



1. Programme Title(s) and UCAS code(s):

BA Politics and Sociology LL23

BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad*

*Students may only enter these degree programmes by transferring at the end of year 1

2. Awarding body or institution:

University of Leicester

3. a) Mode of study:

Full-time

b) Type of study:

Campus-based

4. Registration periods:

The normal period of registration is 3 years.

The maximum period of registration is 5 years.

Year Abroad

The normal period of registration is four years

The maximum period of registration is six years

5. Typical entry requirements:

A/AS levels: BBB. (Two AS levels considered in place of one A level.)

International Baccalaureate: Pass Diploma with 28 points minimum.

European Baccalaureate: Pass with 70% overall.

BTEC Nationals: Full Diploma DDM.

6. Accreditation of Prior Learning:

APL will not be accepted for exemptions from individual modules, however may be considered for direct entry to year 2, on a case by case basis and subject to the general provisions of the University APL policy.

7. Programme aims:

The programme aims to:

- Provide a coherent and attractive curriculum by utilising the teaching and research expertise of the Department of Politics and International Relations and the Department of Sociology;
- Provide a rigorous programme of study, embodying a disciplinary flexibility, across both subjects and by exploring the intellectual synergies between Politics and Sociology;

- Enable students to apply a theoretical understanding of Politics within a sociological and contemporary context;
- Develop student expertise in the key areas of both disciplines – allowing for dissertation specialisation in the final year;
- Provide a supportive, stimulating and challenging learning experience for students;
- Assist students to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development;
- Equip graduates with skills of research and analysis as a foundation for further study at postgraduate level in Politics, Sociology and cognate disciplines.

For those on the Year Abroad:

- provide an opportunity for Leicester students to spend their third year abroad, studying at a partner institution in Europe as part of the European Erasmus framework exchange program or a partner institution on another continent as part of the Study Abroad exchange programme;
- develop study skills in another university following a guided programme of learning for the period spent abroad;
- provide an opportunity for exchange students from partner institutions in another country to study in the United Kingdom;
- provide and build on links between the University of Leicester and its partner institutions
- develop an awareness of Politics and Sociology education in another country;
- develop a critical understanding of the different national, international and European political and social phenomena;
- develop an appreciation of the different approaches to the study of Politics and Sociology adopted by different types of scholars both in the United Kingdom and abroad;
- develop linguistic skills in a European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.

8. Reference points used to inform the programme specification:

- QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations:
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/SBS-politics-15.pdf>
- QAA Benchmarking statement for Sociology:
<http://www.qaa.ac.uk/en/Publications/Documents/Subject-benchmark-statement-Sociology.pdf>
- University Employability Strategy
- University of Leicester Periodic Development Review Report (February 2014)
- External Examiners' Reports
- First Destination Survey
- Student feedback (NSS 2014)

9. Programme Outcomes:

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(a) Discipline specific knowledge and competencies		
(i) Mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge		
<p>Demonstrate mastery of an appropriate body of knowledge in Politics and Sociology.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, problem-solving exercises, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, written reports, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.</p>
<p>Year Abroad] Acquire knowledge of another European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Language classes provided during 2nd year; 3rd year abroad taught in some cases in a foreign language.</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, seminar presentations and contributions to tutorial</p>
(ii) Understanding and application of key concepts and techniques		
<p>Demonstrate the assimilation of core theoretical concepts and their application in Politics and Sociology.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, problem-solving exercises, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises, computer-based exercises.</p>
<p>Demonstrate a familiarity and engage critically with a range of approaches, issues and concepts in both disciplines.</p>		
<p>[Year Abroad] As above</p>	<p>As above.</p>	<p>As above.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iii) Critical analysis of key issues		
<p>Develop and sustain arguments addressing questions and issues in Politics and Sociology, formulating appropriate questions and drawing on evidence.</p> <p>Analyse the Politics and Sociology of different states, societies, and/or cultures.</p> <p>Reflect critically on a range of historical and contemporary developments in the disciplines of Politics and Sociology.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Demonstrate the ability to analyse through appropriate methodologies aspects of European politics and societies, and foreign political and social structures & dynamics.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.</p> <p>As above.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.</p> <p>As above.</p>
(iv) Clear and concise presentation of material		
<p>Present issues and problems in Politics and Sociology in a clear and concise way in a variety of written and oral formats.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, directed reading, group work, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, seminar presentations and contributions to class discussions.</p>
(v) Critical appraisal of evidence with appropriate insight		
<p>Read, analyse and reflect critically and contextually upon major texts and other source materials in Politics and Sociology.</p>	<p>Lectures, seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff, and independent research.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, written reports, seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, problem-solving exercises.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(vi) Other discipline specific competencies		
<p>Plan, design, research and present a sustained and independently conceived piece of writing in Politics.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Demonstrate inter-cultural awareness and understanding.</p>	<p>Dissertation supervisions, research methods classes and independent research.</p> <p>As above.</p>	<p>Independent research projects, dissertations and research presentations.</p> <p>As above.</p>
(b) Transferable skills		
(i) Oral communication		
<p>Develop clarity, fluency and coherence in oral expression of issues in Politics and Sociology.</p> <p>Participate effectively as a student in group discussions.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] To display the ability to communicate in a European language in a fluent, accurate and appropriate manner if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, group work, individual consultations with staff and feedback on presentations.</p> <p>Language classes.</p>	<p>Seminar presentations, contributions to class discussions, individual dissertation presentation.</p> <p>Exercise, oral presentations.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(ii) Written communication		
<p>Develop and sustain arguments in Politics and Sociology in a variety of written forms.</p> <p>Demonstrate clarity, fluency and coherence in written expression of issues in Politics and Sociology.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] To produce texts of various types in a European language demonstrating accuracy and appropriate discourse conventions if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, problem-solving exercises, independent research, individual consultations with staff and feedback on coursework and assessed work.</p> <p>Language classes, formative coursework in partner institutions.</p>	<p>Essays, essay-based examinations, dissertations, written reports, reviews, seminar presentations, problem-solving exercises.</p> <p>As above.</p>
(iii) Information technology		
<p>Use IT to effectively support their studies in Politics and Sociology, including use of IT for bibliographic and archive searches, data analysis and written/visual presentation of work.</p> <p>Integration of IT into presentations (e.g. PowerPoint)and research (e.g. Blackboard, online archives/sources).</p>	<p>Induction programme, computer practical classes, online learning resources, independent research, interaction with staff and peers via Blackboard and email.</p>	<p>Essays, independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] With regard to the 3rd year of the programme, communication with students abroad is conducted via the internet.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(iv) Numeracy		
<p>Analyse data associated with Politics and Sociology using statistical and graphical techniques.</p>	<p>Lectures, computer practical classes.</p>	<p>Independent research projects, computer-based exercises, problem-based exercises.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.</p>
(v) Team working		
<p>Be able to work collaboratively to jointly explore issues and arguments in Politics and Sociology, and to recognise the value of working closely with others.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Be able to work collaboratively in an international environment</p>	<p>Interactive seminars, tutorials and group-work exercises.</p>	<p>Participation in group work, seminar presentations, role plays and simulations, contributions to class discussions, problem-based exercises.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] Plus equivalent forms of assessment in partner institutions.</p>
(vi) Problem solving		
<p>Address problems in Politics and Sociology in depth using a range of primary and secondary sources.</p> <p>Synthesise differing approaches to both disciplines.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials and problem-solving exercises.</p>	<p>Essays, examinations, independent research projects, written reports, problem-solving exercises.</p>
(vii) Information handling		
<p>Gather and deploy evidence and data to find, retrieve, sort and exchange new information.</p>	<p>Seminars, tutorials, directed reading, specialist research methods workshops, practical problem-solving exercises and online learning resources.</p>	<p>Essays, independent research projects, written reports, problem-solving exercises.</p>

Intended Learning Outcomes	Teaching and Learning Methods	How Demonstrated?
(viii) Skills for lifelong learning		
<p>Demonstrate intellectual independence through the setting of research tasks and the solving of problems in Politics and Sociology.</p> <p>Reflect upon own learning and achievements and plan for personal, educational and career development.</p> <p>[Year Abroad] To demonstrate strategies for self-monitoring and continued maintenance and development of skills in a European language if the student goes to a partner university where the teaching language is not English. Adaptation to a foreign environment.</p>	<p>All of the above particularly independent research.</p> <p>Tutorials, career development programmes, resource-based learning, personal development planning programme and individual consultations with staff.</p> <p>Development of metalinguistic awareness through language classes, tasks designed to expand a foreign language repertoire.</p>	<p>All of the above particularly the dissertation.</p> <p>Portfolio, curriculum vitae.</p> <p>Language assignments, ability to self-correct.</p>

10. Progression points:

Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study:
[Senate Regulation 5: Regulations governing undergraduate programmes of study.](#)

In cases where a student has failed to meet a requirement to progress he or she will be required to withdraw from the course.

11. Scheme of Assessment:

Scheme of Assessment: This programme follows the standard scheme of award and classification set out in [Senate Regulation 5](#)

Application to Transfer from BA Politics and Sociology to BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad

Students are invited to apply at the end of their first year to transfer to the BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad.

Progression from 2nd year to year abroad

Students may progress to the year abroad with no more than 30 credits of failed modules in year 2. Good attendance and observation of academic obligations must continue to be maintained throughout year 2. Failure to do so may result in the opportunity to study abroad being withdrawn and the student being transferred to the BA Politics and Sociology (without year abroad) or withdrawn from the course entirely.

For the year abroad year students are required to complete the equivalent of 60 ECTS if studying at a European partner institution.

For a student to progress to the final year of the BA with a Year Abroad programme the following will apply:

- I. If the student is studying and being assessed in a foreign language he/she has to pass at least half of his/her second semester modules in the partner institution. This requirement emphasises that the year abroad is to be taken seriously as a period of study but is not so onerous as to negatively impact students on this programme. If a student has failed to pass half the credits in his/her second semester during the year abroad, including resit options as per the partner institution's rules, by the September Board of Examiners, the Board will consider whether the student should have to transfer on to the BA Politics and Sociology (without year abroad) for their final year, taking their overall attendance and observation of academic obligations into consideration.
- II. If the student is studying and being assessed in English he/she has to achieve an average of 50% for the whole year. If a student has failed to achieve an average of 50% for the year, including resit options as per the partner institution's rules, by the September Board of Examiners, the Board will consider whether the student should have to transfer on to the BA Politics and Sociology (without year abroad) for their final year, taking their overall attendance and observation of academic obligations into consideration.
- III. If the student is studying and being assessed in a combination of English and a Foreign Language the progression rules used will be based on the language used to teach the majority of modules. Therefore, if the majority of modules are taught in English the rules described in ii) above will apply, and if the majority of modules are taught in a Foreign Language the rules described in i) above will apply.

The year abroad will not contribute towards the overall classification, and will therefore be assessed on a pass or fail basis.

12. Special features:

Students learning experience is enhanced by both Departments' strong commitment to developing synergy between its research and teaching activities.

Students may apply to transfer to the BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad after successful completion of the first year and subsequent successful completion of the second year.

The BA Politics and Sociology with a Year Abroad provides for students spending their third year at one of our partner institutions and then returning to Leicester for their final year.

13. Indications of programme quality

Consistently positive feedback from External Examiners over a number of years. Highly positive outcome of the Periodic Developmental Review undertaken in 2014. A strong NSS profile since the inception of the survey.

14. External Examiners:

The details of the External Examiner(s) for this programme and the most recent External Examiners' reports can be found [here](#).

BA POLITICS AND SOCIOLOGY

FIRST YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER ONE

Core Modules

PL1015	COLD WAR, CRISIS AND CONFRONTATION: INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS, 1945-89
PL1019	POLITICS, POWER AND ETHICS
SY1004	SOCIOLOGY: A BEGINNERS GUIDE

SEMESTER TWO

Core Modules

SY1002	SOCIETY IN TRANSFORMATION
SY1020	INTRODUCTION TO SOCIAL RESEARCH

And One of:

PL1011	POLITICAL CONCEPTS
PL1012	COMPARATIVE EUROPEAN POLITICS

SECOND YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER ONE

Two Optional Modules from:

SY2080	CONSUMING CRIME
SY2087	INTERPRETING SOCIOLOGICAL TEXTS
SY2090	ETHNICITY AND SOCIETY
SY2091	LIVE SOCIOLOGY
SY2094	GENDER AND SOCIETY

And One Optional Module from:

PL2011	POLITICAL IDEAS
PL2020	POLITICAL PARTIES IN CONTEMPORARY BRITAIN
PL2021	SEX AND GENDER IN GLOBAL POLITICS
PL2028	LATIN AMERICAN POLITICS

SEMESTER TWO

Core Module

SY2008	USING NUMBERS IN SOCIAL RESEARCH
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And Two Optional Modules from:

PL2000	POLITICAL ANALYSIS (Mandatory for students taking final year Dissertation in Politics & International Relations)
PL2016	EUROPEAN UNION POLITICS
PL2019	THE MAKING OF CONTEMPORARY US FOREIGN POLICY
PL2023	POLITICS AND POWER IN AFRICA
PL2024	GOVERNING SOCIETIES IN CONFLICT
PL2027	CONTEMPORARY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY: THEORIES OF JUSTICE

FINAL YEAR MODULES

SEMESTER 1

Core Module EITHER

PL3094 DISSERTATION 1

OR

SY3042 RESEARCH PROJECT (Part 1)

Two Optional Modules chosen from approved Politics & International Relations and Sociology modules

Politics & International Relations modules:

PL3060 FEMINISM

PL3071 THE AMERICAN PRESIDENCY

PL3076 POLITICS AND THE ENVIRONMENT

PL3106 PARLIAMENTARY STUDIES

PL3107 BREXIT AND BRITISH POLITICS

PL3140 CLIMATE CHANGE: ETHICS, ISSUES, JUSTICE

PL3142 POLITICS OF THE INTERNATIONAL DRUG TRADE

PL3143 INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION IN THE AGE OF SECURITISATION

PL3146 CORRUPTION, INFORMALITY AND SCANDALS

Sociology modules:

SY3090 DRUGS AND SOCIETY

SY3100 SOCIAL PSYCHOLOGY

SY3099 IDENTITY TROUBLES: NATIONALISM, JIHADISM AND THE EXTREME RIGHT

SEMESTER 2

Core Module EITHER

PL3095 DISSERTATION 2

OR

SY3042 RESEARCH PROJECT (Part 2)

Two Optional Modules chosen from approved Politics & International Relations and Sociology modules

Politics & International Relations modules:

PL3098 THE CONSERVATIVES: CRISIS AND RECOVERY

PL3114 AMERICAN POLITICAL DEVELOPMENT

PL3118 GLOBAL JUSTICE AND HUMAN RIGHTS

PL3121 THE POLITICS OF SLAVERY

PL3122 THE POLITICAL LEGACIES OF CONFLICT IN NORTHERN IRELAND

PL3127 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION IN BRITAIN

PL3136 DEMOCRACY AND EU MEMBERSHIP IN POST-COMMUNIST EUROPE

Sociology modules:

SY3057	FOOTBALL AND SOCIETY
SY3092	SOCIAL MOVEMENTS
SY3093	SPACE, PLACE AND CONTEMPORARY CULTURE
SY3094	AUTOBIOGRAPHICAL SOCIETY
SY3095	SOCIOLOGY OF HEALTH AND ILLNESS
SY3096	GROWING UP AND GROWING OLDER
SY3097	INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION
SY3098	GLOBAL SEX TRADE

Students' choice of optional modules must result in a total of two Sociology modules and two Politics modules for the third year as a whole.