

DEFINITIVE COURSE RECORD

Course Title	BA (Hons) Politics and Economics
Awarding Bodies	University of Suffolk
Level of Award ¹	FHEQ Level 6
Professional, Statutory and Regulatory Bodies Recognition	None
Credit Structure ²	360 Credits Level 4: 120 Credits Level 5: 120 Credits Level 6: 120 Credits
Mode of Attendance	Full-time and part-time
Standard Length of Course ³	3 years full-time
Intended Award	BA (Hons) Politics and Economics
Named Exit Awards	DipHE Politics and Economics CertHE Politics and Economics
Entry Requirements ⁴	112 UCAS tariff points (or above), BBC (A-Level), DMM (BTEC). Plus GCSE grade A-C including English and Mathematics (or equivalent) or new GCSEs grade 4-9.
Delivering Institution(s)	University of Suffolk
UCAS Code	L150

This definitive record sets out the essential features and characteristics of the BA (Hons) Politics and Economics course. The information provided is accurate for students entering level 4 in the 2019-20 academic year⁵.

Course Summary

Politics is about power and one of the main sources of power is wealth derived from the economy. The study of politics and economics are therefore firmly interlinked and there is a strong tradition of seeing them as linked in higher education. The curriculum is designed to allow students to gain firm foundations in each subject alongside an important range of research skills.

The politics and economics curriculum includes key aspects of politics at the University of Suffolk outlined above. The curriculum design is active in its delivery with an emphasis on group work, project work, employability and engagement with broadly defined political organisations. The economics curriculum complements this and seeks to develop a broader

¹ For an explanation of the levels of higher education study, see the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

² All academic credit awarded as a result of study at the University adheres to the [Higher education credit framework for England](#).

³ Where the course is delivered both full-time and part-time, the standard length of course is provided for the full-time mode of attendance only. The length of the part-time course is variable and dependent upon the intensity of study. Further information about mode of study and maximum registration periods can be found in the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#).

⁴ Details of standard entry requirements can be found in the [Admissions Policy](#)

⁵ The University reserves the right to make changes to course content, structure, teaching and assessment as outlined in the [Admissions Policy](#).

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and more rounded appreciation of the theories, practices and preferences which shape policy on such things as government spending, taxation and welfare policy.

All students will study research methods at each level of study with increasing independence and sophistication of approach. The use of secondary data and comparative and case study analysis will be specific to the politics and economics degree.

Course Aims

- To investigate the nature, forms, causes and consequences of politics
- To study power and engage deeply with political theory and philosophy
- To analyse local, national, regional and supranational power structures and their consequences for people
- To allow for an engagement with (broadly defined) political organisations through the use on group work and project work
- To develop subject specific, cognitive and employability skills for personal development, postgraduate study and a range of graduate careers
- To provide students with a critical understanding of the key principles of economics and their application
- To generate an appreciation of the economic and welfare dimensions of wider social, political, legal and environmental issues
- To ensure a firm foundation of knowledge about the workings of national and global economies, the development of relevant skills, including the usage of appropriate tools of analysis of economic phenomena to support business decision-making in a range of settings

Course Learning Outcomes

The following statements define what students graduating from the BA (Hons) Politics and Economics course will have been judged to have demonstrated in order to achieve the award. These statements, known as learning outcomes, have been formally approved as aligned with the generic qualification descriptor for level 4/5/6 awards as set out by the UK Quality Assurance Agency (QAA)⁶.

Knowledge

1. Demonstrate knowledge and critical engagement with a range of approaches, theories, concepts, research findings and applications in the study of politics relating to the operation of power

⁶ As set out in the [QAA Frameworks for Higher Education Qualifications of UK Degree-Awarding Bodies \(2014\)](#)

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2. Critically examine the social, economic, historical, and cultural contexts of political behaviour and the development, structure and operation of different political systems
3. Identify the contested nature of normative ideas and concepts that form the foundation of politics and economics
4. Recognise the links between politics and related disciplines in social sciences and humanities
5. Outline the links between a range of political actions and forms of organisation at local, national, regional and supranational levels
6. Demonstrate a systematic understanding of defined aspects of economics including theory and applied economics and mainstream economics
7. Describe and comment upon particular aspects of current research (including alternative ideas) in economics discipline

Intellectual skills

8. Compare different political and economic systems and contexts
9. Develop and communicate reasoned arguments through synthesis of relevant information and critical judgement
10. Critically evaluate, interpret and synthesise political and economic arguments, theories and evidence
11. Identify, investigate, analyse and advocate solutions to political problems
12. Develop a politically informed ethical and value framework and awareness about the major practical, political and moral challenges facing contemporary global society

Capability and employability skills

13. Effectively select, organise and manage information from a range of sources
14. Design, conduct, analyse, and report political research using quantitative, qualitative, or comparative approaches and primary and secondary sources using appropriate data analysis techniques, software and equipment
15. Interpret and evaluate political research
16. Communicate ideas effectively and fluently, both orally and in writing
17. Have experience and reflect upon a leadership role in relation to a task or set of tasks
18. Perform and work effectively in a team and critically reflect upon own and others contribution to team work

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19. Negotiate complex issues with others

20. Set, plan, organize and reflect upon a complex and extended task/brief/ project

Course Design

The design of this course has been guided by the following QAA Benchmarks:

- Politics and International Relations benchmark statement 2015
- Economics benchmark statement 2015

Course Structure

The BA (Hons) Politics and Economics comprises modules at levels 4, 5 and 6.

Module Specifications for each of these modules is included within the course handbook, available to students on-line at the beginning of each academic year.

Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Level 4 modules		
Social Science Research Skills	20	M
History of Political Thought	20	M
Business Economics	20	M
Current Political Disputes	20	R
Either Introduction to Accounting	20	O
Or Management and Managing; An Introduction	20	O
1 from		
Grassroots Politics and Activism	20	O
Politics and Policy	20	O
Level 5 modules		
Secondary Data Research	10	M
Qualitative Research Design and Analysis	10	O
Or Questionnaire Design and Analysis	10	O
Contemporary Political Theory	20	M
Macroeconomic Theory	20	R
Microeconomic Theory	20	R

⁷ Modules are designated as either mandatory (M), requisite (R) or optional (O). For definitions, see the [Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards](#)

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Module title	Credits	Module type ⁷
Two from		
Political Argument and Persuasion	20	O
Political Sociology	20	O
Globalization	20	O
The Cold War	20	O
Social Justice and Policy	20	O
Political Discourse	20	O
Level 6 modules		
Dissertation (counted 50/50)	40	M
Either Political Engagement and Professional Development	20	O
Or Comparative Politics	20	O
Global Economy	20	R
One from		
International Development	20	O
A History of Genocide (L5 prerequisite)	20	O
One from		
Alternative Economic Ideas	20	O
Industrial Organisation	20	O
Developmental Economics	20	O

Option modules available in any year will be communicated to you prior to your enrolment each year to facilitate module choice according to specialist staff availability.

Awards

On successful completion of the course, students will be awarded a BA (Hons) Politics and Economics. Students who leave the course early may be eligible for a DipHE Politics and Economics on successful completion of 240 credits including all mandatory modules at levels 4 and 5, or a CertHE Politics and Economics on successful completion of 120 credits including all mandatory modules at level 4.

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Course Delivery

The course is delivered at University of Suffolk. Students studying full-time on BA (Hons) Politics and Economics are likely to have approximately 240 contact hours for level 4, 220 contact hours for level 5 and 150 contact hours for level 6. The contact hours will be a mix of lectures, seminars, workshops, and tutorials. There is an optional work placement and work shadowing opportunity equivalent to 10 days in the final year of study. Students will normally be expected to undertake 24 hours of independent study in an average week, but should be prepared for this to vary based on assignment deadlines and class exercises.

Course Assessment

A variety of assessments will be used on the course to enable students to experience and adapt to different assessment styles. The assessment methods used will be appropriate to assess each module's intended learning outcomes. Assessment on the course overall will be mostly coursework (including essays, reports, presentations, group work, reflective learning journals and research projects) and up to 10% examinations depending on the options chosen.

Course Team

The academic staff delivering this course are drawn from specialist politics, economics and social science teaching teams.

Course Costs

Students undertaking BA (Hons) Politics and Economics will be charged tuition fees as detailed below.

Student Group	Tuition Fees
Full-time UK/EU	£9,250 per year
Part-time UK/EU	£1,454 per 20 credit module
Full-time International	£11,790 per year
Part-time International	£1,965 per 20 credit module

Payment of tuition fees is due at the time of enrolment and is managed in accordance with the Tuition Fee Policy.

Students are likely to incur other costs for books and optional field trips amounting to approximately £200 per year.

Academic Framework and Regulations

This course is delivered according to the Framework and Regulations for Undergraduate Awards and other academic policies and procedures of the University and published on the [website](#).