

Programme Specification

I. Programme Details

Programme title	Certificate in Politics and International Studies (formerly: <i>Certificate in Political Studies</i>)			
Final award (exit awards will be made as outlined in the Taught Degree Regulations)	BA	<input type="checkbox"/>	MA	<input type="checkbox"/>
	BSc	<input type="checkbox"/>	MSc	<input type="checkbox"/>
	Other	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	MRes	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mode of delivery	Distance-learning	<input type="checkbox"/>		
	On-campus	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Professional body accreditation (if applicable)	n/a			
Academic year this specification was created				
Dates of any subsequent amendments				

II. Programme Aims: What will the programme allow you to achieve?

<p>This one-year course provides a substantive and comprehensive introduction to the politics of Africa, Asia, and the Middle East. It is designed for two types of students:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Those keen to pursue a Master’s degree but who do not have a background in the relevant subject area, and who seek academic foundations for more advanced studies. • Professionals or mature students with an interest in furthering their knowledge of (international) politics, but who do not wish to embark on a full three-year undergraduate degree, or a Master’s degree. <p>Students enrolled in the Certificate programme will study concepts and approaches that are foundational for analysing politics and international relations, and they are able to choose from a range of disciplinary and regional modules that enables them to design a programme tailored to their specific interests. This programme does not involve writing a dissertation.</p>
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III. Programme Learning Outcomes: What will you learn on the programme?

There are four key areas in which you will develop: subject-based knowledge, intellectual skills, subject-based practical skills, and transferrable skills.

<p>i. Knowledge</p> <p>By the end of the programme, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Understand basic principles of political study, including concepts, theories, and methods. 2. Have developed a deeper understanding of two disciplinary areas. 3. Have a solid understanding of the politics of one region - Africa, South Asia, South-east Asia, or the Middle East.

Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • seminar classes, discussion with teachers, and the writing of coursework assignments. • requirement of attendance of all classes • encouragement of extensive independent study • assigning non-assessed work for discussion in seminars on a regular basis • delivering lectures and seminar classes to which students are expected to contribute actively • requirement of regular seminar presentations and specified pieces of written coursework • provision of additional and targeted assistance by the relevant course teacher in the preparation of these 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long essays, course work and unseen examinations

ii. Intellectual (thinking) skills	
<p>By the end of the programme, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. analyse and critically assess data and evidence from manuscripts and digital sources 2. solve problems of conflicting sources and conflicting interpretations 3. locate materials independently through the use of research sources (particularly research library catalogues) and other relevant traditional sources 4. demonstrate independence of judgment, especially in relation to differing interpretations of political phenomena 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • introduction of varying, often conflicting interpretations of political developments that need to be assessed critically • discussion of these theories and the weighing up of evidence both in oral and written presentations, which requires the exercise of analytical skills 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long essays, coursework, and unseen examinations

Learning Outcomes: Subject-based practical skills
<p>By the end of the programme, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. retrieve, sift, and select information from a variety of sources, including group discussions 2. read regularly and rapidly a variety of types of report/paper, incorporating different types of evidence, methodology and disciplinary perspectives

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 3. employ appropriate research techniques in a variety of specialised research libraries and institutes 4. demonstrate effective written and oral communication skills 5. present coherent political arguments orally and in writing 6. research and write critical, argument-driven essays, dissertations, and presentations 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • preparation for essays and oral contributions in classroom settings 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long essays, coursework, and unseen examinations

Learning Outcomes: Transferrable skills	
<p>At the end of the programme, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. structure and communicate ideas effectively both orally and in writing 2. work independently, managing time and meeting deadlines 3. participate constructively in groups and assess the relevance and importance of the ideas of others 	
Typical Teaching Methods	Typical Assessment Methods
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • provision of regular oral feedback in seminar discussions, oral and written feedback on the planning of essays and of the dissertation, and on the submitted coursework. • setting seminar presentations and coursework deadlines on specific days, to encourage time management • seminar classes and tutorials which rely on discussion and interaction. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • long essays, coursework, and unseen examinations

General statement on contact hours
<p>The programme consists of 120 credits made up of taught modules of 30 or 15 credits, taught over 10 or 20 weeks. As a rough guide, 1 credit equals approximately 10 hours of work. Most of this will be independent study (see https://www.soas.ac.uk/admissions/ug/teaching/) such as reading and research, preparing coursework, revising for examinations and so on. Also included is class time, for example lectures, seminars, and other classes. At SOAS, most modules follow the format of a one-hour lecture and a one-hour seminar every week, but this does vary. More information can be found on individual module pages.</p>