



Module Handbook

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

Incoming Students

2026/2027

**School of Government and International Affairs
(Politics and International Relations)**

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A: THE DEPARTMENT

The School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA) at Durham University is located in two separate buildings, which are in close proximity to each other; the former Business School Building at the end of Mill Hill Lane (called Mill Hill Lane), and the Al-Qasimi Building which is just along the road on Elvet Hill Road and is the main School building where the School administrative office is located. Both buildings hold small lecture rooms, several seminar/tutorial rooms, and staff offices. They are close to several of the University's colleges and within easy walking distance of the University Library (15-20 minutes' walk) and a 15-20 minute's walk from the main lecture theatres on the Science Site of campus where the majority of SGIA's large lectures are held. Durham city centre is approximately 20-25 minutes' walk from the SGIA buildings.

A1: Exchange Coordinator

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United Kingdom
Email: SGIA.Exchange-Coordinator@durham.ac.uk

B: DEGREE STRUCTURE

The School of Government and International Affairs offers three Honours degrees.

- Politics (BA)
- International Relations (BA)
- Politics and International Relations (BA)

Undergraduate teaching is structured around four main streams: Political Thought, Political Institutions, Political Economy and International Relations. Students move from generalist courses in these areas in their early years to more specialised options in Honours Politics, and International Relations, which explore the diverse and dynamic politics of the contemporary world.

The School also participates in the following Joint Honours degrees:

- Economics and Politics (BA)
- Philosophy and Politics (BA)
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (BA) (*Combined Degree*)

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of six modules each year for three years. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year.

All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations, and that the final degree class is determined by the examinations taken in the second and third year.

C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!

C1: General

Choice of Modules

IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <https://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions

The School of Government and International Affairs only offers European exchange placements at Durham **for a full academic year**. European students from a partner university with which SGIA has an European exchange agreement have unrestricted access to the full undergraduate course catalogue for Single Honours Politics and International Relations. Undergraduate exchange students are generally expected to choose modules for their Learning Agreement from year one, two or three of the undergraduate course catalogue. Exchange students are generally expected to select the modules in their Learning Agreement from the SGIA's module catalogue. Modules in other faculties or departments can only be chosen in exceptional cases and on the basis of a separate learning agreement between the student and the relevant department.

D: MODULE DETAILS

This section contains a list of modules European students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in the Module Handbooks for each subject!

To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <https://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

The School of Government and International Affairs does not offer all the modules listed every year so reserve choices are necessary as the School is unable to guarantee spaces on modules that have not been previously selected however; every effort is made to accommodate European student choices.

D1: Modules available to European students coming on a departmental link

Level 1	Module Title	Module Convener and Teaching Staff	ECTS
SGIA1071	International Security, Interdependence and Organisation	Dr Cameron Harrington	10
SGIA1241	Perspectives of Political Economy	Dr Kira Brenner	10
SGIA1191	Democratic Political Systems	Dr Adrian Millican	10
SGIA1201	Researching Politics and International Relations	Dr Fanni Toth	10
SGIA1211	Introduction to Comparative Politics	Prof Patrick Kuhn	10
SGIA1221	Introduction to International Relations	Dr Dennis Schmidt	10
SGIA1231	Introduction to Political Theory	Dr Brian Carey (Term 1) Dr Jan Kandiyali (Term 2/3)	10

Level 2	Module Title	Module Convener and Teaching Staff	ECTS
SGIA2131	International Theory	Prof Ilan Baron	10
SGIA2171	Foundations of Western Political Thought	Dr Adam Lovett (Term 1) Dr Jan Kandiyali (Term 2/3)	10
SGIA2261	International Organisations	Dr Kevin Miller	10
SGIA2281	Sovereignty, State and Empire	Dr Kavi Abraham (Term 1) Dr Alice Finden (Term 2/3)	10
SGIA2321	Debates in Political Theory	Dr Brian Carey (Term 1) Dr Lewis Mates (Term 2/3)	10
SGIA2351	Class, Nation and Party in British Politics	Prof Gidon Cohen	10
SGIA2381	Democracy, Conflict, and American Politics	Dr Tessa Ditonto	10
SGIA2391	Middle East and the International System	Dr Marzieh Kouhi-Esfahani	10
SGIA2401	Capitalism: History and Theory	Dr Javier Moreno Zacaes	10
SGIA2411	Gender and Politics	Dr Tessa Ditonto (Term 1) Dr Alice Finden (Term 2/3)	10

Level 3	Module Title	Module Convener and Teaching Staff	ECTS
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SGIA3291	Theories of Liberty	Prof Maria Dimova Cookson	10
SGIA3441	Elections and British Politics	Prof Nick Vivyan	10
SGIA3531	Democratic Practice in the US Campaigns, Election and Voter Behaviour	Dr Dave Andersen	10
SGIA3571	Democracy and Discontent in the European Union	Dr Kyriaki Nanou	10
SGIA3631	Social Justice and Marginalised Groups	Dr Jessica Begon	10
SGIA3671	Politics of Inequality	Dr Jess Underwood	10
SGIA3681	Poverty or Prosperity? The Political Economy of Development	Dr Anouk Rigterink	10
SGIA3711	Climate, Nature and the Global Economy	Dr Judith Koch (Term 1) Dr Eugenia Giraudo (Term 2/3)	10
SGIA3741	Decolonising International Security	Dr Kavi Abraham (Term 1 and 2) Prof John Williams (Term 3)	10
SGIA3751	Crises, Governance and Struggle : Finance and the World Economy	Dr Judith Koch	10
SGIA3771	Intelligence, The State and International Security	Prof Clive Jones	10
SGIA3801	Advance Topic in International Political Theory: The International Politics of the Everyday	Prof Ilan Baron	10
SGIA3821	Advance Readings in Political Economy	Dr Carla Ibled	10
SGIA3851	Environmental Politics	Dr Resul Umit	10
SGIA3NEW 01	The Dark Side of Liberal International Order	Dr Dennis Schmidt	10
SGIA3NEW 02	Democracy and its Critics	Dr Adam Lovett	

All modules are assessed in English and are offered on a full-time basis

Visiting and European students registered on an undergraduate programme should only register for undergraduate modules. Postgraduate students who may want to do undergraduate modules in Languages or at Level 4 are allowed to register.

D2: Modules available to European students coming on an external link (through a different department)

The School of Government and International Affairs regrets that it is unable to offer any modules to students coming to Durham on links with other departments. Arrangements can be made in exceptional cases on an individual basis.