



## **BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies**

### **Programme Specification**

**2021-22**

## Contents

1. INTRODUCTION .....	3
2. OVERVIEW .....	4
3. MISSION .....	5
4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE.....	5
5. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES.....	8
6. KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES .....	8
Theoretical Knowledge Base (A) .....	8
Practical Knowledge Base (B).....	9
Cognitive Skills (C).....	10
Personal Development (D).....	11
7. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT .....	12
Teaching Strategy.....	12
Assessment Strategy .....	12
8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS.....	13
Admissions .....	13
Transfer Credit .....	13
9. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS.....	13
10. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE .....	15
11. PLACEMENT .....	15
12. STUDY ABROAD.....	16
13. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK.....	16
Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme .....	16
APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map .....	18
Programme Specification Publication Dates .....	21

## 1. INTRODUCTION

This document describes the **BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies** awarded by Richmond University, the American International University in London, using the protocols required by *The Framework for Higher Education Qualifications in England, Wales, and Northern Ireland* (QAA, 2008).

The degree is delivered within the framework of a US Liberal Arts undergraduate degree programme. Typically students complete 40 separate courses over the programme which takes 3.5 to 4 years (approximately 10 courses per year, with summer courses allowing for accelerated progress in some cases). Normally, each course carries 3 US academic credits (equivalent, approximately, to 3 classroom contact hours per 15 week semester). On this basis, students are required to earn a total of a minimum 120 US academic credit hours in order to complete their degrees. Of these 40 courses, roughly half are at the “lower-division” taken in the first two years of study and coded 3000-4999, and half are at the “upper division”, taken in years three and four, and coded 5000-6999.

The degrees are also articulated in terms of UK Regulatory Frameworks, chiefly the *FHEQ* and the *Higher Education Credit Framework for England*. Each course has been assigned to an appropriate level on the *FHEQ*, based on the course’s learning outcomes and assessment strategies (note that the courses comprising the first year of the 4-year US undergraduate degree are normally at RQF Level 3). US undergraduate credit can generally be translated to ECTS and UK CATS credits in the following manner: 1 US credit = 2 ECTS credits = 4 UK CATS credits. So a US degree of 120 credits would translate as 240 ECTS credits and 480 UK CATS credits (with a minimum of 360 UK CATS credits at Levels 4-6 on the *FHEQ*).

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

**More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content, and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each course can be found in course specification documents and syllabi.**

**The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be verified by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.**

## 2. OVERVIEW

<b>Programme/award title(s)</b>	BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies
<b>Teaching Institution</b>	Richmond, the American International University in London
<b>Awarding Institution</b>	Richmond, the American International University in London
<b>Date of last validation</b>	September 2017 (for 5 years)
<b>Next revalidation</b>	2021-22
<b>Credit points for the award</b>	120 US Credits 480 UK Credits at <i>FHEQ</i> Levels 3-6 (120 at Level 3; 120 at Level 4; 120 at Level 5; 120 at Level 6)
<b>UCAS Code</b>	University Code: R20 International Relations: L240
<b>Programme start date</b>	September 1996
<b>Underpinning QAA subject benchmark(s)</b>	QAA Benchmark Statement: Politics and International Relations (February 2015) <a href="https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-politics-15.pdf?sfvrsn=ee95f781_14">https://www.qaa.ac.uk/docs/qaa/subject-benchmark-statements/sbs-politics-15.pdf?sfvrsn=ee95f781_14</a>
<b>Professional/statutory recognition</b>	N/A
<b>Language of Study</b>	English
<b>Duration of the programme for each mode of study (P/T, FT,DL)</b>	FT
<b>Dual accreditation (if applicable)</b>	Middle States Commission on Higher Education (First accredited 1981; renewed 1996, 2006, 2016.) QAA – Higher Education Review (AP) 2017
<b>Date of production/revision of this specification</b>	May 2021 (see chart at the end of this document for list of revisions)

### 3. MISSION

The BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies major aims to graduate students who are exceptionally strong in three core areas of International Relations: theory and concepts in IR; actors and institutions on the global stage, and contemporary issues and problems in international affairs. A range of optional courses in national, regional and global studies, as well as in thematic areas of the discipline and where appropriate cognate fields, are offered, allowing specialisation within the Major according to student interest. International Relations is taught using a range of methods which reflect the international student body, whilst making the best use of emerging technologies. The courses ensure that students in other Majors can gain a sufficient understanding of International Relations to help conceptualise the international dimensions of their chosen fields. The programme provides a background both for further study and eventual careers, including work in government, international organisations, business, finance and the media.

### 4. PROGRAMME STRUCTURE

BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies

A normal course load per academic year is 30 US credits, equivalent to 120 UK credits. Students complete 120 UK credits at Level 6 in the major.

Please note that students must complete all Liberal Arts requirements AND a minimum of 120 credits at each FHEQ level. The Liberal Arts programme offers more choice amongst levels, so students and advisors must ensure that both Liberal Arts requirements and overall level requirements are satisfied. As long as a minimum 120 credits per level is achieved, Liberal Arts Options I and II will be automatically fulfilled.

**Table 1: Lower-Division / Levels 3 and 4 Degree Requirements**

LOWER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS			
QCF Level 3		US CREDITS	UK CREDITS
PLT 3100	Foundations of Politics	3	12
PLT 3105	Comparative Political Systems	3	12
HST 3205	The Global Cold War	3	12
GEP 3100	Transitions I	3	12
GEP 3101	Transitions II	3	12
GEP 3140	Scientific Reasoning	3	12
GEP 3160	Creative Expression	3	12
GEP 3180	Research and Writing I	3	12
XXX 3xxx OR MTH 3000	QCF Level 3 Elective OR MTH 3000 (if student tests into this)	3	12
XXX 3xxx	QCF Level 3 Elective (can be Gen Ed Hum SS requirement)	3	12

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies

<b>QCF Level 3 Credit Totals</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>
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<b>FHEQ Level 4</b>		<b>US CREDITS</b>	<b>UK CREDITS</b>
DEV 4100	Rich World/Poor World	3	12
ECN 4110	Introduction to Macroeconomics	3	12
INR 4100	Introduction to International Relations	3	12
INR 4105	Evolution of International Systems	3	12
MTH 4120	Probability and Statistics I	3	12
PLT 4100	Major Political Thinkers	3	12
GEP 4180	Research and Writing II	3	12
XXX 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective (can be Gen Ed Hum SS requirement)	3	12
XXX 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
XXX 4xxx	FHEQ Level 4 Elective	3	12
<b>FHEQ Level 4 Credit Totals</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>

**Table 2: Upper-Division / Levels 5 and 6 Requirements**

<b>UPPER-DIVISION REQUIREMENTS</b>			
<b>FHEQ Level 5</b>		<b>US CREDITS</b>	<b>UK CREDITS</b>
DEV 5100	Global Development Politics	3	12
INR 5200	Global Governance	3	12
INR 5205	Security Studies	3	12
DEV 5200	Research Methods and Practices – Social Sciences	3	12
<b>plus two of the following:</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>24</b>
AMS 5200	Power in the Americas		
COM 5215	Political Communications		
HST 5105	Rise Of The Right: History of Fascisms		
HST 5110	Nationalism And Conflict		
INR 5100	Critical Globalization Studies		
INR 5400	US Grand Strategy		
INR 5210	Development and Geopolitics in East Asia		
MTH 5130	Game Theory and Decision Methods		
PLT 5100	Politics Of The Middle East		
PLT 5200	Political Economy: Capitalism and its Critics		
PLT 5205	British Politics		
PLT 5400	Politics in the USA		
PLT 5405	The European Union in New International System		
PLT 5415	Politics Of Sub-Saharan Africa		
PLT 5420	Russian Politics and History		

And all of the following			
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
XXX 5xxx	FHEQ Level 5 Elective	3	12
<b>FHEQ Level 5 Credit Totals</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>

<b>FHEQ Level 6</b>		<b>US CREDITS</b>	<b>UK CREDITS</b>
INR 6200	International Relations Theory	3	12
INR 6205	International Political Economy	3	12
INR 6296	Senior Seminar in International Relations 1	3	12
INR 6297	Senior Seminar in International Relations 2	3	12
<b>plus five of the following OR Internship and three of the following</b>		<b>15</b>	<b>60</b>
AMS 6205	The American Presidency		
DEV 6200	Sustainable Development		
HST 6225	Culture, Power and Empire		
HST 6425	War and Society: Medieval to Modern		
HST 6410	Migrations and Diasporas		
INB 6200	Country Risk Analysis		
INR 6425	International Relations and the Media		
INR 6400	Conflict And Peace Studies		
INR 6405	International Human Rights		
INR 6410	Diplomatic Studies		
INR 6415	Foreign Policy Analysis		
INR 6420	Global Energy Politics		
INR 6962	World Internship International Relations (6 CREDITS)		
INR 6972	Internship In International Relations (6 CREDITS)		
JRN 6210	Global News Analysis		
PLT 6200	Liberty, Justice, Equality: Contemporary Political Theory		
PLT 6205	Policy-Making in a Globalized World		
PLT 6400	Political Sociology: Power, State and Society		
PLT 6410	Politics Of Environmentalism		
PLT 6415	Ethnicity and Identity		
PLT 6420	Gender, Politics and International Relations		
PLT 6425	Religion, Identity And Power		
PLT 6430	Democracy and Democratization		
<b>FHEQ Level 6 Credit Totals</b>		<b>30</b>	<b>120</b>

Black = Major requirements

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies

Blue = General Education Liberal Arts Core requirements

Green = Electives/Gen Ed Electives, one of these electives (at RQF L3 or FHEQ L4) must fulfil the Humanities/Social Sciences Gen Ed Elective requirement

## 5. PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Programme-level learning outcomes are identified below. Please refer to the Curriculum Map at the end of this document for details of how outcomes are deployed across the study programme.

## 6. KEY PROGRAMME OUTCOMES

Upon completing the BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies students should have:

- A. THEORETICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Acquired knowledge and understanding of the theory, concepts, and analytical tools used in International Relations.
- B. PRACTICAL KNOWLEDGE BASE: Placed questions of international order and disorder, decision-making and political contestation at the centre of analysis.
- C. COGNITIVE SKILLS: Demonstrated knowledge and understanding of key methods of International Relations, including critical reflection upon a range of primary and secondary sources.
- D. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT: Developed a range of cognitive, communication and social skills relevant to their intellectual, vocational and personal development.

### Theoretical Knowledge Base (A)

#### LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of core political ideologies and concepts, and of the main approaches to the study of political science.

#### LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the main intellectual paradigms and debates in international relations.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of the history of, and key debates in, political thought.
- iii. Demonstrates a broad and historical understanding of theories of economic and political development.

#### LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a critical engagement with major thinkers and intellectual paradigms within the subject area.

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies



- ii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of theories of economic and political development in historical context.
- iii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of concepts of power and influence in international relations.

#### LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the major thinkers and intellectual paradigms in international relations.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to develop critical responses to, and a systematic and historical understanding of, theoretical approaches taken in various sub-fields of the discipline
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of concepts of power and influence in international relations.
- iv. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of key texts and debates in the subject area, and the reflexive relationship between these and empirical studies of international relations.

### **Practical Knowledge Base (B)**

#### LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an understanding of political institutions, practices and systems.

#### LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates a broad understanding of historical issues in international relations.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad insight into the historical development of global inequalities, and the practices that have exacerbated or alleviated this.
- iii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of contemporary issues in international relations.

#### LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the formal and informal institutions of power and influence at the domestic, regional and global levels.
- ii. Demonstrates a critical and theoretical engagement with core problems and issues in the subject area, at the domestic, regional and global levels.
- iii. Demonstrates a detailed understanding of the continuities and transformations evident in the core thematic debates of international relations.

#### LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of the formal and informal institutions that exercise power and influence at the domestic, regional and global levels
- ii. Demonstrates a systematic insight into the cultural, economic, environmental, geographical, historical, political and social dimensions of international relations, and of the significance of these for the subject area
- iii. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of a core problem or issue in the subject area, along with sophisticated application of theoretical knowledge to empirical evidence

- iv. Demonstrates a systematic understanding of major thematic debates in the subject area, with a sophisticated disciplinary analysis that utilises knowledge from other cognate fields as is appropriate.

### Cognitive Skills (C)

#### LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to communicate arguments effectively in written, oral or other forms, with an understanding of appropriate methods.

#### LEVEL 4

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy ideas and information in order to evaluate their strengths and weaknesses, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates a broad understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative research methods
- iii. Demonstrates an ability to judge the reliability of sources, and begins to identify the strengths and weaknesses of concepts and theoretical frameworks.

#### LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates the ability to formulate and synthesize arguments cogently, retrieve and generate information, and select appropriate criteria to evaluate sources, with a detailed understanding of quantitative and/or qualitative methods.
- ii. Delivers work with limited supervision to a given length, format, brief and deadline, properly referencing sources and ideas and making use, as appropriate, of a problem-solving approach.
- iii. Exercises a degree of independent and informed critical judgement in analysis.

#### LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to gather, organise and deploy complex and abstract ideas and information in order to formulate arguments cogently, and express them effectively in written, oral or other forms.
- ii. Demonstrates the ability to organise and manage supervised, self-directed projects, through which a sophisticated understanding of research methods is demonstrated.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to produce detailed analyses of competing perspectives and concepts, to make comparisons and connections and to identify the possibility of new concepts.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to provide critically appraisals of some of the widespread common sense understandings and misunderstandings of the subject area, and the debates and disagreements to which these give rise.

## Personal Development (D)

### LEVEL 3

- i. Demonstrates an awareness of views other than their own and adapts behaviour to meet obligations in personal and/or group outcomes and/or outputs.

### LEVEL 4

- i. Acts with limited autonomy under direction or supervision and engages in evaluation of own work and capabilities and outputs in key areas.
- ii. Demonstrates broad skills that are relevant to the workplace, including the ability to work productively in a group or team, and to recognise factors that affect performance, including changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to use a range of information communication technology (ICT) skills to perform tasks.

### LEVEL 5

- i. Demonstrates well-developed skills that will translate into the workplace, including the ability to work effectively within a group or team, to engage in self-reflection, and to adapt own actions and interpersonal communication skills to changing contexts, audiences and degrees of complexity.
- ii. Delivers work with limited direction or supervision, demonstrating the capacity to consider and evaluate their own work using justifiable criteria.
- iii. Demonstrates the ability to adapt to complex and non-routine performance tasks using information communication technology (ICT).

### LEVEL 6

- i. Demonstrates the ability to act with minimal direction or supervision, to engage in self-reflection, use feedback to analyse own capabilities, appraise alternatives, and plan and implement actions.
- ii. Demonstrates personal responsibility and professional codes of conduct, while taking responsibility for their own work, learning and development, and effectiveness in professional and interpersonal communication.
- iii. Demonstrates flexible skills that translate directly into the workplace, including the ability to plan and manage for changing contexts, audiences and levels of complexity, and advanced group or team work capacities, for example listening, contributing, leading, negotiating and proactively managing conflict as is appropriate.
- iv. Demonstrates the ability to flexibly locate their own normative views and cultural commitments within the practice of research, with a level of autonomy.

## 7. TEACHING, LEARNING, AND ASSESSMENT

### Teaching Strategy

The teaching and learning strategy adopted within the BA (Hons) \*NAME OF PROGRAMME\* degree is based on the understanding that all students will be treated as active learners. Clearly, the precise approach will vary from course to course, depending on the learning outcomes relevant to each class.

The generic components of our teaching and learning strategy normally involves a variety of approaches and include delivering many of the following:

- Regular use of formal lecture sessions in all courses.
- Occasional workshops and seminars in some courses.
- Regular use of individual and/or team-based projects in all courses.
- Regular use of self-directed and directed reading in all courses.
- Peer-tutoring led by advanced students in many courses.
- Use of audio-visual and library resources in some courses.
- Regular use of tutor- and student-led discussion groups via e-learning platforms such as PowerCAMPUS (or Blackboard) in many courses.

The combination of teaching and learning approaches mentioned above develops our students' knowledge, thinking skills and practical skills.

Their knowledge is acquired through

- Structured lectures and supporting materials
- Directed reading and use of internet materials
- Independent research

Their cognitive skills are developed through

- Conducting research
- Making presentations and preparing other assessments
- Helping others to learn

Their practical skills are gained through

- Application of theory to practices encountered during internships
- Using information technology to retrieve and manipulate data
- Negotiating by means of team-based projects

Their key skills are gained through

- Employing and using appropriate linguistic skills
- Independent learning

### Assessment Strategy

The assessment strategies we use with our BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies degree speak directly to how we anticipate progression with student learning to take place.

In terms of following up with the assessment of student learning and consistent with US liberal arts traditions, our classes rely on the system of continuous assessment on a course by course basis and throughout any given semester. This approach often involves the use of Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies

term-papers, portfolios of work, quizzes, mid-semester and final exams as well as student presentations and general class discussion. Not every component applies to every course, but most do relate to many of the classes that are offered. Many of our courses involve a site visit or require attendance at a public lecture as well. Students generally find these events to be extremely valuable to their learning.

Courses will follow the University Assessment Norms, details of which are listed in each CSD.

Each senior will end their programme with a dissertation which will normally have 8,000-10,000 words.

## 8. ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

### Admissions

Details of the entry requirements, including English language requirements, may be found at the appropriate page of the University website listed below, where a comprehensive Admissions Policy and Summary of Practice document is also published.

<https://www.richmond.ac.uk/undergraduate-admissions/>

### Transfer Credit

Prospective students with specific levels of subject achievement in Advanced Placement Tests, GCE A Levels and some other UK and international qualifications may enter with Advanced Credit and be given exemption from certain courses of the programme. Please see the Transfer Credit Policy Undergraduate for details.

## 9. EXIT AWARD REQUIREMENTS

An exit award is defined as a lower award than one for which the student is registered. Such an award may be conferred if a student completes part, but not all, of the requirements of the programme for which he or she is registered. Students may not enter the university registered for an exit award.

### Associate of Arts Degree in General Studies (US)

The US Associate of Arts (AA) degree can be awarded as an exit degree for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

30 US / 120 UK credits at RQF Level 3

30 US / 120 UK credits at FHEQ Level 4

Of the total number of credits required for the AA degree, 30 US/120 UK credits must be completed at Richmond. Students must obtain a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0 and a major of 2.0 in order to qualify for this degree. Latin Honours are not applied to the AA Degree.

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies

The requirements for the AA degree are outlined in Table 1 above. All Level 3 and 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

### **Certificate of Higher Education Social Sciences: International Relations (UK)**

The UK Certificate of Higher Education (CertHE) can be broadly aligned with the US Associate of Arts Degree, but the CertHE does not require the completion of 30 US/120 credits at RQF Level 3. Students who qualify for the AA degree will automatically qualify for the CertHE. But students may qualify for a CertHE without fulfilling the requirements for a US AA degree if they have not completed all of the RQF Level 3 requirements necessary to obtain the AA.

The UK CertHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK CertHE, 15 US/60 UK credits must be completed at Richmond.

The requirements for the UK CertHE are outlined in the section of Table 1 pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed.

### **Diploma of Higher Education in Social Sciences: International Relations (UK)**

The UK Diploma of Higher Education (DipHE) has no US equivalent. The UK DipHE can be awarded as an exit award for those students completing the following minimum requirements.

120 credits at FHEQ Level 4

120 credits at FHEQ Level 5

- Pass (normally a GPA of between 1.85 and 2.99 for all Level 4 courses)
- Merit (normally a GPA of 3.0 to 3.54)
- Distinction (normally a GPA of 3.55 and above for all level 4 courses)

Of the total number of credits required for the UK DipHE, 15 US/60 UK Level 4 credits and 15 US/60 UK Level 5 credits must be completed at the University.

The requirements for the UK DipHE are outlined in the sections of Table 1 and Table 2 above pertaining to FHEQ Level 4 and FHEQ Level 5 requirements. All Level 4 Major and General

Education Liberal Arts Core Requirements must be completed. Level 6 courses can be “dipped-down” to fulfil missing Level 5 credits.

Students may not be awarded more than one UK exit award and the University Examination Board will recommend the most relevant one for the individual student circumstance.

## **10. STUDENT SUPPORT AND GUIDANCE**

There is a range of student support and guidance, for both academic and general wellbeing, available to students. This is accomplished through a range of programmes and services which positively impact learning as well as the total student life experience.

All students have an allocated full-time faculty member who acts as their academic adviser. Academic Advisers have on-going responsibility for students’ academic progress, meeting with each advisee at least once per semester. Advisers assist students with registration, enabling smooth progression through the degree. They also advise on postgraduate and career opportunities, and also provide pastoral support in many cases.

A range of Maths, English, Technology and Writing workshops have been established to support students with particular needs in these areas. Librarians are on hand to assist with library use, which includes instruction in web-based resources.

The University endeavours to make all practical and reasonable adjustments to ensure students are able to fully participate in the University community. Students who declare a physical disability or a special educational need are supported to ensure the quality of their educational experience meets their individual requirements. SEN students, for instance, receive extra time in examinations, and have the option of writing exams on university-provided computers, and/or of taking exams in a separate room.

The University operates a well-staffed Student Affairs department that provides services intended to support and encourage student welfare, safety and development. This department oversees medical registration of students and provides counseling services. It also organizes a range of extracurricular activities and travel designed to further enhance students’ educational experiences. Disciplinary and social grievance procedures are also overseen by this department.

## **11. PLACEMENT**

The Internship Office the University offers a formal mechanism through which students may receive work-placement opportunities. These placements are supervised, career-related work experiences combined with reflective, academic study that help students apply theoretical knowledge in the workplace. Participation in the internship programme is optional, but students who choose to take up a placement receive academic credit for their placement and associated academic work (see level 6 options).

Expectations with regard to careers education, information, advice and guidance (as outlined in the section on Enabling Student Achievement in *The UK Quality Code for Higher Education*) are handled by the university's Student Affairs department. This department conducts a variety of career services for students, ranging from resource provision to a CV service, and in particular through the LEAD (Leadership, Education and Development) seminar series.

In addition to these services, the alumni office offers networking opportunities where students may contact alumni working in a variety of fields. The alumni office also offers these services via social media such as LinkedIn and Facebook.

## 12. STUDY ABROAD

Richmond students have the option to take a leave of absence and travel away from the university as a 'study abroad'. With 20 partnerships spread over five continents, students are able to select from a wide range of partners. All courses taken elsewhere must be pre-approved by Registry Services.

## 13. REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies is operated under the policy and regulatory frameworks of Richmond the American International University in London, the Middle States Commission on Higher Education, the Framework of Higher Education Qualifications, and the UK Quality Code for Higher Education.

Also key to the background for this description are the following documents:

- QAA (2018). The Revised UK Quality Code for Higher Education. ([www.qaa.ac.uk](http://www.qaa.ac.uk))
- QAA (2008). Higher Education Credit Framework for England: guidance on academic credit arrangements in Higher Education in England.
- SEEC (2016). Credit Level Descriptors for Higher Education. Southern England Consortium for Credit Accumulation and Transfer ([www.seec.org.uk](http://www.seec.org.uk)).
- Middle States Commission on Higher Education. Standards for Accreditation and Requirements of Affiliation. 2014: Thirteenth Edition; Rev. Ed. 2015. (<http://www.msche.org/publications/RevisedStandardsFINAL.pdf>)

### Ensuring and Enhancing the Quality of the Programme

The BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies features detailed published educational objectives that are consistent with the mission of the institution. All course outlines contain course specific objectives that are regularly monitored by the individual instructors and by the faculty as a group.

The University has several methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of its provision. These include:

- External Examiners

Programme specification and curriculum map – BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies



- Internal Moderation
- Student representation
- Curricular change approval process
- Annual Programme Monitoring and Assessment
- Formal Programme Review, every 5 years
- Course evaluation
- Student satisfaction surveys and the NSS
- Feedback from employers

**BA (Hons) Social Sciences: International Relations with Combined Studies** is provided through a system of ongoing evaluations that demonstrate achievement of the programme's objectives, and uses the results to improve the effectiveness of the programme. Ongoing evaluation is carried out for both US (the Middle States Commission on Higher Education) and UK (QAA) reviews. The University is a voluntary subscriber member of the QAA, and underwent its first full Institutional Review in May 2013 and a Higher Education Review (AP) in 2017.

## APPENDIX 1 Curriculum Map

Green Cells are core course from within the International Relations Programme

Pink Cells are core courses from other Programmes. Their learning outcomes are derived from their relevant programme specifications. They have been fitted as well as possible into the International Relations Curriculum Map

Yellow Cells are optional courses from within the International Relations Programme

LEVEL 3	PLT 3100 Foundations of Politics	PLT 3105 Comparative Political Sys.		HST 3205 Global Cold War
<b>Ai</b>	X			X
<b>Bi</b>		X		X
<b>Ci</b>	X	X		X
<b>Di</b>	X	X		X

LEVEL 4	INR 4100 Intro IR	INR 4105 Evolution Int'l Systems	PLT 4100 Major Pol Thinkers		DEV 4100 Rich World/ Poor World	ECN 4110 Intro to Macro	MTH 4120 Prob & Stats I
<b>Ai</b>					X		
<b>Aii</b>			X				
<b>Aiii</b>	X	X					
<b>Bi</b>	X	X					
<b>Bii</b>					X		
<b>Biii</b>	X						
<b>Ci</b>	X	X	X		X		
<b>Cii</b>						X	X
<b>Ciii</b>	X	X	X		X		
<b>Di</b>	X	X	X		X		
<b>Dii</b>					X		
<b>Diii</b>	X	X	X		X		X

LEVEL 5	INR 5200 Global Governance	INR 5205 Security Studies		DEV5200 Research Methods	DEV 5100 Global Development Politics		INR 5100 Critical Globalization Studies	INR 5400 US Grand Strategy	INR 5210 Development and Geopolitics in East Asia
<b>Ai</b>	X						X	X	
<b>Aii</b>					X				X
<b>Aiii</b>		X		X	X				
<b>Biv</b>	X						X	X	X
<b>Bi</b>	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
<b>Bii</b>	X	X		X	X		X		
<b>Ci</b>	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
<b>Cii</b>	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
<b>Ciii</b>	X	X		X	X		X	X	X
<b>Di</b>	X	X		X	X		X	X	
<b>Dii</b>	X	X		X			X	X	X
<b>Diii</b>				X	X			X	

LEVEL 6	INR 6200 IR Theory	INR 6205 Int'l Pol Econ	INR 6210 Pols Int'l Law	INR 6296 Senior Seminar I	INR 6297 Senior Seminar II		INR 6400 Conflict & Peace Studies	INR 6405 Int'l Human Rights	INR 6410 Diplomatic Studies	INR 6415 Foreign Policy Analysis	INR 6420 Global Energy Pols
Ai	X	X									
Aii		X	X				X	X	X	X	
Aiii	X	X	X				X		X	X	
Aiv	X	X	X	X	X			X			
Bi		X	X					X	X		X
Bii		X					X			X	X
Biii				X	X						
Biv		X	X	X	X		X	X		X	X
Ci	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Cii				X	X						
Ciii	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Civ	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Di				X	X						
Dii	X	X	X	X	X		X	X	X	X	X
Diii	X				X			X		X	X
Div	X	X	X	X	X		X	X			X

### Programme Specification Publication Dates

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<b>Revision 4</b>	February 2012
<b>Revision 5</b>	June 2012 (substantive revision, including <i>FHEQ</i> and credit mapping)
<b>Revision 6</b>	August 2013
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<b>Revision 9</b>	April 2016
<b>Revision 10</b>	May 2017
<b>Revision 11</b>	April 2017
<b>Revision 12</b>	May 2019
<b>Revision 13</b>	May 2020
<b>Revision 14</b>	May 2021