

International relations

Essentials

What international relations degrees are there?

International Relations
 International Relations and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish)
 International Relations and Anthropology
 International Relations and Contemporary European Studies
 International Relations and Development
 International Relations and Sociology

Economics and International Relations (p61)
 Geography and International Relations (p77)
 Politics and International Relations (p112)

What degree can I take with international relations as a minor?

Law with International Relations (p90)

See also

International development (p80)

What A levels/IB scores do I need?

(For other qualifications information, refer to pages 125-129)

Typical A level offer: AAB

For International Relations and a Language, A levels (or equivalent) must include the language you wish to study at grade B

Typical IB diploma offer: 36 points

For International Relations and a Language, 36 points normally including your chosen language at Higher Level with a final grade of 5

Fees

Refer to pages 137-138 for information on fees

English language requirements

IELTS 6.5 overall and not less than 6.0 in both the Listening and Writing sections. Internet-based TOEFL with 90 overall, including at least 24 in Speaking and 25 in Writing. For alternative English language requirements, refer to page 130

Foundation year for non-EU students

If your qualifications (including English language) do not yet meet our entry requirements for admission direct to the first year of these degree programmes, we offer an international foundation year entry route. Refer to pages 26 and 131 for details

How do I find out more?

For more information, contact the admissions tutor:

E ug.admissions@ir.sussex.ac.uk

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When can I visit?

Our Open Day dates for 2011 are 11 June and 8 October. We also run regular campus tours.

Please book online at www.sussex.ac.uk/visitors or call 01273 876787

Why international relations?

In today's increasingly interdependent and turbulent world, many of the leading issues in the news concern international affairs. Whether it is the continuing impact of globalisation, the military conflicts in the Gulf or Afghanistan, the inequalities of wealth and power between north and south, or the activities of international organisations such as the World Trade Organization, the International Monetary Fund or the United Nations, the subject of international relations is now directly involved in people's daily lives.

However, a degree in international relations takes you far beyond the headlines, enabling you to reflect in a systematic and informed way on the deeper issues behind the news. In particular it:

- introduces you to the social, economic and political history of the international system as it has emerged and developed over the last 200 years
- enables you to explore the ideas of key classical and modern thinkers who have analysed world politics and have argued over its rights and wrongs
- gives you the opportunity to develop focused knowledge and understanding in specialised areas of your choice such as international law, global environmental change, international organisation, security studies and so on.

Why international relations at Sussex?

- One of the longest-established international relations departments in the UK.
- Thriving undergraduate programme with over 100 new students a year.
- Global outlook – a truly international student body and faculty.
- Welcoming teaching environment, encouraging active learning and critical approaches.
- Teaching by leading scholars: international relations at Sussex is ranked 7th in the UK for the quality of its research and publications in the 2008 Research Assessment Exercise (RAE).
- Degree programmes combine traditional perspectives with the latest ideas.
- All international relations students can choose to spend up to a year of their degree programme at a partner university abroad.
- Flexibility and choice: international relations can be combined with various subjects in a joint degree.

What sort of career could I have?

- non-governmental organisations (eg Oxfam, Save the Children)
- international organisations (eg UN, World Bank)
- government ministries
- multinational business
- the media
- academia.

Annie's career perspective

'Sussex is a university that encourages individuals to celebrate and explore their diversity, so where better to study international relations? Not only did Sussex provide me with the ideal environment in which to indulge and nurture my interest in the world and those in it, but it also allowed me to truly understand some of the most historically complex disputes, alliances and events in the international arena. With the unfailing support of my tutors I was soon able to discuss all manner of topics with confidence.

'My time at Sussex has proved to be invaluable, successfully equipping me with both the analytic skills and knowledge necessary to pursue a professional career within an economic and social think tank. If you take only one thing away from your time as an international relations student at Sussex, it's this: there's a big world out there, go explore it!'

Annie Peate
 Programme
 Delivery Manager,
 The Work
 Foundation





How will I learn?

Teaching methods change as you become an increasingly independent, self-directed learner. Core courses in the first and second years are taught by weekly lectures and group discussions, while final-year courses are based entirely on seminar teaching. Similarly, the pattern of assessment is designed to promote different kinds of intellectual and practical skills at each stage, reflecting your developing academic independence.

What will I achieve?

- a rigorous grounding in the subject including understanding of the core concepts and questions that define international relations
- familiarity with the key theoretical traditions of international relations, and a history of the modern discipline
- awareness of the many practical, political and moral challenges facing contemporary global society, and a range of intellectual approaches to address these challenges
- a range of intellectual skills: for example, the retrieval and use of primary and secondary information sources, and the presentation of concise, critical and cogently structured arguments, both orally and in writing
- practical skills, such as the ability to work both independently and in co-operation with others, to deploy a range of communication and information technology skills, and to reflect upon and take responsibility for your own learning, making use of constructive feedback.

Degrees

International Relations

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: L250

This degree programme is structured to ensure that you acquire a maturing appreciation of the importance of international relations in the contemporary world. You study theory and analysis and learn how to use the concepts, approaches and methods of the discipline to develop an understanding of the contested nature of international relations. You are encouraged to develop your own critical capacities to analyse ideas and concepts as well as the decisions that surround international conflicts, institutions and programmes.

The core courses introduce you to the major areas of the discipline: different approaches to the study of international relations; the major events of modern international history; the role and purpose of theory and its relation to major issues in international relations; and the emergence and significance of the global political economy.

In Years 1 and 2, alongside your core courses, you choose courses drawn from related subjects such as anthropology, contemporary European studies, cultural studies, gender studies, international development, philosophy and politics. These courses give you greater breadth and choice in your studies. Alternatively, you may wish to substitute language skills courses for some options.

In the third year you specialise, studying four options.

Core courses

Courses currently include:

Year 1

Global Issues • Introduction to International Relations • Rise of the Modern International Order • The International System Today: Regions and Institutions • The Local and the Global: World Politics in Brighton • The Short 20th Century and Beyond

Year 2

Classical Political Theory and International Relations • Contemporary International Theory • Globalisation and Governance • Introduction to International Political Economy • Issues in International Security either Development and the State or Gender: Rethinking Politics

Year 3

You choose four options from: Capitalism and Geopolitics • Contemporary Issues in the Global Political Economy • East Central Europe since 1945 • Globalisation and the State • International Relations of Global Environmental Change • International Relations of the Modern Middle East • International Security Since 9/11 • Law in International Relations • Life, Power and Resistance • Marxism and International Relations • NGOs in World Politics • Peace Processes in the Global Order • Russia and the Former Soviet Union in Global Politics • The Political Economy of Latin American Development • The Politics of Fear • US and the World • War and Genocide

If you take international relations as part of a joint degree, you spend about half of your time on each subject. During the first two years of the degree you combine the core international relations courses with the courses from your joint subject. In the final year you specialise within each area of study, taking two options along with two courses from your joint subject



Francisco's perspective

'Studying International Relations at Sussex was without doubt the best choice I could have made. I've benefited from the very high quality of the courses, and have been taught not only by highly renowned lecturers, but also by extremely talented tutors. I've learned to stand up for my opinions – both during seminars and in my essays – and I've also acquired some valuable analytical skills vital for a future career in international affairs. 'Being in contact with students from such diverse backgrounds has added even more to the already great academic experience I've had. Sussex has surely helped me secure a great professional future.'

Francisco Perez Gonzalez
BA in International Relations



International Relations and a Language (one from French, Italian or Spanish) BA (Hons), 4 years UCAS Code: RL92



This degree programme is an excellent choice for those wishing to learn more about the issues underpinning international relations, the major events of modern international history and the significance of the global political economy. These studies, together with an in-depth knowledge of a language, are particularly attractive to international employers.

In Year 1 and 2, you study international relations core courses along with your chosen language. You spend your third year studying at a university in mainland Europe, and in the final year you pursue an in-depth study of options, as well as continuing with your language studies.

Refer to the core courses list on page 83 for details of international relations courses; refer to the languages subject entry on page 85 for information on these courses.

International Relations and Anthropology BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL26

Central to the study of international relations is the need to understand the major economic, political and moral challenges facing contemporary global society and how those challenges are interpreted by nation states, international bodies and international non-governmental organisations. For anthropology, a key concern is to show how political power and cultural change interact in a world that is apparently ever more international in its scope. The two parts of the degree programme are therefore linked by common theoretical concerns and the need to show how theory relates to the analysis of political, socioeconomic and cultural trends in the present-day world.

In Years 1 and 2, you combine the core courses from both subjects, while in your final year you pursue an in-depth study of topics drawn from both subjects.

Refer to the core courses list on page 83 for details of international relations courses; refer to the anthropology subject entry on page 31 for more information on these courses.

International Relations and Contemporary European Studies

BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LR29

In this degree you explore the overlapping interests between the two fields of study, centred mainly on the concepts of power, change, ideology, culture and identity. The study of international relations, with its critical reading of international theories and practices, enables you to place contemporary European studies within a wider intellectual framework. At the same time, developments within the field of contemporary European studies offer specific areas of study for the application and appreciation of international theory. In particular, the degree provides a critically important arena for the analysis of the concept of globalisation.

In Years 1 and 2, you combine the core courses from both subjects, while in your final year you choose topics from both areas of study.

Refer to the core courses list on page 83 for details of international relations courses; refer to the contemporary European studies subject entry on page 52 for more information on these courses.

International Relations and Development BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL29

International relations and international development share many interests and concerns, and interact positively with one another. A core concern of international development is to understand the process of change and the conflict it generates. Meanwhile, the study of international relations places those concerns in an international environment and reinforces your appreciation of their context. The two elements of this degree programme are linked by common interests in political economy, in particular the dual attempt to analyse the politics and economics of development.

In Years 1 and 2, you combine the subjects' core courses. In your third year you take in-depth options from both areas of study.

Refer to the core courses list on page 83 for details of international relations courses; refer to the international development subject entry on page 80 for more information on these courses.

International Relations and Sociology BA (Hons), 3 years UCAS Code: LL2H

This degree allows you to study the disciplines of sociology and international relations, as well as exploring the links between them. How has economic globalisation affected social inequality? How do different societies influence international processes such as migration and media communication? What are the social origins of war? Clearly, globalisation has social consequences, and social structures influence international affairs.

Although the two disciplines have specific areas of interest, they are linked by common theoretical and practical concerns to analyse social and political change in the contemporary world.

During the first two years, you combine the core international relations and sociology courses, while in the final year you study in-depth options drawn from both areas of study.

Refer to the core courses list on page 83 for details of international relations courses; refer to the sociology subject entry on page 120 for details of these courses.