

Nottingham Trent University Course Specification

Basic Course Information

1.	Awarding Institution:	Nottingham Trent University
2.	School/Campus:	School of Social Sciences / City Campus
3.	Final Award, Course Title and Modes of Study:	BA (Hons) Politics (Full Time)
4.	Normal Duration:	3 Years
5.	UCAS Code:	L200

6. Overview and general educational aims of the course

Politics is everywhere, and has a significant impact upon our everyday lives even if we do not readily recognise its effects. Who really holds power, who decides on how resources are to be distributed, which values should be promoted and why? These are the kinds of questions that motivate the study of politics. The **BA (Hons) Politics** course is designed to provide you with a comprehensive and contemporary approach to the subject that integrates both theoretical and practical perspectives. Central to the course is the development of a deep knowledge and understanding of forms of government and society. Accordingly, you will learn to recognise and analyse the interactions of people, ideas and institutions, to understand how power operates in society and how it relates to questions of justice, sovereignty and accountability. You will study decision-making processes and policy formation in a critical and theoretically informed manner, applying yourself to some of the most pressing and intractable issues and conflicts in the world today. The course will appeal to students with enquiring minds and a keen interest in contemporary events, both domestic and global.

The Department of Politics and International Relations aims to provide a diverse and vibrant learning experience, in a supportive and friendly environment. Our students are considered partners in a shared academic community, and the department works closely with the Students' Union, our academic societies and external networks to provide a dynamic and participative environment for your studies. We offer a curriculum that is supported by scholarship and research, and promote a shared intellectual culture that seeks to challenge and encourage in equal measure. Politics at NTU is especially distinguished by its focus on the broader student

academic experience, and to this end we have developed a number of key initiatives to support and enrich your learning:

1. A wider, co-curricular academic community that encourages you to develop a broad and participative approach to the study and practice of politics. This community includes staff in the department, a student-led Parliament, the Politics and IR Society and a network of external organisations and contacts that jointly develop co-curricular events and activities;
2. A dedicated personal tutor who will work closely with you for the period of your studies, normally staying with you from year one to year three, and helping you negotiate the transition to higher education, reflect on your learning, identify areas of improvement and scope future goals and ambitions;
3. A focus on employability – including a work-based learning package, your own personal 'Student Employability Profile' and a Calendar of Employability Events that will equip you with the skills you need to achieve your full potential in a competitive and increasingly global job market;
4. A dedicated '4th Year Tutor' who will help you develop and refine your Employability Profile in Year 3, and continue to support you after graduation by providing written references and links to employment networks/opportunities.
5. A range of dynamic learning and e-learning opportunities that will allow you to develop advanced cognitive, communicative, research and social skills.
6. A language programme and Erasmus exchange scheme designed to enhance your international experience and profile.

Taught directly by a committed team of research active subject specialists from political science, political theory, government, international relations and area studies, the **Curriculum** will provide you with an opportunity to tailor your engagement with the discipline through option choices in years two and three. An energetic theoretical strand within the course combines with concrete empirical material in political science, institutions and government, and area studies, requiring you to think dynamically across a global political landscape, and challenging you to apply what you learn to a range of complex, interrelated events and scenarios. Here at NTU there is a strong emphasis on real-world engagement, and you will have many

opportunities to not only *study* but also *practice* politics as part of your overall experience within the department. For example, you will be invited to participate in a student-led parliament, offering an opportunity for you to enhance your political skills and also providing a programme of debates, external speakers, motions and consultations. This will help you to understand democratic parliamentary process in a very 'hands on' way, and encourage the emergence of a robust, informed and democratic student voice to influence issues that concern you within and beyond the department. Co-curricular activities feed directly into a number of key curriculum areas within your course, for instance allowing you to gain insights into the practical aspects of government and to understand better how political institutions operate. Participation in the second year Erasmus exchange allows you to study at one of a number of partner universities in Europe for the second half of your middle year, adding further value. Overall, the curriculum aims to nurture the necessary skills and knowledge-base to develop theoretically astute, globally focussed graduates with the ability to apply themselves creatively and rigorously to real-world scenarios.

The curriculum, however, is only one of three learning streams that collectively structure and facilitate your wider educational experience. The **Employability Learning Stream** (ELS) combines with the curriculum at key points and incorporates a programme of co-curricular employment-related activities and events, which equip you with the confidence and skills graduate employers demand. Similarly, the **Personal Tuition Learning Stream** provides structured opportunities for you to reflect upon and develop your overall profile and strategic goals. With the assistance of an academic team member, who will normally remain as your personal tutor throughout your studies, this third learning stream helps you address any obstacles to achievement and provides you with a key academic and pastoral contact within the team.

General Educational Aims of the Course

The course aims to:

1. Provide a coherent and challenging course that examines politically contested, decision-making processes in various contexts, including the subnational, national and international realms;

2. Promote breadth and depth in your intellectual enquiry, and in your debate of political issues, through exposure to a rich academic culture supported by scholarship and research;
3. Cultivate your capacity to think critically and independently about events, ideas, institutions and issues of public concern;
4. Enhance, deepen and refine your knowledge, understanding and practice of politics;
5. Advance your understanding of political theory, political science and area studies, while simultaneously promoting an appreciation of the contested nature and problematic character of inquiry;
6. Develop your personal qualities, attributes and transferable skills for a career in either a specialist politics profession, or the general graduate labour market, via the provision and intersection of the three learning streams detailed above..

7. Course outcomes

Course outcomes describe what you should know and be able to do by the end of your course if you take advantage of the opportunities for learning that we provide.

Knowledge and understanding

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Critically evaluate in a holistic manner the nature and significance of politics as a human activity; (B)
2. Critically apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics to the analysis of political ideas, institutions and practices; (B)
3. Critically analyse a variety of contrasting political systems, institutions and practices; (B)
4. Critically analyse the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts in which power and different political systems operate in the global arena; (B)
5. Critically evaluate and reflect on different interpretations of political issues, events, and developments; (B)
6. Demonstrate a critical understanding of the significance of, problems with and challenges to a politically, economically and culturally globalising world.
7. Critically evaluate and reflect on both the historical and contemporary aspects of political conflict and cooperation within national and global arenas.

N/B: (B) indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the Politics and International Relations QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (Feb 2015). The Politics and International Relations benchmark statement provides a national framework for describing the content and standards of a BA degree with honours in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations.

Skills, qualities and attributes

By the end of the course you should be able to:

1. Gather, organise, evaluate and deploy data and other forms of evidence from a variety of secondary and primary sources relevant to politics; (B)
2. Synthesise knowledge and information, exercise critical judgement and construct reasoned solutions to theoretical and practical problems in Politics; (B)
3. Communicate your knowledge of Politics effectively and fluently in speech and in writing in a range of assessments, meeting standard academic requirements in relation to referencing and citation; (B)
4. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organisation and time-management in order to become a mature, independent learner; (B)
5. Collaborate with peers to achieve common goals relevant to the study of Politics; (B)
6. Undertake independent research relevant to Politics, formulating suitable research questions that demonstrate full awareness of ethical protocols, appropriate research methodologies, and academic conventions. (B)

N/B (B) indicates that the outcome has been mapped to the Politics and International Relations QAA Subject Benchmark Statement (Feb 2015). The Politics and International Relations benchmark statement provides a national framework for describing the content and standards of a BA degree with honours in the disciplines of Politics and International Relations.

8. Teaching and learning methods

Our staff are recognised nationally and internationally for their research activity, media contribution and consultancy work, but remain passionate about translating this expertise into the classroom. This link between teaching and research represents a core value of the division, and you will

find that all our academic staff are involved in your learning experiences, from first year onwards.

Teaching and learning methods are designed:

1. to meet the aims and objectives of the Politics course;
2. to foster knowledge and enthusiasm for the subject;
3. to stimulate engagement and participation in the learning process, both within and beyond the curriculum;
4. to encourage you to take responsibility for your own learning, career direction and employment aspirations;
5. to cultivate reflective learners, rigorous thinkers and effective practitioners of politics.

In many modules teaching and learning is centred on lectures, supported by smaller group seminars. Normally, for a 20 credit module you will attend a one hour lecture and a one hour seminar each week. Both lectures and seminars develop subject specific knowledge and understanding. Lectures encourage the skills of listening, concentration, active understanding and note-taking; smaller group learning environments, such as seminars and workshops, offer reflective group discussions and provide opportunities to develop problem solving skills, group cooperation, textual analysis, debating skills, presentation skills, as well as exposing you to a wide range of views and perspectives on contemporary issues. Dissertation supervision normally takes place on a one-to-one basis and, along with the core modules that form the Course's 'research spine', places particular emphasis on the development of those independent research skills that are increasingly relevant to the modern world of work; for instance, the identification, retrieval and critical evaluation of relevant information, the use of IT, etc. A number of modules utilise alternative forms of learning within the classroom, including problem-based inquiry, flipped classrooms, simulation exercises, group presentations, case studies and film-based discussions. Likewise, in the virtual learning environments that extend the curriculum beyond the classroom, you will be encouraged to participate in a range of activities that serve to consolidate, broaden and deepen your knowledge and understanding, for instance: online quizzes, crosswords, film-screenings and other video resources, mini-reports, online multiple choice tests, mini-essays, case-studies, short written answers (that help build toward longer essays), online question banks, discussion forums, topical question sheets, past exam papers and other online

assessment materials. Each module is supported by a set of bespoke pages on the NTU Online Workspace (NOW), which provides an on-line forum for staff-student interaction and allows you to access a range of electronic resources enhancing learning.

A key feature of our course is that we not only engage you in the *study* of politics, we also allow you to *practice* what you have learnt outside of the classroom. We actively encourage our students to recognise, develop, record and reflect upon learning opportunities available to you through engagement with a wider programme of co-curricular events and activities. All first year students take the module *Politics and International Relations in Practice*, which facilitates your involvement in relevant co-curricular activities, helping you to practice and develop your politics skill set in 'real-world' contexts. In your second year of study this theme continues within the core, double-weighted module *Politics and International Relations: Theory and Practice*, where you will engage in a significant work-based learning component (preferably via a short placement with one of our external partners), and continue to participate in other co-curricular activities. In the third year, students who wish to maintain this practical aspect to their final year studies can elect to study for and submit an applied dissertation, where they will continue to develop the 'in practice' approach through, for example, engagement with policy processes in a partner organisation.

Our course assessment hub provides various links and resources specifically related to the forms of assessment utilised by the course. Here you will find further guidance on essay writing, referencing and citation, examination technique, pre-submission checklists and a range of other materials that will help support you during the various assessment tasks you will undertake. Module handbooks include guidance specific to the assessment tasks for that module, and every module you study includes some form of 'coursework clinic' where you will: be directed to relevant assessment materials; have an opportunity to ask specific questions; receive more focused guidance on completing the module assessment tasks. In addition, all module leaders hold weekly office hours where you can book a slot to discuss your learning, assessment tasks and feedback.

The Personal Tuition Stream provides for more reflective and holistic forms of learning, utilising small learning sets (approximately 12 students per

group) and incorporating a number of individual, one-to-one sessions with your personal tutor. Personal tutors normally stay with their tutees throughout the entire course, providing a key academic and pastoral contact to help you achieve your full potential and address any obstacles to study. In personal tuition sessions you will be encouraged to reflect on your learning, identify strengths and areas for improvement, cultivate strategies to improve your grades, explore potential career paths and develop your employability skills.

We are determined to equip our students with the skills, attributes and experiences they require for graduate employment, whether you decide to pursue a career in politics or finally use your degree to follow other career paths. The third stream of learning with which you will engage thus relates especially to career and employment matters. From year one onwards we run a programme of employability activities and events that will help you develop and enhance your own personal employability profile. Some of these events involve sessions with our dedicated employability team, others allow you to meet and network with external speakers and other partners who work in the field of politics. When you commence your studies you will be issued with a learning journal. As you progress through the course you will use this journal to explore potential career paths, record relevant experience and achievements, reflect on key skill development and prepare for the world of work. Your personal tutor will work with you in this regard. The journal will provide the basis for formative reflection in year one, core summative assessment tasks in year 2, and in your final year you will present a final synopsis of your employability profile for feedback. The aim is to give you a head start in securing graduate employment following completion of your degree, and to this end we also have a dedicated 'Year Four Tutor' who will continue to work with you after graduation, providing support, circulating opportunities (for employment, experience and further study) and keeping you in touch with our networks of external partners, former students and other contacts.

As a Politics student, you will thus learn through a range of teaching and learning methods: speaking, listening, reading and writing; debate and discussion; engagement with printed, oral, electronic and broadcast sources; group and individual work; observation, practice, participation and reflection. You will acquire the skills required to: critically engage with a range of texts

(including books, documents, scholarly articles, journalistic sources, and web-based sources); debate and discuss events, ideas and arguments; critically compile and effectively present knowledge, arguments and opinions; research independently using primary and secondary sources; put all of this into practice in real-world contexts. The synergistic interaction of our three learning streams (the curriculum, personal tuition and employability), within an academic culture and community that values learning *both* for its own sake *and* in its practical application, provides a platform for excellence and an effective foundation for either further study or the transition to the world of work.

9. **Assessment methods**

The Politics team makes use of a variety of assessment practices across their modules to generate a broad and balanced representation of your skills, knowledge and understanding. Methods of assessment include: written examinations; essays; textual analysis; oral presentations; multiple-choice tests; reports; case studies; reviews of academic literature; research-based dissertations.

Assessments become progressively more challenging as you advance through your studies. The core modules at Levels 4, 5 and 6 develop essential, central skills and knowledge, building toward the completion of a substantial research project at level 6 which demonstrates your ability to work independently, to gather and organise information and evidence, and to demonstrate self-organisation and effective time-management. The majority of modules are 20-credit and year long, but the level 6 dissertation and other core modules are weighted at 40-credits, reflecting the amount of work required and the importance of the module. Modes of assessment do vary from one module to another but assessment 'equivalence' between modules is ensured.

Submission dates for all elements of coursework are published in module handbooks and compiled in a single assessment and feedback schedule, to help you manage your workload effectively. All work is submitted electronically to 'dropboxes' found in the dedicated e-learning rooms for that module. Feedback is normally provided within 3 weeks of submission, in-line

with university regulations on feedback and minimum standards for e-learning. In the case of your level 6 dissertation, two members of staff independently mark your submission and the marks are then moderated. Standards are quality assured by the subject external examiner who moderates all level 5 and 6 modules including the dissertation.

All modules offer both formative and summative assessment and feedback, and typically offer at least one formative assessment prior to submission of summative work. This ensures that you receive feedback regularly through the year, not just at the culmination of the module. Most module leaders provide generic verbal feedback to cohorts following the completion of an assessment task. Summative feedback is provided on all coursework and verbal feedback on exams and dissertations is available on request. Module specific criteria are published in each module guide. These are guided by University and School statements on levels of achievement but defined for each module in relation to specific learning outcomes. You are assessed on the basis of your knowledge and understanding, discipline-specific skills, intellectual skills and key attributes and transferable skills across the course. Written work such as essays and reports tend to test your knowledge and understanding of the subject matter more so than transferable skills, with the latter being tested more by projects and presentations. However, to some extent knowledge, understanding and skills are tested in most assignments on the course in some way (essays test your ability to write coherently using IT software for example). Module teams annually review assessment tasks and all assessments are internally moderated.

Assessment at level 4 does not contribute to the overall degree classification. Assessment at level 5 accounts for 30% of the overall degree classification while assessment at level 6 represents the remaining 70%.

10. **Course structure and curriculum**

You will study 120 credit points of compulsory and optional modules at each level for a total of 360 credit points. At level one module content is typically broad and foundational, whereas in later years more advanced modules stretch you further and there is increased scope for specialisation. Freedom to construct your own curriculum increases at each level, but while there is

considerable choice available as you progress, the core modules nonetheless maintain course distinctiveness. There is also a shift from an emphasis on teaching to an emphasis on learning as you progress through the levels.

Level 4

Level 4 is based around six compulsory modules, which ground your studies historically, theoretically and practically – five academic modules and one practice based module. Academic modules operate with specific credit point ratings; the practice module sits within the Employability Learning Stream and operates in a slightly different manner. For the practice module, you are required to demonstrate adequate engagement (approx. 20 hrs) in co-curricular events, where you can hone your practical and employment related skills through participation in discussions and debates, representing your course, organising activities, hosting speakers and political activity in the student parliament, the Politics and International Relations Society, and further afield. Lectures are shared with students studying other related degree courses but seminars and tutorials normally consist solely of fellow students on the BA (Hons) Politics. There is a strong emphasis on British politics and British political history, and many important foundational concepts are introduced in modules such as *Political Ideologies in Conflict*. You also have an opportunity to improve your understanding of global political issues in preparation for more specialised modules at levels 5 and 6. All modules aim to develop skills and knowledge to prepare you for increased independent study at these higher levels.

Level 4 Modules:

Foundations and Challenges to International Relations	(40 credit points)
British Political History	(20 credit points)
British Politics: Governing in a Global Age	(20 credit points)
Political Ideologies in Conflict	(20 credit points)
Media, Power and Politics	(20 credit points)
Politics and International Relations in Practice*	(0 credit points)

(*This module involves your participation in 'real world' political activity, for instance, participating in the Student Parliament, the Politics & IR society or some other relevant activity within or outside of the university. It is a simple pass/fail module based on evidence of, and reflection on, that participation).

Level 5

Level 5 seeks to consolidate knowledge, understanding and skills and provides a platform for increased specialisation at Level 6. One half of the level is compulsory and is complemented by your choice of three further optional modules in politics and international relations. You are required to take a minimum of two politics option at this level. The core modules introduce you to a new range of skills, including subject specific skills and transferable skills, and all modules help facilitate the gradual transition from Level 4 to Level 6 studies by encouraging the development of skills introduced at Level 4.

Level 5 Core Modules:

Politics and International Relations: Theory and Practice (40 credit points)
Political Theory in Focus (20 credit points)

Level 5 Options

Potential option choices and possible combinations will vary year by year, but the list below represents an indicative set of option selections.

The Politics of Identity	(20 credit points)
Environmental Politics	(20 credit points)
People, Policy and Power: Comparing Political Systems	(20 credit points)
Global Political Economy	(20 credit points)
Change and the World Order	(20 credit points)
Politics of the Turkic and Post-Soviet Region	(20 credit points)
International Security	(20 credit points)
Global Political Marketing	(20 credit points)
Foreign Language	(20 credit points)

Level 6

Level 6 represents the culmination of your undergraduate studies and provides the greatest opportunity for specialisation and autonomous study. The compulsory 40 credit point dissertation is central in this respect. You will have selected your dissertation topic in Level 5 and will be supervised through to its completion towards the end of Level 6. A series of workshops throughout the year will further support you during the writing of your dissertation by providing a forum for the exchange of ideas relating to

particular aspects of the work, e.g. practicalities of conducting interviews; making effective use of acquired data sets; writing up the research. Again, there are 60 credits of compulsory study and 60 credits of optional study, but you must select at least one Politics option and one International Relations option.

Level 6 Core Modules:

Dissertation or Applied Dissertation	(40 credit points)
Interpreting Contemporary Politics	(20 credit points)

Level 6 Options:

Potential option choices and possible combinations will vary year by year, but the list below represents an indicative set of option selections.

British Politics in Uncertain Times	(20 credit points)
American Politics and Government	(20 credit points)
Politics of Everyday Life	(20 credit points)
The 'End of the West'?	(20 credit points)
Feminist Theory	(20 credit points)
States, Nationalisms and Identity	(20 credit points)
Political Violence and Terrorism	(20 credit points)
International Relations of the Middle East and North Africa	(20 credit points)
Emerging Powers of Asia	(20 credit points)
Foreign Language	(20 credit points)

We regularly review and update our course content based on student and employer feedback ensuring that our course remains current and relevant. This may result in changes to module content or module availability in future years.

Study Abroad Options

Erasmus exchange – Level 5

As part of the Erasmus exchange programme you will have the opportunity to spend the second half of your Level 5 second year studying at one of our European partner institutions (France, Spain, Hungary, etc. *). There are also opportunities via the ISEP programme for you to study in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. Students who take this optional pathway study

half of their Level 5 credits at NTU and half at their chosen partner institution. Before departing, you must negotiate a learning agreement with the Politics and International Relations Erasmus coordinator at NTU to ensure that their proposed programme of study meets the learning aims and outcomes of the BA (Hons) Politics course. This is countersigned by the Erasmus coordinator abroad. While you are abroad appropriate pastoral care will be provided and contact with Politics staff at NTU will be maintained. All instruction on courses/modules undertaken at the European partner institutions will be in English.

*(European Partner institutions may vary from year to year)

Languages

The BA (Hons) Politics course also offers the opportunity for students to utilise the university's language programme. You are able to take one foreign language module in levels five and six as an elective, or may augment your studies with foreign language modules in each level as an addition to the 120 credits of required study for the course.

11. Admission to the course

Entry requirements.

For current information regarding all entry requirements for this course, please see the 'Applying' tab on the NTU course information web page.

12. Support for learning

A comprehensive support network exists to help you get the most out of your Politics course and to maximise your chances of academic success:

During the first week of your university year (often referred to as Welcome Week), you will receive a comprehensive induction to your course. During this week you will be supplied with a Course Handbook and a set of Module Guides for each of the modules you will take in your first year. These handbooks include all of the relevant information regarding course and module structures, learning outcomes and aims, information on assessments, important contact information (of both teaching and administrative staff), health and safety, and academic support services.

A dedicated year tutor oversees a formalised system of tutorial support and takes responsibility for facilitating staff-student liaison. The aim here is to ensure the 'student voice' is heard clearly by the course team and wider institution and that, where relevant, consultation is timely and meaningful. Pastoral care is provided by the personal tutor system: personal tutors maintain regular contact with their tutees via timetabled tutorial sessions, providing a structured tutorial programme that includes a number of one-to-one sessions. Year tutors oversee each year group and are available to offer guidance in the event of more serious problems. Where appropriate, you will be referred to the University's Student Support Services who offer friendly and professional advice such as counselling services and financial guidance.

IT support is provided by a dedicated IT support team and IT skills form an integral part of the core modules at Level 4 and Level 5. IT staff are also represented on the Politics and International Relations Course Committee and provide regular updates on developments in IT provision. A member of the library staff is assigned to the Politics course, processing staff library orders and providing updates on developments in the library at the Politics and International Relations Course Committee. All members of the teaching team operate an 'office hour' scheme whereby they are available to speak to students. The BA (H) Politics Course Leader assumes overall responsibility for the course and is similarly able to meet with you through the standard 'office hour' system.

Careers advice is integrated into the course at all levels through the Employability Learning Stream, and you will be directed to the university careers service for more personal guidance. Opportunities for Work Based Learning (WBL) exist for all PIR students and you will be encouraged to utilise your learning journal, and other university resources, to maximise opportunities for Personal Development. This will enable you to reflect upon your own learning and progress, and to plan your educational and career development.

International students are offered specific help with study and language skills by the University, and a departmental International Student Support Officer provides a contact point for all international students enrolled on the course.

International students will also normally have a dedicated personal tutor who provides tutorial support for all international students.

13. **Graduate destinations/employability**

Enhancing Graduate employability is a key strategic aim of NTU and there are a wide range of methods of achieving this embedded within the Course, the School and the University. These include a curriculum that supports the development of your core employability skills, providing opportunity for work based experience and encouraging you to reflect upon the employability and transferable skills you have developed. Key skills, relevant to the modern world of work, such as IT skills, written and oral presentation skills, and analytical and problem-solving skills, are incorporated into core modules of the curriculum. In addition, the academic content of the course ensures that you will graduate with a good knowledge of current affairs and international trends. Tutorial groups at all levels have designated sessions looking at career development and the role of relevant professional bodies. A parallel programme of co-curricular employment related events further help you develop relevant skills and knowledge. You will have the opportunity to engage in various careers events and workshops, including employer presentations, CV, interview and application form workshops, and business case studies. Careers guidance is provided by a dedicated School of Social Sciences careers team who are part of the Universities employability service *You First*. *You First* also provides a comprehensive range of services including careers fairs, vacancy information and placement support, employer workshops and presentations and services to graduates. Together these aspects of your learning environment will feed into key employment skills such as communication, critical reflection, time and organisational management, the use of digital technologies, problem solving and team-working.

Successful completion of the BA (Hons) Politics course will prepare you for a range of careers in both the public and private sectors. Recent graduates have found employment in public sector organisations including: local government; the Civil Service (for instance, the Department of Energy and Climate Change and the House of Commons Press Office), both the Conservative Party and the Labour Party (as campaign managers and assistants), the NHS, Housing Associations and Transport for London

(Source: DLHE 2012-2015). In the private sector our graduates have secured employment opportunities with a range of well-known companies, including Norbert Dentressangle's Fast Track Talent Management programme, the Merrill Corporation, Mercedes Benz, Westminster Business Council, Network Rail, Boots and Coca Cola (Source: DLHE 2012-2015). Private sector graduate employment has included roles in digital research, project management, infrastructure planning, recruitment, HR, sales and marketing, business management and business administration (Source: DLHE 2012-2015). Recent graduates have also embarked on careers in journalism and teaching, whereas for others the BA Politics has provided the foundation for further postgraduate study, at NTU and elsewhere. Key skills, relevant to the modern world of work, such as IT skills, written and oral presentation skills, and analytical and problem-solving skills, are incorporated into core modules of the curriculum. In addition, the academic content of the course ensures that you will graduate with a good knowledge of current affairs and international trends which is desirable for a range of jobs and careers.

Employability is integral to many of the Module and Course Learning Outcomes, but your employability prospects are also greatly enhanced by our innovative Employability Learning Stream and Calendar of Employability events. You will have the opportunity, via specific Work Based Learning and 'in practice' activities, to generate an impressive profile of employment-related skills and experience, working with some of our internal and external partners. For students of Politics, Work Based Learning is given a very definite flavour by inclusion of specific assessment criteria requiring you to understand the links between the local and global aspects of politics. In addition, you have the option of further enhancing your CV by participation in our study abroad schemes during the second half of your second year.

14. Course standards and quality

The standards and quality of provision on the Politics course are maintained and enhanced in a number of ways:

1. Course Committees take place every term, attended by teaching staff, support staff, and student representatives from each of the three cohorts

<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 2. Feedback on all modules is collected, and third year students are invited to take part in the National Student Survey. 3. The course is overseen by two External Examiners (a politics specialist and an IR specialist) from separate UK Universities, who submit annual reports on the standards and quality of the programme and attend Boards of Examiners. 4. The subject benchmarks of the Quality Assurance Agency have been incorporated into and inform the course's learning outcomes. 5. The teaching in Politics is regularly reviewed by the University as part of its quality assurance and enhancement processes and a system of self-and peer-review between teaching staff is on-going. 								
<p>15. Assessment regulations This course is subject to the University's Common Assessment Regulations (located in Section 16 of the Quality Handbook). Any course specific assessment features are described below:</p>								
<p style="text-align: center;">There are no course specific exceptions from the university regulations.</p>								
<p>16. Additional Information</p> <table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;">Collaborative partner(s):</td> <td style="width: 50%;">N/A</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:</td> <td>Politics and International Relations Subject Benchmark Statement (Feb 2015)</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Course recognised by:</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Date this course specification approved:</td> <td>March 2018</td> </tr> </table>	Collaborative partner(s):	N/A	Course referenced to Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education (QAA) Benchmark Statements:	Politics and International Relations Subject Benchmark Statement (Feb 2015)	Course recognised by:		Date this course specification approved:	March 2018
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