Get ready for BA(Hons) Politics and International Relations at UWE Bristol

You are just about to embark on an exciting journey into the study of Politics and International Relations at UWE Bristol. We are thrilled to welcome you onto our Programme!

You will be joining a vibrant scholarly community of students, academics and alumni making sense of cutting-edge research and current political events across the globe. You will be taught by an international team of academics who are leaders in their field and have close connections with a range of governmental and non-governmental bodies. Through the work we do in the classroom we aim to challenge you to produce your best and ensure that upon graduation you are equipped with the knowledge, experience and confidence to make a real impact in the world.

We are very much looking forward to meeting you at the start of the new academic year.

Dr Stephen McGlinchey
Programme Leader

Before you start

We are looking forward to welcoming you in the week commencing 14 September for Starting Block and the beginning of your programme.

Starting Block will help you settle into university and to help you get to know your teaching team and course mates. We will help you find your way around, get used to our systems, and practise the skills you need to make a strong start. Look out for further emails and explore the Starting Block website for more details.

Your timetable will be available to you via MYUWE (login required) once you have started the registration process. Please visit the 'Understanding your teaching timetable' website to find out when your timetable will be published.

Preparing and arrival
You can find everything you need to know about registration, Starting Block and the start of teaching, on our Preparing and Arrival webpage. Take a look at our website to familiarise yourself with our facilities and services such as the library, study skills, academic support, health and wellbeing support and much more.

Registration
Once you have satisfied all admissions requirements, we'll send you your login details for our IT systems to enable you to activate your university email account. Once your account has been activated, you'll gain access to the MYUWE platform where you can register. Note that your login details for MYUWE are different to those used for the UWE Welcome website. Registration for September programmes will only be open from August onwards. You can find guidance and further information on our Registration website.

ID card - upload your photo now
We can only print your ID card if you have added your photo to MYUWE. To avoid delays, upload your photo as soon as you receive login details. For help, go to our student card guidance.

Engage with your programme

Start your learning
At UWE Politics and IR, we are very proud of our lively and engaged community of learners and we are absolutely thrilled to have you join us! You can check our past, present and upcoming activities by reading the UWE Politics and IR Newsletter, or by following us on Instagram.

We have also prepared an exercise to welcome you into the UWE Politics and IR community.

What makes you passionate about Politics and International Relations? What are you looking forward to learning and experiencing the most in our programme? Please, before joining us at the Starting Block, bring a picture to show (on your phone) that captures your very first "political memory". A political memory is a memory of an event, a film, a conversation you had with someone or just a thing (like an art piece) that first made you aware of the importance of politics in your life. The exercise is simple and is intended to give us, your lecturers, a chance to start to get to know you. This work aims to form the focus for your first personal tutor meeting.

Academic Personal Tutor (APT)
During the Starting Block, you will meet your Academic Personal Tutor (APT) and fellow students on the course. Your APT will be a member of staff who will have access to information on your performance and profile, allowing them to effectively support your personal and academic development. APTs are the cornerstone of pastoral care. Your tutor will be there to encourage you to be able to reflect on your progress on your course and identify where they believe you need support. They can then provide that support or direct you to other appropriate support within the University. Your APT will be keen to find out more about you, your past experiences and your dreams and aspirations.

Read around your subject
Before starting at UWE Bristol, you will no doubt be keen to start learning more about Politics and International Relations, especially if you have not studied these subjects before.
Here are some recommendations for your summer readings.

Every one of our students has free access to Kanopy a streaming service for educational institutions that provides access to over 18,000 films, including major blockbusters and documentaries. Here is the Campus Collection for Political Science. Some real gems in there could help illustrate some of the issues you will study throughout your degree.

Have you heard of Thought in Action? It is a partnership between the Watershed and UWE Philosophy and Politics programmes which fosters conversations about cinema. The project provides an opportunity for audiences to engage in deeper conversations about issues and

ideas arising from films in our programme. Keep an eye out for the next instalment of our partnership.

There are also two introductory books you could buy, each of which gives you a good grounding into things – and we will use these (or similar books) in two of your introductory modules also:

- McGlinchey, S. (2022). *Foundations of International Relations*. London Bloomsbury
- Heywood, A (2019). *Politics*. London: Bloomsbury. London: Bloomsbury.

You can also bookmark, and read, E-International Relations – which is run from within our team. In addition, we suggest you try and keep well informed about current political events by reading and watching high-quality media sources and podcasts.

Each of your modules will have a dedicated reading list, which is regularly updated and will be made available at the beginning of the new academic year.

Connect with others

Members of staff engage in a wide range of scholarly activities, from writing books and articles to speaking at public events and writing in the media.

We also have a very active student society Politics and IR Society (PAIRS) that youwill be welcome to join. We take the student experience and student's voice seriously at UWE politics and IR. You might want to familiarise yourself with services available to you such as the Students Union, Peer Assisted Learning (PAL), Student Ambassadors, and other Student Societies, Sports Clubs and Teams, Volunteering, Going Global, etc.

One of the central goals of our programme is to prepare our students with the proper knowledge and experience to make a difference in the world. To that end, we have built a strong networking community on LinkedIn, which you are welcome to join if you have a profile already. You might also want to check the Career Toolkit or get in touch with our Student Success Coach, who is there to help you find and prepare yourself for your dream job.

Be prepared

Access support
Check the information on our Disability web pages so you know what you need to do. If you need any urgent additional mobility or other support to fully access all activities during your studies, contact me as your programme leader.

Get equipped
The University has computers on all our campuses for you to use during your studies. These provide access to our core digital learning tools and any specialist software required for your course. You may have scheduled sessions in computer labs or other specialist facilities, and you will be able to use open-access PCs for self-study.

UWE Bristol licenses many specialist software packages for use on personal laptops for the duration of your course. If you're struggling to meet the financial demands of your course, please contact the Student Money Service team for advice and guidance.

See the UWE website for detailed information on choosing your IT equipment including recommended specifications.

International students
The Global Student Support Team offer information and advice to ensure you receive all the support you need to get the best from your time at UWE Bristol. They are here to help you to settle in when you first arrive at UWE Bristol and organise social events to help you to adapt to your new environment.

Who to contact if you have questions?

For any questions about the course, please contact me: **Dr Stephen McGlinchey** via email at stephen.mcglinchey@uwe.ac.uk

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Please note: This information has been provided on the assumption that you will meet the conditions of your offer and be eligible to take up your place.

Entry: September 2026 Last updated: Spring 2026