

Course Summary: March 29, 2026

International Relations BA Honours

- UCAS code: **L250**
- Full time
- 3 years

Expand your career horizons with a degree that explores the complex interplay of political interests around the world.

You are currently viewing course information for entry year: **2026**

Next start date:

- September 2026

Tuition fees (Year 1)

- Home: **£9,790**
- International: **£24,500**

Entry requirements and offers

- A-Level: **AAB**

- IB: **34 points**

UCAS Institution name and code:

- NEWC / N21

Undergraduate Open Day

Start your university journey. Find where you belong. Friday, June 26 (9:00-16:00)

Saturday, June 27 (9:00-16:00)

[Book your place now](#)

Course overview

This degree will give you a global perspective on the ideas, actors and structures that shape our world, and train you to reach well-informed conclusions on complex issues – an ability prized by employers around the world.

You will be taught by acknowledged experts in the politics of Africa, China, Europe, the Middle East, Russia, and the Americas. You can choose to enrich your experience by studying at one of our partner universities in Australia, Canada, Europe, Hong Kong and the USA, among others.

Choosing from a range of specialist modules, you can tailor your degree to cover particular nations, international organisations, security and foreign policy, and international political economy. You'll become a keen analyst of international relations, able to identify, assess, analyse, and evaluate global issues with critical insight and methodological sophistication.

Your course and study experience - disclaimers and terms and conditions

Please rest assured we make all reasonable efforts to provide you with the programmes, services and facilities described. However, it may be necessary to make changes due to significant disruption, for example in response to Covid-19.

View our [Academic experience page](#), which gives information about your Newcastle University study experience for the academic year 2025-26.

See our [terms and conditions and student complaints information](#), which gives details of circumstances that may lead to changes to programmes, modules or University services.

Quality and ranking

Professional accreditation and recognition

All professional accreditations are reviewed regularly by their professional body.

Modules and learning

Modules

The information below is intended to provide an example of what you will study.

Most degrees are divided into stages. Each stage lasts for one academic year, and you'll complete modules totalling 120 credits by the end of each stage.

Our teaching is informed by research. Course content may change periodically to reflect developments in the discipline, the requirements of external bodies and partners, and student feedback.

Optional module availability

Student demand for optional modules may affect availability.

Full details of the modules on offer will be published through the [Programme](#)

[Regulations and Specifications](#) ahead of each academic year. This usually happens in May.

To find out more please [see our terms and conditions](#)

You will gradually develop the critical thinking, research, and communication skills required to study international relations and become an informed and engaged global citizen. You'll gain an understanding of power and inequality, the development of the contemporary international system, and different ways of understanding global political dynamics. You can also start to relate your studies to historical, national, and ideological contexts, with optional modules in areas like comparative politics and political theory.

By the end of Stage 1, you'll be able to identify political dynamics that shape international relations and contribute to the (in)security of the world.

Modules

Compulsory Modules

	Credits
Key Concepts in International Politics	20
Order and Disorder: The Shaping of the 21st Century	20
Power and Inequality: How to Study Global Politics ... and Change the World	20
State, People and Politics: Comparative Politics in a Globalised World	20

Optional Modules

	Credits
Interconnected World	20
UK Politics: Westminster and Beyond	20

Politics of Happiness	20
Studying Political Economy: Ideas, Theories and Skills	20
Introduction to Cultural Studies	20
Comparing Cultures: An Introduction to Anthropology	20
Politics and Society	20

Stage 2 will build on the skills developed in your first year as you look in greater detail at key issues, organisations, and core sub-fields of international relations.

You'll develop critical insight into the relationship between theory and practice and how research methods used in the social sciences shape our understanding of world politics.

While the theme of security features prominently in your programme, a suite of optional modules will allow you to further focus on different political national political contexts in more depth as well as explore important political and ethical positions in political theory. By the end of Stage 2, you will have the knowledge and skills to connect ways of defining problems in international relations and potential solutions offered to them with political dynamics, theoretical perspectives, and methods of analysis.

Modules

Compulsory Modules	Credits
Becoming a Political Researcher	20
Optional Modules	Credits
Political Geography	20
Career Development for second year students	20
Politics of the Middle East	20
Government and Politics of the USA	20

The Politics and Policy of the European Union	20
Power and Poverty in the Global Economy	20
A Global History of Political Thought	20
Political Violence and the Modern State	20
Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion: Social Issues in Contemporary Political Philosophy	20
Politics Work Placement	20
Democracy in Deeply Divided Societies	20
Democracy or Autocracy? What are the differences and how do we analyse them	20
Sex, Gender and Power	20
The Global Politics of Race	20
International Organizations and Diplomacy	20

You only take the following module if you are studying abroad:
Student Exchange: Semester 2

In Stage 3, you can begin to specialise in the international relations topics that are of interest to you. As a part of this you will undertake a significant piece of independent research that harnesses your subject knowledge and the research skills you've developed throughout your degree.

You will also study a number of optional module that cover topics across international relations, comparative politics, and political theory.

Modules

From the optional module list below you will choose at least 20 and not more than 60 credits of modules from the following list:

Optional modules	Credits
Writing for Foreign Policy Makers: Research Project in Foreign Policy Analysis	20
Final Year Dissertation	40
Final Year Project: Semester 1	20
Final Year Project: Semester 2	20
Community-based Research in Politics	40
Public-Policy Placement*	20

Optional modules	Credits
Geopolitics	20
Career Development for Final Year Students *	20
International Organisations and Diplomacy **	20
The Ethics of Killing	20
Political Leadership in Britain	20
Who and why votes for far right? Using data for political analysis	20
Political Parties and Elections in the UK	20
Politics of Immigration	20
Politics of Citizenship	20
Gender and Sexuality Politics in the Middle East	20

Optional modules	Credits
Public Policy: Theories, Cases, Skills	20
Politics as a Way of Life	20
Power and Policy: Understanding Impact	20
Global Justice and Human Rights	20

*Permission to take this module is subject to approval of the Degree Programme Director

**Not available if you have previously taken Regional and International Organisations module

If you did not take an International Study Year module you can take one of the following modules subject to agreement from the Degree Programme Director.

Modules	Credits
Student Exchange: Semester 1	60
Student Exchange (Dissertation Students)	40

Teaching and assessment

Teaching methods

You will benefit from our strong focus on teaching quality. This translates into engaging modules, delivered through a stimulating variety of lectures, seminars, teamwork activities, research projects and simulation exercises.

Assessment methods

You'll be assessed through a combination of:

- Case studies
- Dissertation or research project
- Essays
- Examinations – practical or online
- Group work
- Interviews
- Portfolio submission
- Projects
- Reflective report/journal

Skills and experience

Practical skills

You'll learn to conduct interviews, and evaluate surveys and statistics. You'll get training in R, a world-leading free statistical software that helps you to understand data, analyse trends, and make informed recommendations.

Business skills

You'll enjoy many opportunities to boost your employability, starting with an induction week careers session dedicated to politics. You will also be able to put your learning into practice further by conducting real-world political research for a local organisation (including Newcastle City Council) in Stage 3.

Research skills

In Stage 3, you will have the chance to produce a dissertation or report based on a piece of your own independent research. You will be given hands-on training in advance on the design, methodology and implementation of your research, including both qualitative and quantitative analytical techniques.

Opportunities

Work placement

Get career ready with a work placement and leave as a confident professional in your field. You can apply to spend 9 to 12 months working in any organisation in the world, and receive University support from our dedicated team to secure your dream placement. Work placements take place between stages 2 and 3.

You'll gain first-hand experience of working in the sector, putting your learning into practice and developing your professional expertise.

If you choose to take a work placement, it will extend your degree by a year, and your degree title will show you have achieved the placement year. A work placement is not available if you're spending a year studying abroad. Placements are subject to availability.

[Find out more about work placements](#)

Study abroad

Experience life in another country by choosing to study abroad as part of your degree. You'll be encouraged to embrace fun and challenging experiences, make connections with new communities and graduate as a globally aware professional, ready for your future.

You may choose to spend semester 1 or the full academic year of Stage 3 on an international exchange at a partner institution.

[Find out more about study abroad](#)

Facilities and environment

Facilities

You'll be based in the School of Geography, Politics and Sociology's Henry Daysh Building.

Support

You will have one-to-one academic and pastoral support from a personal tutor and from a student.

A tutor in the department has twice won a student-nominated award for pastoral care in recent years.

Your future

Upon graduation you'll be able to think critically, assess complex material and data, carry out research, and construct well-informed arguments.

Our graduates have used these skills to progress into careers in politics, economics, and international relations, for employers such as:

- the Houses of Parliament
- HM Treasury
- local government
- the Civil Service
- inter-governmental organisations

- public affairs consultancies

Others have applied their skills with equal success in industries such as:

- media
- law
- business and finance
- management consultancy
- education and academia
- human resources
- marketing

[Read what our graduates have to say about studying Politics at Newcastle University](#)

Make a difference

Careers support

You'll benefit from targeted careers support throughout your degree. In your induction week, you'll explore potential career paths.

In Stage 2, you can apply for a work placement with a local political party or charity. In Stage 3 you can boost your prospects by conducting policy research on behalf of a local community organisation.

Our Careers Service is one of the largest and best in the country, and we have strong links with employers. We provide an extensive range of opportunities to all students through our ncl+ initiative.

[Visit our Careers Service website](#)

Recognition of professional qualifications outside of the UK

If you're studying an **accredited degree** and thinking about working in Europe after you graduate, the best place to find current information is the [UK](#)

[Government's guidance on recognition of UK professional qualifications in EU member states](#). This official resource explains whether your profession is regulated in another country, what steps you need to take, and which organisation you should contact.

Find out more...

- Go online for information about our full range of degrees:
www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate
- Watch videos about student life in Newcastle by visiting our YouTube channel at **www.youtube.com/@newcastleuni**
- Watch a virtual tour of our campus at
<https://youtu.be/vJUfHcqB7l8?si=8lUrf7kTxXbgdfr1>
- Book for an Open Day to come and see us in person
www.ncl.ac.uk/openday
- Contact us online at **www.ncl.ac.uk/enquiries** or phone +44 (0)191 208 3333

This brochure is created from web content and is up to date at the time of creation (see the first page for creation date). If you are on screen you are able to use the live links that are highlighted in blue. If reading in print, the URLs provided above will help you to navigate back online. Full details of the University's terms and conditions, including reference to all relevant policies, procedures, regulations and information provision, are available at:

<https://www.ncl.ac.uk/student-welcome/student-contract/>

© Newcastle University.

The University of Newcastle upon Tyne trading as Newcastle University.