

Programme Description

STUDY ABROAD

Name of the programme: Y3 International Relations

Key information:

Dates: 11 September to 5 December 2025 (exams included)

Duration: 12 weeks (holidays: 25 October to 2 November 2025)

Level: Level 6 (Undergraduate Year 3)

Total number of teaching hours: 180

ECTS: 30

Prerequisites: Completion of Level 5/Undergraduate Year 2 of Political Science studies

Examination Board Date: 28 January 2026*

Resit Exams Dates: 2 to 6 March 2026 (online)*

Resit Examination Board Date: 24 March 2026*

**The forecasted dates of the Examination Boards and the Resit Exams are indicated in your programme description, although they are subject to change based on circumstances*

Programme Lead Name: Dr Kevin Coffey

Programme Advisor Name, Title and Institution: Hélène Crespin, National Programmes Director, HEIP & Pierre-Alexandre Bevand, Direction of Programmes, HEIP Lyon

Aims of the Programme:

The focus in this semester of Year 3 Undergraduate Studies in International Relations is to give students an in-depth knowledge of the various factors – economic, political, historical, religious, technological, and cultural – affecting international relations, each course taught by experts in the relevant areas. In particular, the programme equips students to critically analyse 2025's geopolitical shifts – such as great power rivalry and technological disruption – through rigorous historical grounding and advanced analytical skills.

The programme takes full advantage of its location in London, a major world city, and includes cultural visits across the city and in-depth discussion of both domestic and global British politics as well as a detailed study of British history.

Programme Benefits:

This programme offers students:

- A distinctive broad curriculum – students engage in experiential, experimental, and collaborative learning through a variety of modules focusing on International Relations. Students are immersed in an intensive week of a diplomacy game, themed around Middle Eastern security and geopolitics, and intended to be an innovative way of investigating the issues the region faces.
- Enhanced employability skills – students cultivate a wide range of relevant skills including teamwork, communication, critical analysis, intellectual curiosity or organisation. The programme emphasises developing critical thinking skills and the ability to research, engage in debate, and construct persuasive arguments. Students will also have the valuable opportunity to network in business and academia.
- A perspective and experience – the opportunity to relate what students learn to global developments, particularly the challenges of EDI, climate change, and world security.
- An emphasis on the control and dissemination of information, highlighting issues such as online propaganda, radicalisation, and conspiracy theories; OSINT; censorship; corporate control of the media; privacy concerns, surveillance technology, and the challenges and opportunities facing modern journalism.
- An in-depth study of British history and religious communities in Britain, supported by independent field trips and student-conducted interviews.
- A study abroad experience – students develop their autonomy and practise their English skills by living in a foreign country and attending classes taught entirely in English.

Learning Outcomes:

Knowledge

By the end of this programme, students will have demonstrated:

1. A broad and in-depth knowledge of current theory and techniques of the major political science disciplines.

Skills

By the end of this programme, students will be able to:

2. Exhibit examples of leadership and teamwork skills for international relations decision making, including the consideration of ethical and sustainability implications for international relations.
3. Demonstrate the ability to effectively communicate complex ideas orally and in writing by engaging in challenging discussion, debates, and presentations.
4. Apply critical thinking skills in a broad range of areas.
5. Leverage generative AI to enhance research.
6. Engage with and critique different global perspectives and in particular the UK ones.

Values

By the end of this programme, students will have demonstrated a commitment to:

7. Recognising, respecting, and applying the five values of OELS.

Programme Structure:

ACADEMIC PROGRAMME <i>(subject to change)</i>	Hours	ECTS
Multilateral Institutions		
International Relations & Security Policy	30	5
International Media Review	18	3
Ethics & International Relations	12	2
History & Politics		
British History	24.5	4
Public Affairs & Lobbying	24	4
Environmental Strategies	18	3
Soft Skills & Projects		
Leadership & Personal Development	18	3
Advanced Intercultural Communication	12	2
Diplomacy Game	14.5	2
Community Engagement Project	12	2
Masterclasses & Visits		
Guest Speaker/Visit	1.5	-
Optional English Support	12	0

Approach to Learning:

Each module is taught differently depending on the aims, the content and the skills required but in each, students are expected to read and watch assigned material (text, articles, podcasts, videos...) independently, attend all classes, workshops and activities in their schedule (unless noted "optional"), actively participate in group discussions, and where appropriate, work in collaboration with their peers for formative and summative assessments.