

BA Honours Politics

Zuzana Ivanova

Choosing the Politics course at the University of Westminster has been an excellent decision. The exciting political debates with students from all over the world and the supportive and helpful lecturers who set us challenging tasks are the reasons why I enjoy every day of my studies here.



Other related areas/courses you might be interested in:
Social Science Combined BA Honours (p205)

International Relations BA Honours

This course provides a comprehensive understanding of contemporary international relations. You will be encouraged to explore and critically analyse the key issues on the international agenda, and apply international relations theory to real-world events.

Course content

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

This level introduces you to key issues and theories involved in the study of international relations. Core themes will examine the nature of the international system, identify the main players and dominant trends and encourage you to explore theoretical perspectives on international politics. Option modules provide an opportunity to experience perspectives from outside your chosen programme, enabling you to experience a number of social science perspectives. You will also develop the key study and transferable skills needed to complete your studies successfully.

Year 2 and 3 (Credit Levels 5 and 6)

Building on your first year, these levels provide more in-depth, specialised analysis of both the theory and practice of international relations. Particular emphasis is given to terrorism, humanitarian intervention, international development and state building. These areas are taught by academics who are active in research in these specialised fields. You will be encouraged to shape your degree according to your own interests and there is significant choice at both levels. You will study research methods and undertake a Year 3 (Credit Level 6) research project on a topic of your own choice. You will also have the opportunity to gain credits for a work experience placement through the Internship Programme.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time

UCAS code

L250

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

A range of innovative assessment methods is used. Some modules are assessed by course work only and some by a combination of course work and exam. Course work assessments include essays, presentations, book reviews, portfolio preparation and mini-projects.

Associated careers

Graduates will be qualified to pursue a diverse range of careers such as working with an NGO (non-governmental organisation), an international organisation such as the EU/UN, the Civil Service, the Foreign Office, publishing/marketing and journalism and the media. Many students choose to go on to do postgraduate study at MA and PhD level. The course also offers you the opportunity to take a work experience module that will inform personal development as well as career planning.

Typical offer for September 2009

Qualification type	Grade/points
A Levels	BB/BCC
International Baccalaureate	28 points
BTEC National Diploma	DMM

See also entry requirements on p48.

This degree offers you a wide-ranging course in contemporary political studies, with a strong UK, comparative and international flavour. You are encouraged to develop a critical understanding of political theories and the relationship between political ideas and political practice. It also improves your analytical skills in the examination and understanding of political problems and issues.

Course content

Year 1 (Credit Level 4)

There is a lot of flexibility to enable you to experience a number of social science perspectives. Core modules in the first year ensure that you develop the key study and transferable skills needed to complete your studies successfully, by focusing on skills relating to studying, library and information retrieval, information technology, group work, presentation and communication. You will examine specific themes in detail including political ideologies, the state, British politics and comparative politics. Option modules provide an opportunity to experience perspectives from outside your chosen programme, allowing you to change course at the end of Year 1 (Credit Level 4) where appropriate.

Year 2 and 3 (Credit Level 5 and 6)

Building on your first year you can specialise in areas of political theory, British, American, European and international politics. The course is taught by specialists in political theory, governance, the media, political economy and foreign policy. You will also study research methods and complete a research project on a topic of your own choice. You can also gain credits for a work experience placement through the politics Internship Programme.

Length of course

Three-year, full-time;
five-year, part-time

UCAS code

L200

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

A range of assessment methods is used. Some modules are assessed by course work only and some by a combination of course work and an exam. Course work assessments include essays, presentations, book reviews, portfolio preparation and mini-projects.

Associated careers

Graduates will be qualified to pursue a diverse range of careers such as working with an NGO (non-governmental organisation), an international organisation such as the EU/UN, the Civil Service, the Foreign Office, publishing/marketing and journalism and the media. Many students choose to go on to do postgraduate study at MA and PhD level. The course also offers you the opportunity to take a work experience module that will inform personal development as well as career planning.

Typical offer for September 2009

Qualification type	Grade/points
A Levels	BB/BCC
International Baccalaureate	28 points
BTEC National Diploma	DMM

See also entry requirements on p48.

For further information about Politics and International Relations courses visit the School of Social Sciences, Humanities and Languages website at www.westminster.ac.uk/sshl

Politics Combined BA Honours

This course gives you the chance to combine modules from two half-degree sets. You will receive a named award reflecting your choice of sets. There are four sets which can be taken in combination with each other: European Politics, International Relations, Politics, and War and Conflict Studies. The sets can be combined on a joint basis, where you study an equal number of modules from both of your chosen sets, or you can combine modules from your chosen sets on a major/minor basis. The course aims to give you a flexible opportunity to study more than one discipline or interdisciplinary area, in less depth than is required for a single honours degree, but with greater breadth across disciplines and interdisciplinary areas of study.

Core modules ensure a coherent education in the essential framework skills of both sets, together with the opportunity to choose options reflecting your individual interests. The course will also provide opportunities for the acquisition and development of transferable skills which will contribute to your employability and capacity for life-long learning.

Course content

The course is intended to develop your knowledge and understanding in Politics, International Relations, European Politics and War and Conflict. It will give you subject-specialist and general skills to enhance your employability, and provide a sound academic basis on which you can undertake further studies at postgraduate level. This course also offers you the opportunity to take a work experience module.

European Politics develops an interdisciplinary approach to the study of contemporary Europe, addressing developments both within the European Union and in other parts of Europe, and exploring definitions of European identity. It encourages a critical appreciation of integration theory through a study of pan-European integration processes.

International Relations provides an introduction to the methods, scope and theoretical perspectives that constitute international relations. It presents a recent history of global politics and provides a framework for understanding the contemporary global system and the distribution of power throughout the global, regional and national levels of that system.

Politics considers the key themes and approaches of politics. The modules cover a wide range of academic specialisms and particular interests, but share a common concern with the relationship between state, nationhood and society in the modern world, and the complex interplay between domestic and international politics.

War and Conflict Studies places the study of war and conflict in an historical, contemporary and comparative context. It examines the relationship between war, society and culture, analyses the practice of warfare and its impact, and it evaluates the prescriptions for the limitation, regulation, prevention and resolution of war and conflict.

If you wish to combine one of these sets with another hosted by the Department of Social and Historical Studies please apply to the BA Honours Social Science Combined course (p205).

Length of course

Three-year, full-time;
five-year, part-time

UCAS codes

L201

Location

Central London (Regent)

Teaching and assessment

Typically, modules consist of lectures and seminars, with lectures being used to provide a framework for further study by defining the topic, and identifying and evaluating significant approaches, perspectives and theories. Seminars are more of an opportunity for you to engage critically with the knowledge acquired in lectures. Seminars also provide a valuable opportunity for you to ask questions about matters you do not fully understand, shape the direction of discussion, and seek guidance on assignments.

Associated careers

Graduates will be qualified to pursue a diverse range of careers such as working with an NGO (non-governmental organisation), an international organisation such as the EU/UN, the Civil Service, the Foreign Office, publishing/marketing and journalism and the media. Many students choose to go on to do postgraduate study at MA and PhD level. The course also offers you the opportunity to take a work experience module that will inform personal development as well as career planning.

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