

Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Spanish) (LR24)

Section 1 – Introduction to your course

This course specification is a formal document, which provides a summary of the main features of your course and the learning outcomes that you might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if you take full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. Further information is contained in the College prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the College's academic regulations and policies can be found [here](#). Further information on the College's Admissions Policy can be found [here](#).

BA Modern Languages programmes are delivered in four years. Years one, two and four each comprise one year of full-time study during each of which you must follow modules to the value of 120 credits. Year three consists of a Year Abroad (YA) spent in a country or countries speaking the language or languages of your chosen specialism. Your YA contributes a further 60 credits to your total, half of which are based on two reports written in the source language and the other half on an oral examination on your return to test linguistic skills and intercultural awareness. Your programme provides a structure in which you are able to gain ever-wider knowledge and understanding, and appropriate skills. Your programme contains a combination of mandatory modules to enable you to acquire skills of critical analysis and to achieve fluency in your chosen language(s). In years two and four, you may choose from a range of specialist options to develop your own interests. In the final year, you may complete a research-led dissertation.

While Royal Holloway keeps all the information made available under review, courses and the availability of individual modules, especially optional modules are necessarily subject to change at any time, and you are therefore advised to seek confirmation of any factors which might affect your decision to follow a specific course. In turn, Royal Holloway will inform you as soon as is practicable of any significant changes which might affect your studies.

The following is a brief description for some of the most important terminology for understanding the content of this document:

Degree course – May also be referred to as 'degree programme' or simply 'programme', these terms refer to the qualification you will be awarded upon successful completion of your studies.

Module – May also be referred to as 'course', this refers to the individual units you will study each year to complete your degree course. Undergraduate degrees at Royal Holloway comprise a combination of modules in multiples of 15 credits to the value of 120 credits per year. On some degree courses a certain number of optional modules must be passed for a particular degree title.

Section 2 – Course details			
Date of specification update	August 2022	Location of study	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Spanish)	Level of study	Undergraduate
Course code	3487	UCAS code	LR24
Year of entry	2023/24		
Awarding body	Royal Holloway, University of London		
Department or school	Politics, International Relations and Philosophy	Other departments or schools involved in teaching the course	Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures
Mode(s) of attendance	Full-time	Duration of the course	4 years
Accrediting Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Body requirement(s)	N/A		
Link to Coursefinder for further information:	https://www.royalholloway.ac.uk/studying-here/	For queries on admissions:	https://royalholloway.ac.uk/applicationquery

Section 3 – Degree course structure					
3.1 Mandatory module information					
The following table summarises the mandatory modules which students must take in each year of study					
Year	Module code	Module title	Credits	FHEQ level	Module status (Mandatory Condonable MC or Mandatory Non-Condonable MNC)
All pathways					
1	PR1500	Introduction to International Relations	30	4	MC
1	PR1400	Introduction to Politics and Government	30	4	MC
3	ML2999	Year Abroad Placement: Intercultural Competency and Professional Skills	30	5	MC
4	SN3001	Spanish: Spanish III	30	6	MNC
Ab initio					
1	SN1601	Spanish Ab Initio Written I	15	4	MNC
1	SN1602	Spanish Ab Initio Oral I	15	4	MC
2	SN2010	Intensive Spanish II	30	5	MNC
Post A-level					
1	SN1701	Spanish Advanced Written I	15	4	MNC
1	SN1702	Spanish Advanced Oral I	15	4	MC
2	SN2001	Spanish II	30	5	MNC
Native speaker					
This table sets out the most important information for the mandatory modules on your degree course. These modules are central to achieving your learning outcomes, so they are compulsory, and all students on your degree course will be required to take them. You will be automatically registered for these modules each year. Mandatory modules fall into two categories: 'condonable' or 'non-condonable'.					

In the case of mandatory 'non-condonable' (MNC) modules, you must pass the module before you can proceed to the next year of your course, or to successfully graduate with a particular degree title. In the case of mandatory 'condonable' (MC) modules, these must be taken but you can still progress or graduate even if you do not pass them. Please note that although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, changes to your degree course may be made where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events. For example: where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of external advisors, to enhance academic provision.

3.2 Optional modules

In addition to mandatory modules, there will be a number of optional modules available during the course of your degree. Although Royal Holloway will keep changes to a minimum, new options may be offered or existing ones may be withdrawn. For example where reasonable and necessary due to unexpected events, where requirements of relevant Professional, Statutory or Regulatory Bodies (PSRBs) have changed and course requirements must change accordingly, or where changes are deemed necessary on the basis of student feedback and/or the advice of External Advisors, to enhance academic provision. There may be additional requirements around option selection; please contact the Department for further information.

First Year

In addition to your mandatory modules you must choose a further 30 credits from Modern Languages.

Note: If you are deemed by the School to be proficient or a native speaker on entry you must take the following **mandatory** module:
SN2001 Spanish II (30 credits) (**MNC - must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**)

Second Year

If you have taken and passed SN2001 in your first year you must take the following **mandatory** module:

SN2011 Principles & Practice of Translation Spanish to English (15 credits) **and** SN2012 Principles & Practice of Translation English to Spanish (15 credits) (**Both MNC - must be passed in order to progress to the next stage**)

In addition to your mandatory modules, you must also take either:

30 credits from **Modern Languages** and 60 credits from **Politics and International Relations**;

Or

90 credits from **Politics and International Relations**.

Third Year

In addition to the mandatory module, students who choose to spend a full year in a Spanish-speaking country must take:

SN2501 Oral Examination in Spanish (30 credits)

Students who are taking Spanish and another language should split the year between countries speaking two different languages. In addition to ML2999 you must take the following mandatory modules in each of your chosen languages:

FR2502 Oral examination in French (15 credits)

GM2502 Oral examination in German (15 credits)

SN2502 Oral examination in Spanish (15 credits)

IT2502 Oral examination in Italian (15 credits)

Fourth Year

In addition to the mandatory module in Spanish, you will take 60 credits from **Politics and International Relations**. You will also take a further 30 credits from either Modern Languages, or Politics and International Relations.

Students are not permitted to write dissertations from the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures.

Students may choose to take the Politics and International Relations dissertation (PR3000).

Section 4 - Progressing through each year of your degree course

For further information on the progression and award requirements for your degree, please refer to Royal Holloway's [Academic Regulations](#).

Progression throughout the year/s is monitored through performance in summative or formative coursework assignments. Please note that if you hold a Student Visa and you choose to leave (or are required to leave because of non-progression) or complete early (before the course end date stated on your CAS), then this will be reported to UKVI.

All first year students on single, joint or combined honours courses offered all or in part by the School of Humanities, School of Performing and Digital Arts, or department of Politics, International Relations and Philosophy are required to pass a Moodle-based writing skills quiz in order to progress into the second year of study. The pass mark for the test is 60%. Certificates of Distinction are awarded to students who achieve at least 80% in the quiz. Students may attempt the quiz as often as they wish with no penalties or capping. Students who meet the requirements for progression as stipulated in the [College's Undergraduate Regulations](#) (Section: Conditions for progression to the next stage) but fail to pass the Moodle-based quiz will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study at the College.

Year 3 (Year Abroad)

If you are taking a single language, in addition to ML2999, you must take the following **mandatory** module in your chosen language:

FR2501 Oral Examination in French (30 credits)
GM2501 Oral Examination in German (30 credits)
SN2501 Oral Examination in Spanish (30 credits)
IT2501 Oral Examination in Italian (30 credits)

If you are taking two or more languages you should split the year between countries speaking two different languages. In addition to ML2999 must take the following mandatory modules in each of their chosen languages:

FR2502 Oral examination in French (15 credits)
GM2502 Oral examination in German (15 credits)
SN2502 Oral examination in Spanish (15 credits)
IT2502 Oral examination in Italian (15 credits)

Students must pass the year 2 mandatory language module(s) to progress into the Year Abroad. In order to qualify for an award in the field of study, the final-year language module (FR3009/GM3009/SN3001/IT3009) must be passed in the final year of study. Students who pass the final-year language module will have this language included in brackets in the degree title: e.g. BA Modern Languages (French) and History. Students who do not pass the mandatory language modules(s) in their final year will be awarded a degree in Modern Languages without references to language(s) in brackets.

It is a College requirement that students **complete** their YA in order to be able to progress into the final year. Following agreed university modules to their conclusion, including the sitting of examinations, carrying out agreed work placements and completing YA reports (where appropriate) constitute the completion of the YA.

PLEASE NOTE that students who **fail to complete** their YA as defined above will **NOT** normally be permitted to progress into the final year of their studies.

Section 5 – Educational aims of the course

The aims of this course are:

- to produce students who are well prepared with the knowledge and skills to live in and contribute to a rapidly changing international environment;
- to produce students who will graduate with a commitment to continue to improve their knowledge and expand their skills;
- to place questions of European political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic development at the centre of the analysis;
- to foster an understanding of how European political, economic, social, cultural and linguistic developments are inter-related;
- to encourage an interdisciplinary theoretical approach based on these inter-related phenomena;
- to enable you to understand and use the key concepts, approaches and methods of at least one social science and at least one European language /or a comparative literature and culture module, a literature and culture option;
- to develop in you a capacity to think critically about events, ideas and institutions;
- to encourage you to relate the academic study of Europe to questions of public concern;
- to assist you to develop a range of cognitive and social skills relevant to your intellectual, vocational and personal development;
- to provide a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate;
- to create a learning environment that is receptive to your needs and views and encourages you to achieve your full potential;

Section 6 - Course learning outcomes

In general terms, the courses provide opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate the following learning outcomes. (Categories – Knowledge and understanding (K), Skills and other attributes (S), and Transferable skills (*))

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. of the development, workings, policies and limitations of European institutions (K); 2. of the major social, political and economic trends in Europe, especially integration (K); 3. advanced linguistic competencies in at least one of the following languages – French, German, Italian, Spanish or, for the Politics Society and Culture pathway, advanced understanding of different aspects of European politics, society and culture (K); 4. of the cultural and social context of at least one of the major languages mentioned above (K); 5. of the major concepts, theories, methodologies and literature of at least one social science (K); 6. an ability to apply the major concepts, theories, methodologies and literature of the social science subject(s) to the empirical setting of Europe (K); 7. use information to support an argument, hypothesis or proposition (S*); 8. present information with high levels of written accuracy (S*); 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 9. transfer linguistic skills to a specialist social science literature (S); 10. gather, structure and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources (S*); 11. identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems (S*); 12. construct reasoned argument, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement (S*); 13. reflect on their own learning and seek and make use of constructive feedback (S*); 14. continually analyse and question their own assumptions and those of others (S*); 15. demonstrate oral competence and the confidence to use these skills in at least one language additional to the mother tongue (S*); 16. use communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information (S*); 17. engage in theoretical and conceptual debate (S*); 18. work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management (S*); 19. collaborate with others to achieve common goals (S*);
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Section 7 - Teaching, learning and assessment

Teaching and learning on your course is closely informed by the active research of staff, particularly in the areas of Politics, International Relations and Spanish. In general terms, the course provides an opportunity for you to develop and demonstrate the learning outcomes detailed herein.

Teaching and learning on the courses draw on the methods and concepts used to investigate political phenomena at both national and international levels. The main methods used to develop knowledge and understanding are formal lectures by academic staff within the Department, tutorials and seminar discussions based on a combination of staff led sessions and student presentations.

Assessment will be by a combination of assessed coursework and examination, as indicated in individual module specifications. The aim through the course is to use a variety of different assessments (essays, examinations, other set coursework, presentations) to gauge your performance in as comprehensive a way as possible. If you are studying Politics and International Relations, the assessment process culminates in guided independent research/study with the production of a dissertation, which is a compulsory module in the final year.

Full details of the assessments for individual modules can be obtained from the [Module Catalogue](#).

Contact hours come in various forms and may take the form of time spent with a member of staff in a lecture or seminar with other students. Contact hours may also be laboratory or, studio-based sessions, project supervision with a member of staff, or discussion through a virtual learning environment (VLE). These contact hours may be with a lecturer or teaching assistant, but they may also be with a technician, or specialist support staff.

The way in which each module on your degree course is assessed will also vary, however, the assessments listed above are all 'summative', which means you will receive a mark for it which will count towards your overall mark for the module, and potentially your degree classification, depending on your year of study. On successful completion of the module you will gain the credits listed. 'Coursework' might typically include a written assignment, like an essay. Coursework might also include a report, dissertation or portfolio. 'Practical assessments' might include an oral assessment or presentation, or a demonstration of practical skills required for the particular module

More detailed information on modules, including teaching and learning methods, and methods of assessment, can be found via the online [Module Catalogue](#). The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed regularly by the university, and may also be checked routinely by external agencies, such as the Quality Assurance Agency (QAA).

Section 8 – Additional costs

There are no single associated costs greater than £50 per item on this degree course.

These estimated costs relate to studying this particular degree course at Royal Holloway. General costs such as accommodation, food, books and other learning materials and printing etc., have not been included, but further information is available on our website.

Section 9 – Indicators of quality and standards	
QAA Framework for Higher Education Qualifications (FHEQ) Level	4-6
Your course is designed in accordance with the FHEQ to ensure your qualification is awarded on the basis of nationally established standards of achievement, for both outcomes and attainment. The qualification descriptors within the FHEQ set out the generic outcomes and attributes expected for the award of individual qualifications. The qualification descriptors contained in the FHEQ exemplify the outcomes and attributes expected of learning that results in the award of higher education qualifications. These outcomes represent the integration of various learning experiences resulting from designated and coherent courses of study.	
QAA Subject benchmark statement(s)	http://www.qaa.ac.uk/quality-code/subject-benchmark-statements
Subject benchmark statements provide a means for the academic community to describe the nature and characteristics of courses in a specific subject or subject area. They also represent general expectations about standards for the award of qualifications at a given level in terms of the attributes and capabilities that those possessing qualifications should have demonstrated.	

Section 10– Intermediate exit awards (where available)		
You may be eligible for an intermediate exit award if you complete part of the course as detailed in this document. Any additional criteria (e.g. mandatory modules, credit requirements) for intermediate awards is outlined in the sections below.		
Award	Criteria	Awarding body
Diploma in Higher Education (DipHE)	Pass in 210 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4 and at least 120 of which must be at or above FHEQ Level 5	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College
Certificate in Higher Education (CertHE)	Pass in 120 credits of which at least 90 must be at or above FHEQ Level 4	Royal Holloway and Bedford New College