

<b>PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION</b>	 <b>Newcastle University</b>
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<b>1</b>	<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>2</b>	<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Newcastle University
<b>3</b>	<b>Final Award</b>	BA (Hons)
<b>4</b>	<b>Programme Title</b>	Politics and Economics Politics and Economics with Placement Year Politics and Economics with International Study Year
<b>5</b>	<b>UCAS/Programme Code</b>	LL21 1462U 1823U
<b>6</b>	<b>Programme Accreditation</b>	N/A
<b>7</b>	<b>QAA Subject Benchmark(s)</b>	Politics and Economics
<b>8</b>	<b>FHEQ Level</b>	Level 6
<b>9</b>	<b>Last updated</b>	December 2024

<b>10</b>	<b>Programme Aims</b>
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To develop a knowledge and understanding of aspects of political and economic activity, principles and institutions</li> <li>To provide opportunities for students to specialise within both politics and economics according to their interests</li> <li>To provide a grounding in the theoretical concepts and analytical apparatus of both politics and economics and to enhance students' ability to use these tools to address a range of political and economic issues confronting modern society</li> <li>To provide students with opportunities to develop a range of cognitive and key skills across both subject areas</li> <li>To provide a learning environment enhanced by scholarship and research</li> <li>To produce graduates capable of pursuing a variety of careers or, if they have the requisite ability, of embarking on work at postgraduate level</li> <li>To satisfy relevant requirements of the benchmark statements for Politics and Economics</li> <li>To satisfy the requirements of the FHEQ for a level 6 award.</li> <li>To comply with prevailing University policies and QAA codes of practice</li> </ol> <p><b>Relevant to students on the Careers Service placement Year:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide students with the experience of seeking and securing a position with an employer.</li> <li>Facilitate independent self-management and proactive interaction in a non-university setting.</li> <li>Provide a period of practical work experience that will benefit current academic study and longer term career plans.</li> <li>Enable students to ethically apply their knowledge and skills in the work place, reflect upon their development and effectively evidence and articulate their learning in relevant future settings.</li> </ol> <p><b>Relevant to students on the International Study Abroad Placement Year:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer students the opportunity to develop graduate attributes which increase employability, particularly communication and (where applicable) language skills, intercultural competencies, adaptability, resilience and global awareness.</li> </ol>

15. Gain insight into international Higher Education and experience differences in academic approach and learning environment.
16. Provide the opportunity to experience new areas of study outside of their usual programme of study at Newcastle University.

## **11 Learning Outcomes**

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes as detailed below.

### **Knowledge and Understanding**

On completing the programme students should:

- A1 Have a knowledge and understanding of some central aspects of government and politics and of some specialised topics within the discipline;
- A2 Have a knowledge and understanding of core principles of microeconomics and macroeconomics and of a range of more specialised topics in economics

#### **Relevant to students on the Careers Service placement Year:**

- A3 Apply personal and professional development strategies to prioritise, plan, and manage their own skills development and learning.
- A4 Research, select and apply relevant knowledge aimed at enhancing their own skills and effectiveness in specific duties at their placement.
- A5 Demonstrate an understanding of a work environment, how it functions and their contribution to it.
- A6 Relate their work based learning to other areas of personal development, including academic performance.

#### **Relevant to students on the International Study Abroad Placement Year:**

- A7 Demonstrate the ability to adapt to different learning environments.

### **Teaching and Learning Methods**

Core knowledge is imparted and understanding developed through lectures supplemented by handouts and, where appropriate, by other visual media, such as videos and online sources including Canvas. Seminars and workshops are used to check and improve students' understanding, and to develop their levels of knowledge through discussion, argument and problem-solving.

A1 is developed throughout the curriculum and, in particular, by the requirement to choose a certain number of modules from a short-list of modules at stage 1. A2 is developed by core and compulsory modules in Stage 1 and Stage 2 covering the topics specified and by the requirement to choose more specialised economic options at Stage 3.

### **Assessment Strategy**

1. Politics - Unseen written examinations, oral examinations, essays, class simulations, projects, dissertations
2. Economics - Unseen written examinations, projects, essays, presentations.

### **Intellectual Skills**

On completing the programme students should be able to:

- B1 Make effective use of a wide range of information sources, including qualitative and quantitative data, library, internet and other electronic sources.
- B2 Use the analytical apparatus of both politics and economics to address a range of political and economic issues confronting modern society.

<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
<p>The skills listed under B1 and their application to the study of politics are taught through lectures, seminars, exercises, and debates in skills modules at Stage 1 and Stage 2. Student presentations and essays require effective extraction of information at all three stages. The skills listed under B2 are developed throughout the politics and economics curricula. Lectures provide the principal means to impart intellectual skills. Analytical and critical thinking are enhanced and tested in seminars (mainly discussion classes), workshops (mainly numerical/technical problem solving), and private study (recommended reading and electronic sources).</p>
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
<p>1. Politics – essays, unseen examinations, oral examinations, projects, dissertations, simulation exercises, literature reviews</p> <p>2. Economics – these skills are assessed by a combination of unseen examinations, the principal method, and by assessed essays and project reports. Such assessed coursework tests skills that involve information and data gathering.</p>
<b>Practical Skills</b>
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>C1 Critically evaluate arguments and evidence</p> <p>C2 Present a reasoned and informed position, verbally or in writing</p> <p>C3 Engage in qualitative and quantitative analysis</p>
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
<p>Practical skills (C1 and C2) and their application to the study of politics are taught through lectures and seminars. Reasoned arguments (C2) are developed in seminars and through the use of simulation exercises at all three stages of the degree. Practical skills deriving from the study of Economics (C3) are developed throughout the economics curriculum. Lectures provide the building blocks for an analytical approach to practical problems. Seminars for discussion of problems and issues enhance and test the student's practical approach, while workshops provide practice in mainly numerical/technical procedures; private study (recommended reading and electronic sources) consolidates and augments the taught elements.</p>
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
<p>C1 and C2 are assessed through essays and exams, and through observed simulation exercises. C3 is tested by a combination of unseen examinations and coursework, with the former usually having the greater weight.</p>
<b>Transferable/Key Skills</b>
<p>On completing the programme students should be able to:</p> <p>D1 Communicate effectively in both written and oral formats</p> <p>D2 Plan and organise a programme of work or study</p> <p>D3 Utilise appropriate IT skills</p> <p>D4 Utilise an appropriate level of numerical skills</p> <p><b>Relevant to students on the Careers Service placement Year:</b></p> <p>D5 Reflect on and manage own learning and development within the workplace.</p> <p>D6 Use existing and new knowledge to enhance personal performance in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate this process.</p> <p>D7 Use graduate skills in a professional manner in a workplace environment, evaluate the impact and communicate the personal development that has taken place</p>

<b>Relevant to students on the International Study Abroad Placement Year:</b>
D8 Adapt and operate in a different cultural environment.
<b>Teaching and Learning Methods</b>
Written communication (D1) is developed through essays, projects and examinations while verbal communication (also D1) is developed through seminars, presentations, simulations and debates. Planning and organisation (D2) skills are also developed through such sessions. IT skills (D3) are taught in Study Skills modules and further developed in core and compulsory modules in Economics, particularly mathematical and statistical modules (D4).
<b>Assessment Strategy</b>
D1 and D2 are assessed through essays, written and oral examinations and simulation exercises. D3 is assessed as part of Study Skills modules at Stage 2 of Politics, and at Stages 2 and 3 of Economics. D4 is directly assessed through project and written exam in statistics but is also indirectly tested in coursework for other modules throughout the programme.

<b>12 Programme Curriculum, Structure and Features</b>
<b>Basic structure of the programme</b>
<p>Duration: 3 years or 4 years if taking part in placement year  Stages: 3 or 4 if taking part in placement year  Number of credits per stage: 120</p> <p><b>Relevant to students on the Careers Service placement Year and International Study Abroad Year:</b></p> <p>If students have chosen to and are eligible to participate in either the Careers Service placement Year or the International Study Abroad Placement year they will be on placement between Stages 2 and 3 of their programme.</p>
<b>Key features of the programme (including what makes the programme distinctive)</b>
<p>(a) The programme combines a grounding in the core areas of Politics and Economics with the opportunity to specialise and choose from a variety of specialist modules (particularly at stage 3 of the programme)</p> <p>(b) A variety of teaching methods and assessments are employed throughout the programme and these foster a wide range of skills and abilities.</p> <p>(c) Students are not required to undertake a dissertation and may instead demonstrate research skills by means of a research project, or Community Based Research Module.</p>
<b>Programme regulations (link to on-line version)</b>
<a href="#">Programme Regulations 2025-26</a>
<b>13 Support for Student Learning</b>
<p>Generic information regarding University provision is available <a href="#">here</a>.</p> <p><i>Induction</i></p>

During the first week of the first semester, students attend an induction programme specially designed for Politics and Economics students. New students are also given a general introduction to University life and the University's principal support services and general information about the School and their programme, as described in the Degree Programme Handbook. New and continuing students will be given detailed programme information and the timetable of lectures/practical's/labs/ tutorials/etc. The International Office offers an additional induction programme for overseas students.

Politics also sends pre-registration information to both new and returning students. Politics also organises its own programme of meetings and events for Induction Week.

The main features of the Induction Week in Politics for all students (new and returning undergraduates) are:

- availability of personal tutors to advise on module selection and take an overview of students' performance
- student registration for the academic year
- students' selection and registration of module choices
- welcome, information and advice meetings specifically for each stage of each degree

In addition, the following is provided in a more intensive induction programme for new undergraduates:

- a meeting outlining the structure and character of their degree programme and expectations of students and staff
- a meeting outlining the curriculum and assessments in stage 1 Politics modules
- self-directed tours of the Library

#### **14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

*Accreditation reports*

None

*Additional mechanisms*

None

#### **15 Regulation of assessment**

Generic information regarding University provision is available [here](#).

In addition, information relating to the programme is provided in:

The University Prospectus (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/undergraduate/degrees/#subject>)

The University Regulations (see <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/regulations/>)

Please note. This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and of the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve if she/he takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided.