



## **Module Handbook**

[Modules are available to students coming on the following incoming programmes:  
non-European exchange; European exchange; full-year fee-paying study abroad]

## **Incoming Students**

**2025/2026**

**School of Government and International Affairs  
(Politics and International Relations)**

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## **A: THE DEPARTMENT**

The School of Government and International Affairs (SGIA) at Durham University is located in two separate buildings, which are in close proximity to each other; South End House, on the corner of South Road and Elvet Hill Road, accommodates two centrally timetabled teaching rooms, an undergraduate study room with IT access for SGIA students and Wi-Fi access, together with some academic staff offices. The Al-Qasimi Building is just along the road on Elvet Hill Road and is the main School building where the School administrative office is located together with two small lecture rooms, and several seminar/tutorial rooms used for teaching. Wi-Fi internet access is available in the common area for students upstairs. Both buildings are close to several of the University's colleges and within easy walking distance of the University Library and Durham University Business School, approximately 15 minutes walk from Durham city centre and 10 minutes walk from the main lecture theatres on the Science Site where the majority of SGIA's large lectures are held.

### **A1: Exchange Coordinator**

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## **B: DEGREE STRUCTURE**

The School of Government and International Affairs offers three Honours degrees.

- Politics (BA)
- International Relations (BA)
- Politics and International Relations (BA)

Undergraduate teaching is structured around four main streams: Political Thought, Political Institutions, Political Economy and International Relations. Students move from generalist courses in these areas in their early years to more specialised options in Honours Politics, and International Relations, which explore the diverse and dynamic politics of the contemporary world.

The School also participates in the following Joint Honours degrees:

- Economics and Politics (BA)
- Philosophy and Politics (BA)
- Philosophy, Politics and Economics (BA) (*Combined Degree*)

All degrees at Durham have a modular structure, consisting of six modules each year for three years. Modules are usually studied over all three terms of the teaching year. All modules are examined or assessed in the year in which they are taught: this means that at the end of the first year there are preliminary examinations, and that the final degree class is determined by the examinations taken in the second and third year.

## C: REQUIREMENTS AND RESTRICTIONS

**This section contains important information for setting up your academic programme at Durham University. Please read through this section carefully before considering your modules and filling in the Learning Agreement!**

### C1: General

#### Choice of Modules

#### **IMPORTANT NOTE FOR STUDENTS: PLEASE READ BEFORE COMPLETING YOUR LEARNING AGREEMENT**

At Durham University European agreements are signed by individual university departments and are not university-wide agreements. This means that, in general, students will have to choose modules (courses) within the Durham University department through which the European agreement with their home university has been signed (students should check with the Exchange Coordinator in their university if they are not sure which department this is). Modules offered by other departments are subject to availability and can only be taken with prior consent from the relevant department. *Incoming students must take at least 50% of their modules in the host department and can take modules outside in no more than two additional departments.* Certain restrictions may also apply to courses in some departments and students need to follow the advice below carefully before completing their application form.

Please clearly indicate the modules you wish to take in the application form for approval by the respective department(s). Before completing your application form, it is very important that you read carefully the relevant departmental section(s) of the Module Handbook to check which modules are available to you and any restrictions which may apply. It is imperative that a properly completed application form is submitted. Only complete applications can be processed.

Section *D: Module Details* provides a list of modules available for European students in the department where the agreement has been established (receiving department) as well as a list of modules available for students coming in through other departments (external departments). Please choose from these modules only!

To find out about the details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <https://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

## **C2: Departmental Requirements and Restrictions**

The School of Government and International Affairs only offers European exchange placements at Durham **for a full academic year**. European students from a partner university with which SGIA has an European exchange agreement have unrestricted access to the full undergraduate course catalogue for Single Honours Politics and International Relations. Undergraduate exchange students are generally expected to choose modules for their Learning Agreement from year one, two or three of the undergraduate course catalogue. Exchange students are generally expected to select the modules in their Learning Agreement from the SGIA's module catalogue. Modules in other faculties or departments can only be chosen in exceptional cases and on the basis of a separate learning agreement between the student and the relevant department.

## **D: MODULE DETAILS**

This section contains a list of modules European students can choose from. Please only select from the modules listed in sections D1 or D2 in the Module Handbooks for each subject!

To find further details for each module (teaching methods and contact hours, prerequisite academic background, method of assessment, content, etc) please refer to the Faculty Handbook online under <https://www.dur.ac.uk/faculty.handbook/>.

The School of Government and International Affairs does not offer all the modules listed every year so reserve choices are necessary as the School is unable to guarantee spaces on modules that have not been previously selected however; every effort is made to accommodate European student choices.

**D1: Modules available to European students coming on a departmental link**

<b>Level 1</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Module Convener and Teaching Staff</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
SGIA1071	International Security, Interdependence and Organisation	<b>Dr Cameron Harrington</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA1241	Perspectives of Political Economy	<b>Dr Emma Murphy</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA1191	Democratic Political Systems	<b>Dr Neil Visalvanich</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA1201	Researching Politics and International Relations	<b>Dr Moritz Osnabrugge</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA1211	Introduction to Comparative Politics	<b>Dr Fanni Toth</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA1221	Introduction to International Relations	<b>Dr Alice Finden (Term 1)</b> <b>Dr Dennis Schmidt (Term 2 and 3)</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA1231	Introduction to Political Theory	<b>Dr Jessica Begon</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Level 2</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Module Convener and Teaching Staff</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
SGIA2131	International Theory	<b>Dr Kavi Abraham</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2161	Politics and Internationals Relations of East Asia	<b>Dr Gordon Cheung</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2171	Foundations of Western Political Thought	<b>Dr Bruno Leipold (Term 1)</b> <b>Dr Jan Kandiyali (Term 2 and 3)</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2261	International Organisations	<b>Dr Kevin Miller</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2281	Sovereignty, State and Empire	<b>Dr Alice Finden</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2401	Capitalism: History and Theory	<b>Dr Javier Moreno Zacaes (Term 1)</b> <b>Dr Graham Harrison (Term 2 and 3)</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2391	Middle East and the International System	<b>Dr Carly Beckerman</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2321	Debates in Political Theory	<b>Dr Brian Carey (Term 1)</b> <b>Dr Lewis Mates (Term 2 and 3)</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2351	Class, Nation and Party in British Politics	<b>Prof. Gidon Cohen</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2371	Challenges and Conflicts in European Politics	<b>Dr Kyriaki Nanou and Dr Resul Umit</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2381	Democracy, Conflict and American Society	<b>Dr Dave Andersen</b>	<b>10</b>
SGIA2411	Gender and Politics	<b>Dr Alice Finden</b>	<b>10</b>

<b>Level 3</b>	<b>Module Title</b>	<b>Module Convener and Teaching Staff</b>	<b>ECTS</b>
SGIA3291	Theories of Liberty	Prof Maria Dimova Cookson	10
SGIA3381	China in Global Political Economy	Dr Gordon Cheung	10
SGIA3531	Democratic Practice in the US Campaigns, Elections and Voter Behaviour	Dr Dave Andersen	10
SGIA356	Social and Political Philosophy	Dr Beth Kahn	10
SGIA3571	Democracy and Discontent in the European Union	Dr Kyriaki Nanou	10
SGIA3851	Environmental Politics	Dr Resul Umit	10
SGIA3671	Politics of Inequality	Dr Graham Harrison	10
SGIA3711	Climate, Nature and the Global Economy	Dr Jack Copley (Term 1) Dr Eugenia Giraudo (Term 2 and 3)	10
SGIA3741	Decolonising International Society	Prof John Williams	10
SGIA3761	Marx and Marxism	Dr Jan Kandiyali	10
SGIA3781	Diasporas and Global Politics	Prof Bahar Baser	10
SGIA3801	Advanced Topic in International Political Theory: the International Politics of the Everyday	Prof Ilan Baron	10
SGIA3811	The Culture Wars: Past, Present, Future	Dr Oliver Belcher	10
SGIA3821	Advanced Readings in Political Economy	Dr Jack Copley (Term 1) Dr Carla Ibled (Term 2 and 3)	10
SGIA3831	Are Voters Really Rational? The Political Economy of Political Behaviour and Its Discontents	Dr Vittorio Merola	10

**All modules are assessed in English and are offered on a full-time basis**

Visiting and European students registered on an undergraduate programme should only register for undergraduate modules. Postgraduate students who may want to do undergraduate modules in Languages or at Level 4 are allowed to register.

**D2: Modules available to European students coming on an external link (through a different department)**

The School of Government and International Affairs regrets that it is unable to offer any modules to students coming to Durham on links with other departments. Arrangements can be made in exceptional cases on an individual basis.