Royal Holloway, University of London
Course specification for an undergraduate award
BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Italian) (LR23)

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 University prospectus, and in various handbooks, all of which you will be able to access online. Alternatively, further information on the University's academic regulations and polices can be found here. Further information on the University'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	April 2024	**Location of study**	Egham Campus
Course award and title	BA Politics, International Relations and Modern Languages (Italian)	**Level of study**	Undergraduate
Course code	3486	**UCAS code**	LR23
Year of entry	2024/25		
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	IT3009	Italian: Advanced Italian III	30	6	MNC
Ab initio					
1	IT1601	Italian Ab Initio Oral I	15	4	MNC
1	IT1602	Italian Ab Initio Oral I	15	4	MC
2	IT2000	Advanced Italian II for Post-Beginners	30	5	MNC
Post A-level					
1	IT1701	Italian Advanced Written I	15	4	MNC
1	IT1702	Italian Advanced Oral I	15	4	MC
2	IT2050	Advanced Italian 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 – Italian
In addition to your mandatory modules you must choose a further 30 credits from Modern Languages.

Second Year
In addition to your mandatory modules you must choose 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 an Italian speaking country must take:
IT2501 Oral Examination in Italian (30 credits)

Students who are taking Italian 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 Italian languages, you will take 60 credits in Politics and International Relations. You will also take a further 30 credits chosen 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%. 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 Academic Taught Regulations but fail to pass the Moodle-based Academic Integrity module will not be permitted to progress into their second year of academic study.

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 University 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 (*))*

Theme	Course learning outcome	Level 4	Level 5	Level 6
Knowledge and understanding	Understand developments in Political Science and International Relations.	Demonstrate introductory knowledge of Politics and International Relations.	Demonstrate knowledge of Politics and International Relations.	Apply demonstrable knowledge of Politics and International Relations.
	Knowledge and understanding of relevant cultures, communities, and societies of the countries of the studied language.	Demonstrate essential knowledge and understanding of cultures, communities, and societies of the countries of the studied language.	Demonstrate enhanced knowledge and understanding of the relevant cultures, communities, and societies of the countries of the studied language.	Demonstrate advanced knowledge and understanding of the relevant cultures, communities, and societies of the countries of the studied language.
	Critical understanding of the similarities and dissimilarities between their own culture and society and those of the countries of the studied language.	Recognise similarities and differences between their own culture and society and those of the countries of the studied language.	Identify and compare similarities and differences between their own culture and society and those of the countries of the studied language.	Assess critically similarities and differences between their own culture and society and those of the countries of the studied language.
Application of theories	Apply theories in Politics or International Relations to new cases.		Analyse advanced theory in Politics or International Relations.	Apply theory at the highest level for an understanding of new cases in Politics or International Relations.
Knowledge of Language	Communicative competence in a range of topics and registers, formal and informal situations in the studied language.	Demonstrate essential communicative competence in the studied language in reading, writing, listening, speaking and essential understanding of and competence in the phonetics, grammar, structure, and vocabulary, and registers suitable to the relevant pathway (beginner, advanced).	Demonstrate enhanced communicative competence in the studied language in reading, writing, listening, speaking) and enhanced understanding of and competence in the phonetics, grammar, structure, and vocabulary, and registers suitable to the relevant pathway (beginner, advanced).	Demonstrate advanced communicative competence (reading, writing, listening, speaking) and understanding of and competence in the phonetics, grammar, structure and vocabulary, and registers of the studied language.
	Familiarity with a wide range of source materials in the studied language.	Foundational ability to recognise and work with a range of source materials.	Enhanced ability to recognise and work with a wide range of source materials.	Attainment of at least level C1 in the Common European Framework of

			Reference for Languages: Learning, Teaching, Assessment (CEFR).
	Knowledge and understanding of culturally diverse materials and of the historic and contemporary diversity of target language/s.	Demonstrate essential ability to engage with culturally diverse materials related to the target language/s and to recognise the historic and contemporary diversity of their language communities globally.	Demonstrate enhanced ability to engage with culturally diverse materials related to the target language/s and to recognise the historic and contemporary diversity of their language communities globally.	Demonstrate advanced ability to engage with culturally diverse materials related to the target language/s and to recognise the historic and contemporary diversity of their language communities globally.
	Linguistic tools to describe and analyse main features of target language/s and make effective use of language reference materials.	Identify linguistic tools to describe key features of target language/s and language reference materials.	Use linguistic tools to describe key features of target language/s and make use of language reference materials.	Use linguistic tools to describe and analyse key features of target language/s and make effective use of language reference materials.
Skills for learning	Gain skills to explore novel questions in Politics or International Relations, including those that arise in the countries of the studied language.	Communicate analysis of materials at a basic level in Politics or International Relations including in the language studied.	Communicate analysis of more advanced material in Politics or International Relations including in the language studied.	Gather, interpret, and communicate a range of advanced material in Politics or International Relations including in the language studied
	To take responsibility for one's own learning in Politics, International Relations, and the language studied.	Knowledge to explore basic topics in Politics and International Relations, and the language studied.	Knowledge to explore more advanced topics in Politics, International Relations, or the language studied.	Exploration of topics at the most advanced level in Politics or International Relations, and in the language studied
	Learn how to work collaboratively with others or autonomously, including within the environments of the countries of the language studied	Improve independent learning in Politics or International Relations, and the language studied	Gaining more advanced academic study skills in Politics or International Relations, and the language studied	Achieving skills for analysis and writing at the highest level in Politics or International Relations, and in the language studied
Transferrable professional skills	Recognise current issues in Politics and International Relations that are of use in public service, the media, the voluntary sector, or NGOs, both in the student's country and that of the language studied.	Learning to recognise political and international questions of importance including in the language studied.	Enhancing capacity to analyse political and international questions of importance that can be deployed in the workplace and in the language studied.	Mastering the capacity to analyse political and international questions of importance of use in public service, the media, the voluntary sector, or NGOs including in the language studied.

Learn to write analytical work on current issues in Politics or international affairs, including the ability to do so in the language studied.	Development of writing skills in political and international affairs, including in the language studied.	Enhancing the capacity to write analytical work on Politics or international affairs, including in the language studied.	Mastering the capacity to write analytical work based on research in Politics or international affairs and to do so in the language studied.
Deploy theoretical or language-based skills in the workplace.	Development of thinking about theory.	Enhancing the understanding of theory and methods for application in the workplace.	Successful deployment of theoretical or methods-based skills in the workplace.

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 Italian. 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.

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. Assessments designated as 'summative' will receive a mark 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.

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