International Relations at Sussex enables you to explain and understand the world as a whole.

How and why is the world becoming increasingly integrated, and to whose benefit?

Which historical reasons for human conflict and insecurity are still with us today?

Are human rights and justice possible in a world made up of states?

How significant is the role of non-governmental organisations, transnational companies and other non-state actors?
What you will learn

**YEAR 1**
The first year of the course introduces you to the academic study of International Relations, outlining the distinct characteristics of IR as a scholarly discipline. It opens up a critical analysis of historical texts written by authors such as Aquinas, Hobbes, Kant, Machiavelli and Marx, and asks what relevance these authors have had in establishing the discipline of International Relations. Can these authors be interpreted in order to provide a radical critique of contemporary international thought and practice? A module on ‘The Local and the Global’ encourages you to connect your everyday local life to global politics. You also cover the historical development of international relations, with particular emphasis on the nineteenth and twentieth centuries. Finally, a variety of contemporary issues are examined, including the environment, free trade, human rights, social movements and war.

**YEAR 2**
In the second year, you build your degree to suit your own interests, by choosing to specialise in areas such as Development, Foreign Policy, Globalisation and/or Security.

**YEAR 3**
The third year is the most flexible of all, when we provide you with a wide range of choice based on the specialist research interests of our teaching faculty. This wide and cutting-edge range is a direct benefit of studying at one of Europe’s largest specialist IR departments.

Shaping your degree

**CUSTOMISE YOUR COURSE**
You can study International Relations as a single honours degree or as part of a joint honours degree. In a joint degree, you spend half your time studying International Relations, and half your time studying another subject. In a single honours degree, you specialise in International Relations, and either you take a number of different elective modules from across the university, or you can do a structured ‘pathway’, for at least two years, in a single area of study. For example, you could do a pathway in Climate Change, Gender Studies, a Language (e.g. Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Spanish), Middle East Studies, or Human Rights. For a full list of pathways, see: sussex.ac.uk/study/ug/sussexchoice

“What I really like about my course is the critical thinking aspect that is constantly being put to students. We’re almost forced to always keep an open mind and look at both sides before reaching a decision.”

**HANNAH SVANBERG**
**BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**
Your student experience

You will learn from academics whose passion will help to inspire yours. Our research goes further than books; it underpins our teaching too. You won’t just read leading global research; you will debate it with the academics who write it, right from the start of your degree. You will be allocated an experienced member of the teaching team who will be your Academic Advisor and support you through your journey.

Dedicated study skills sessions are incorporated directly into Year 1 teaching, to help you to succeed. You will benefit from many excellent facilities on campus. These include the impressive University Library, the Global Studies Resource Centre, access to The Keep (a new historical resource archive), plus the rich artistic and cultural resources available in Brighton, London and the southeast of England.

You will be welcomed into an active International Relations student society, which organises regular social and academic events, as well as fieldtrips across Europe. Our international student body helps you to see and experience things from different cultural perspectives, and provides you with the opportunity to build friendships and connections across the globe.

Your flexible course structure

You choose from a range of options that enable you to focus on your particular area of interest. Each term you will be able to select from modules as indicated in the table below, in addition to electives or a pathway from across the university and/or modules from your other joint subject. To give you the best experience of study, we continually review and update our module list. For a comprehensive list and description of modules visit go.sussex.ac.uk/ir. Listings may be subject to change.

**YEAR 1**

**AUTUMN**

Core for Single and Joint
Introduction to International Relations
Rise of the Modern International Order
Single only
Powers and Regions
Elective/Pathway
IR Elective: Global Issues
OR module from another department

**SPRING**

Core for Single and Joint
Classical Political Theory and IR
Short 20th Century and Beyond
Single only
Local and The Global
Elective/Pathway
IR Elective: Global Politics of the Environment
OR module from another department

**YEAR 2**

**AUTUMN**

Core for Single and Joint
Contemporary International Theory
Introduction to International Political Economy
Single only
War in International Politics
Elective/Pathway
IR Elective: Business in World Politics
OR module from another department

**SPRING**

Single choose three; Joint two
Politics of Foreign Policy
Globalisation and Global Governance
Security and Insecurity
Development and the State

**YEAR 3**

**AUTUMN/SPRING**

No core, all optional
Single choose four (two per term), Joint two (one per term)
Capitalism and Geopolitics
Dirty Wars: Conflict and Military Intervention
Development and Geopolitics in East Asia
Ethics in Global Politics
Global Resistance: Subjects and Practices
International Relations of the Modern Middle East
Maxism and IR
Mercenaries, Gangs and Terrorists
Political Economy of the Environment
Political Economy of Latin American Development
Religions in Global Politics
Sex and Death in World Politics
The Arms Trade in International Politics
The Politics of International Trade
The Politics of Terror
The Reign of Rights in Global Politics
The United States in the World
What is War?
Study or work abroad

We recognise that our students are keen to develop a truly global approach to their studies. Your ambitions are supported by the range of study opportunities open to you. The University of Sussex maintains student exchange links with almost 100 universities in Europe, Asia, Australia and Latin America and more than 40 universities in North America. Studying abroad is a fantastic opportunity to experience different cultures, see the world from a new perspective and investigate your studies first-hand. Many students can combine study abroad with taking a relevant language, at Sussex, before travelling. This will be of huge benefit to you in understanding International Relations and will enhance your skills, your CV and employment prospects. The University also encourages and supports a range of work placements: ranging from informal summer placements to full-year structured ones.

“One of the reasons I chose Sussex was because of its immensely diverse student population. Discussing concepts and issues with people of so many different backgrounds and perspectives has added depth and awareness to my thinking.”

AKASHA LIGERTWOOD BA INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

After your degree

CAREERS

Our graduates go on to a variety of careers in leading international organisations, international non-governmental organisations and the global media. These have included leading organisations such as Action Against Hunger, the World Bank and the United Nations. Recent graduate posts have included: Consulate Official, British Embassy; Team Coordinator, Red Cross; Fundraising Manager, Child Reach International. Some of our students choose to undertake postgraduate study in the UK or internationally.

LIFELONG SKILLS

With this degree, you will gain the ability to analyse complex information, to reason clearly, to judge evidence, to evaluate theories and to produce clearly structured critical arguments. You will build practical skills to help in your future career, including report writing, presentation skills, constructing policy briefs, managing independent research, and accessing and interpreting international data. These skills, coupled with an in-depth understanding of International Relations, will load you with transferable skills and put you in a strong position to get a great job (in a wide range of public and private sectors) after graduating or, if you choose, to continue into further study.
The School of Global Studies, which houses the departments of Anthropology, Geography, International Development and International Relations, provides one of the UK’s most focused centres of expertise for understanding how the world is changing. It offers a broad range of perspectives on global issues, and staff and students who are actively engaged with a wide range of international and local partners, contributing a distinctive perspective on global affairs.
CONTACT US

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