain in the World
- Islamic Politics
- Politics of Cultural Diversity
- Religion and Violence
- International Political Economy of Globalization
- Religion and Politics
- Complexity, Pragmatism and Policy

Dissertation
You will have the opportunity to undertake a 10,000-word dissertation; this is a sustained investigation on an international relations subject that interests you. This develops your employability and research skills, as well as your ability to work independently, with input from an academic supervisor. We offer options to complete a dissertation with field studies (potentially incorporating an international study trip), or with external collaboration (for example, via our Richardson Institute internship programme) to enhance your ability to reflect on the impact of academic work.

Teaching and assessment
In each year of study, you will typically have 6 hours of lectures and 3-4 hours of seminars per week. In addition to this, you will study independently, prepare for your seminar discussions, and produce assessed pieces of work as directed by your tutors. There is assessed coursework and exams throughout all years. For most modules, exams count for 60% of your mark, coursework for 40%. First year marks do not contribute to your final degree classification.

Joint major students
For joint and triple major students, you will study core and optional modules in your second and third subjects in approximately equal weightings through all years of study. Find out more online: www.lancaster.ac.uk/study

Your global experience
Lancaster is a truly international university, with students and staff from over 100 different countries and partner institutions around the world. Your global experience is about living and learning with people from different cultures whether through your course, your College or your Students’ Union.

Study abroad
Grow in independence and confidence while immersing yourself in a new culture and way of learning. At Lancaster, you can apply to study abroad for the whole of your second year, providing a unique experience to add to your CV. Our current partner universities are located in Australia, Canada, Hong Kong, the Netherlands and the USA. You register your interest and apply for your preferred destination once you arrive at Lancaster. Living in another country and studying your subjects from a different perspective offers considerable benefit both in terms of your understanding of the subject and your preparation for life after university.

Vacation travel
The Global Experiences team also organises shorter overseas trips during the vacation periods. During the summer vacation, there are usually three-week trips to destinations such as Malaysia, India, Ghana and China. These trips include meeting local students and businesses as well as academic study and cultural discovery.

In the Easter vacation, we typically offer a ten-day trip to New York and Boston. For example, in 2019 our U.S. trip visited:

- The John F. Kennedy Presidential Library and Museum, where we discussed U.S. civil rights and J.F.K.’s presidency.
- The United Nations, where we met with a UN official to discuss their role.
- The 9/11 Memorial Museum, where we gained perspective on the impact of 9/11 on the U.S.

Find out more: www.lancaster.ac.uk/your-global-experience

We keep our degree programmes under constant review, and also regularly update and introduce new modules. In any academic year, the list of modules offered should therefore be seen as indicative and may differ from that presented here. Similarly, the structure of our degrees may change, following consultation with students and institutional approval, and in response to curricular developments and the emerging needs of the student body. Please check our website for the latest information.
# Degrees and entry requirements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Degree title</th>
<th>Award</th>
<th>Degree length</th>
<th>UCAS code</th>
<th>Typical offer</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Relations</td>
<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>6T99</td>
<td>ABB</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics and International Relations</td>
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<td>L250</td>
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<td>3 years</td>
<td>LL12</td>
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<td>BA Hons</td>
<td>3 years</td>
<td>LL22</td>
<td>AAB</td>
</tr>
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<td>3 years</td>
<td>VL12</td>
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<tr>
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<td>3 years</td>
<td>LN30</td>
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</tbody>
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## Placement year and study abroad degrees

You can take a placement year with many of our degree programmes and should select the placement year variant when you apply. Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/placement-year)

By contrast, you can apply for a study abroad year after you begin your degree. Find out more: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study-abroad)

For information on fees, scholarships and any additional costs you might need to consider, please see our website: [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study)

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**Gold standard in the Teaching Excellence Framework 2017**

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**Get in touch**

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**Important information**

The information in this leaflet relates primarily to 2021/22 entry to the University and every effort has been taken to ensure the information is correct at the time of printing in May 2020. The University will use all reasonable effort to deliver the course as described but the University reserves the right to make changes after going to print. You are advised to consult our website at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/study](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/study) for up-to-date information before you submit your application. Further legal information may be found at [www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice](http://www.lancaster.ac.uk/compliance/legalnotice).

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