



NC ITALIAN
UNIVERSITY
London

FOUNDATION PROGRAMME

**FACULTY OF
POLITICS AND
INTERNATIONAL
RELATIONS**



A Message from the Faculty of Politics & International Relations

Welcome! Your new life at **NC Italian University London** starts here.

NC Italian University London offers world-class online and face to face university courses designed to help you enhance your intellectual interests and skills. We provide you with a practical and ideal solution that makes it far more convenient to obtain a degree without leaving your home or giving up your job. Our degree programs are likewise perfect for those who wish to further specialise in a particular field without compromising career or business activities.

You can complete college courses by following our interactive and dynamic degree programs through a highly-effective platform that combines lecture courses, internships, and practical and vocational activities to make e-learning a positive and dynamic experience.

Faculty of Politics & International Relations

The Faculty of Politics & International Relations is delighted to welcome its new students at the London Campus. Although NC Italian University London is still relatively new in the UK, we have come a long way in the Higher Education sector.

The Faculty of Politics & International Relations, with its friendly administrative and academic staff, will support your needs and enhance your learning experience in the vibrant city of London. Here our students are part of a strong community that knows no barriers and appreciates diversity, equality, and integration.

Our departments, as well as our programmes, are designed to engage students in an interactive way, through the use of innovative blended teaching and learning techniques, and through the use of both real life problem-based and research evidence-based approaches. What we offer here, at NC IUL Faculty of Politics & International Relations, is a lifelong learning attitude to form the future political leaders, IR specialists, diplomats, and active global citizens of tomorrow.

We hope that your time as a student at the University is successful and enjoyable, and the best of luck to your studies.

Dr. Luisa Morettin
Dean and Programme Leader



PROGRAMME SPECIFICATIONS



Why study a Foundation Programme?

The Foundation course acts as a bridge between school-leavers qualifications and UK university entry requirements. This is an ideal route onto an undergraduate degree if you are returning to study after a gap, or if you have not previously studied this subject, or if you did not achieve the grades and hence do not meet the entry criteria you need for a place on a bachelor's degree course.

If you have little or no recent experience of study or examinations you should not be deterred from applying for a place on the course. Students who complete the foundation course at NC IUL and achieve the required grades are offered guaranteed progression on undergraduate courses. Students will gain the subject-specific knowledge and skills required by degree-level programmes and international students will have the chance to improve their English language skills.

This programme will build your confidence and give you the core knowledge and transferable skills to succeed at university.

Our Foundation course is a springboard to successful further degree study and careers in areas such as national bodies, embassies and consulates, international organizations, charities, journalism, campaign groups and other non-governmental organizations.

Whilst we challenge our students academically, our support system makes sure they feel prepared for the task ahead.

Our key objectives are to:

- provide students with a rewarding educational experience that encourages them to later pursue a degree course in Politics and International Relations.
- develop a basic knowledge of the political, social, historical, and cultural contexts of the international system and its institutions shaping world affairs
- provide students with essential transferable skills such as independent critical and strategic thinking, analytical skills and confident decision-making
- foster in students a sense of respect for diversity and responsibility towards society preparing them to become effective political scientists and leaders who are successful learners, confident individuals and responsible global citizens

Who should apply?

We welcome applicants with international qualifications, non-standard qualifications, with A-level subjects unsuited to their degree courses or students who require additional English language support.



Foundation Course Requirements

Documents and entry requirements needed are:

- Scanned copy of passport and visa
- Personal statement
- Higher Secondary School Certificate
- Higher Secondary transcripts
- 5 GCSEs (including English) at grade A-C or equivalent and a pass in GCSE Maths or equivalent

If English is not your first language or you have not previously studied in English, our usual requirement is:

- IELTS 5.5, or TOEFL 46/59 (internet-based test) or 453/497 (paper-based test), Cambridge Advanced Certificate level B2, GCSE/IGCSE English grade C or above, or international equivalent.

These English language requirements are not necessary if for two of the last three years students have attended an institution where English is the language of instruction. In case language requirements are not met immediately (i.e. IELTS 5), NCIUL reserves the right to provide or request the student to participate in an intensive full time course in English language before the beginning of the first term.

We may welcome also applicants without traditional entry qualifications as we base decisions on our own assessment of knowledge and previous work experience.

Course details

This Foundation course provides students with a sound theoretical basis and knowledge of politics and international relations. Over the course of the year students will gain essential understanding of many of the concepts, methods and techniques you will need in order to carry out successful study in a later degree programme.

The course has two semesters, each comprising 60 credits. The level and depth of students' learning gradually increases as you work through the qualification.

The subjects we offer will cover government and political institutions, political ideas, and international relations theories, grounded in core skills of analysis and research methods training.

- In semester 1 students will have three 20-credits introductory modules: Introduction to Contemporary History, Academic Writing, and Advanced Computer Skills.
- In semester 2 students will have three 20-credits in-depth modules: Introduction to Global Politics, Principles of International Relations, and Western Philosophy: Major Thinkers.



STRUCTURE	CREDITS
SEMESTER 1	
Introduction to Contemporary History	20
Academic Writing	20
Advanced Computer Skills	20
SEMESTER 2	
Introduction to Global Politics	20
Principles of International Relations	20
Western Philosophy: Major Thinkers	20
Total core module credits:	120

All qualifications require students to complete learning and assessment activities within a required timescale and according to pre-determined deadlines. Students will need to manage their time effectively during their studies. The University will help you to develop this skill throughout the course.

Teaching will be delivered via lectures and seminars, in distance learning or face-to-face. Students will be able to access reading material and video lectures in MyNCU, at <http://elearning.nciul.co.uk>.

Assessment methods

During the Foundation Year students will be assessed in a variety of ways which will allow you to exercise different learning styles and familiarise you with the format and expectations of assessment in Higher Education. There will be a strong emphasis on formative assessment with feedback on drafts of written work and tutorials which will help you develop and improve your abilities to become a more independent learner.

Detailed information on assessment will be available to students at the beginning of each module.

Study materials

The Foundation course uses a variety of study materials:

- printed and online material



- updated reading lists
- external links to websites and databases
- audio/video clips relevant to the subject topic
- interactive exercises and quizzes
- video recorded materials
- sample examination papers



MODULE SPECIFICATIONS



INTRODUCTION TO CONTEMPORARY HISTORY

1. Factual information			
Module title	Introduction to Contemporary History	Level	3
Module tutor	Francesco Casales	Credit value ECTS	20 10

2. Aims of the module
<p>This module aims to provide students with the understanding of the history of the recent past and integrate it with contemporary politics and international relations.</p> <p>It will also help students develop a range of personal and technical skills that are widely applicable and highly valued by employers – notably self-reliance, communication skills, critical judgement and the ability to evaluate and interpret diverse and sometimes contradictory data.</p>

3. Learning outcomes
<p>Upon successful completion of the unit, students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Illustrate key historical and contemporary geopolitical, economic and social issues. 2. Explore the problems surrounding the interpretation of historical sources and acquire some of the skills needed to evaluate them critically. 3. Produce work within time and quality frameworks. 4. Support findings and ideas with informed literature and correct referencing. 5. Plan, manage and organize work within time constraints, both individually and as part of a team



4. Assessment methods

The assessment is SUMMATIVE of:

1. Essay 1 to be submitted by week 7 (30%)
2. Essay 2 to be submitted by week 11 (30%)
3. Final Examination (40% of the overall mark)

5. Indicative contents

The module will typically cover the following topics:

- The age of empire 1875-1914
- World War I and its legacy
- Totalitarianism
- World War II and its major themes
- A new world order and the Cold war
- The decolonization movement
- The early years of the People's Republic of China
- The state of Israel and the rise of political Islam
- 1968 and the Black Civil Rights movement
- The rise of Neoliberalism

6. Reading list

- Harper, T. and Bryars, T., *A History of the 20th Century in 100 Maps*, (The British Library Publishing Division, 2014).
- Roberts, J. M., *The Penguin History of the Twentieth Century: The History of the World, 1901 to the Present*, (Penguin, 2000).
- Snyder, T., *On Tyranny: Twenty Lessons from the Twentieth Century*, (Bodley Head, 2017).



ACADEMIC WRITING

1. Factual information			
Module title	Academic Writing	Level	3
Module tutor	Vicky Giannaka	Credit value ECTS	20 10

2. Aims of the module
<p>This module aims to develop your academic writing style, essay organisation, referencing and critical thinking and oral communication skills. There is an emphasis on the development of academic skills relevant to studying at degree level. You will be introduced to learning strategies that will be of particular benefit with specific emphasis on the VLE and the role of IT and of the Internet.</p>

3. Learning outcomes
<p>On completion of this module you should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Demonstrate knowledge and understanding of formal, academic conventions in oral and written communication. 2. Paraphrase, summarise, synthesise and use quotations to reference correctly from your sources. 3. Use academic language appropriately and effectively in written work (Write for different purposes). 4. Construct a research-based essay/case study through developing a topic, performing research, drafting, editing, and revising. 5. Improve your ability to work both independently and in a group by exploring new strategies for learning and cooperation while creating presentations. 6. Demonstrate good organisational and time management skills.



4. Assessment methods

Grades for this module will be based on two assessments:

Week 11:

Assessment One: Presentation (40%)

Week 12:

Assessment Two: Research Essay (60%)

5. Indicative contents

Outline the course requirements/ Time management

Diagnostic writing

Writing at university: Harvard referencing system, Chicago referencing style, APA style

Understanding and recognising plagiarism

Note taking

Summarising/paraphrasing

Writing a summary and quoting

Style and presentation: Introduction to presentations – analyse good and bad PowerPoint presentations

Ways to respond to a text /Titles/planning

Introduction /Developing a Thesis

Working with formal definitions

Critical versus descriptive writing

Breaking down body paragraphs

Developing Assessment 2

Introduction to synthesis and referencing verbs

Academic voice/Hedging Language

Developing research skills

Developing Assessment 2

Checklist for improving, editing and proofreading own work

Understanding Turnitin /Revision Raising awareness of plagiarism conventions

6. Reading list

Cottrell, S. (2013) *The study skills handbook*. Hampshire: Palgrave Macmillan.

Crème, P. and Lea, M. R. (2008) *Writing at university: A guide for students*. Maidenhead: Open University Press.

McCormack, J. and Slaght, J. (2005) *English for academic study: Extended writing and research skills*. Reading: Garnet Education.

Stanton, N. (2009) *Mastering Communication*. Palgrave Macmillan, 5th edition.



ADVANCED COMPUTER SKILLS

1. Factual information			
Module title	Advanced Computer Skills	Level	3
Module tutor	Carlo Drago	Credit value ECTS	20 10

2. Aims of the module
<p>The module aims to develop your computer skills, in order to provide you with the confidence and techniques needed to succeed in your academic and professional life. There is an emphasis on the use of advanced tools and softwares to efficiently gather data, organise information and present ideas, in interactive and engaging ways. Such skills are of particular relevance to study at degree level and to confidently perform in the work environment.</p>

3. Learning outcomes
<p>On completion of this module students should be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. use advanced search tools on the web; 2. using interactive social networking web sites as Quora or Encyclopedias as Wikipedia; 3. learning the basic of programming and their application on office automation; 4. using portable applications; 5. creating technical documents using LaTeX.



4. Assessment methods

Students will be assessed through practical tests (70%) and one presentation (30%), using Prezi, Latex or other techniques learnt during the module.

5. Indicative contents

Introduction to Computing Science
Office Automation
Introduction to coding (Latex)
Overleaf
Prezi Presentations
Portable Applications
Google: Advanced Search
Wolfram Alpha
Wikipedia
Quora

6. Reading list

- Evans, D. (2013). *Introduction to Computing: Explorations in Language, Logic, and Machines*. O’Text Publishing.
- Mcllory, M. (2017). *The Art and Crafts of Computer Science*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.
- Mcllory, M. (2017). *SQL Essentials*. CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform.
- Wolfram, S. (2002). *A New Kind of Science*. Available at <https://www.wolframscience.com>.



INTRODUCTION TO GLOBAL POLITICS

1. Factual information			
Module title	Introduction to Global Politics	Level	3
Module tutor	Domenico Giannino	Credit value ECTS	20 10

2. Aims of the module
<p>The module aims to provide students with a current and engaging perspective on global politics and foster an understanding of the relationships between actors, norms and institutions in global politics today. It will also introduce the main concepts and the key theoretical approaches employed in the study of global politics, it will help students to understand abstract political concepts by grounding them in real world examples and case studies.</p>

3. Learning outcomes
<p>On successful completion of the module students will have:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Identified the primary characteristics of global politics. 2. Developed an understanding of the key theoretical perspectives on global politics and the importance of theory to the study of global politics and foreign affairs. 3. Developed sensitivity to the role of political culture and power in shaping our perceptions of political order within International Relations. 4. Increased their confidence in academic writing.



4. Assessment methods

The assessment is SUMMATIVE of:

1. Essay 1 to be submitted by week 7 (30%)
2. Essay 2 to be submitted by week 11 (30%)
3. Final Examination (40% of the overall mark)

5. Indicative contents

Economic Governance in the Global Age: General Framework
 The Bretton Woods Institutions
 The State in a Global Age
 The Rise of National Identities
 The Rise of Religious Identities
 Regional Integration Processes
 Regional Integration: the Case of the European Union
 Regionalism Outside Europe
 Nuclear Proliferation
 Poverty and Inequality in a Globalized World

6. Reading list

- Heywood, A. (2014) *Global Politics*. 2nd edn. Basingstoke: Palgrave.
- Calvocoressi, P. (2009) *World Politics since 1945*, Pearson Education.
- Hague, R. and Harrop, M. (2013) *Comparative Government and Politics: An Introduction*, 9th Edition. Basingstoke: Palgrave Macmillan.



PRINCIPLES OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

1. Factual information			
Module title	Principles of International Relations	Level	3
Module tutor	Valentina Caivano	Credit value ECTS	20 10

2. Aims of the module
<p>The main aims of this module are: to introduce students to some of the main issues of international relations, such as humanitarian intervention, development, regional integration and security, and to familiarise them with different ways to conceptualise and analyse these issues.</p>

3. Learning outcomes
<p>On successful completion of the module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. discuss and appraise the main theories of international relations, and select a theoretical position to do so; 2. exercise informed judgement about change and continuity in international relations; 3. demonstrate good knowledge and understanding of key issues in international relations; 4. interact with peers in discussion of pertinent themes in international relations; 5. write clearly and persuasively when expressing one's own ideas.



4. Assessment methods

The assessment is SUMMATIVE of:

1. Presentation in week 8 (30%)
2. Essay to be submitted by week 11 (30%)
3. Final Examination (40% of the overall mark)

5. Indicative contents

Theories of world politics
 Actors in the political world arena
 Values and policies in IR
 Governability and sovereignty
 The use of force
 US-China relations
 International security
 East Asia and the Pacific
 Humanitarian intervention
 Regime building
 Crisis and cooperation
 Economic liberalization and modernization

6. Reading list

- Tim Dunne, Milja Kurki and Steve Smith (eds.), *International Relations Theories: Discipline and Diversity*, 4th edition (Oxford University Press, 2016).
- David Long, and Brian C. Schmidt (eds.), *Imperialism and Internationalism in the Discipline of International Relations*, (Albany, N.Y.: State University of New York Press, 2005).
- Jill Steans, Lloyd Pettiford, Thomas Diez, *An Introduction to International Relations Theory: Perspectives and Themes*, 3rd edition, (London: Routledge, 2010).
- Kenneth N. Waltz, *Theory of International Politics*, (Waveland Pr Inc, 2010)



WESTERN PHILOSOPHY: MAJOR THINKERS

1. Factual information			
Module title	Western Philosophy: Major Thinkers	Level	3
Module tutor	Marios Filis	Credit value ECTS	20 10

2. Aims of the module
<p>This module aims</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. to give you some substantive knowledge of the trajectory of the history of Western philosophy; 2. to introduce you to the ideas of some of the most important thinkers in this tradition; 3. to help you develop the necessary analytical skills towards thinking and understanding some of the concepts, values, and practices that define the Western world; 4. to equip you with the language necessary to achieve all of the above. <p>Some of these aims are self-explanatory, but it is important to stress that studying some of the most important thinkers in Western philosophy is important in understanding who we are, and it has an influence on the way in which societies have formed in the modern world.</p>

3. Learning outcomes
<p>On successful completion of the module students will be able to:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. analyse the structure of complex and controversial problems, with an understanding of major strategies of reasoning designed to solve such problems; 2. develop the capacity to present problems and proposed solutions to them in a clear, precise and economical way; 3. think independently about new and unfamiliar problems.



4. Assessment methods

The assessment is SUMMATIVE of:

1. Essay 1 to be submitted by week 8 (30%)
2. Essay 2 to be submitted by week 11 (30%)
3. Final Examination (40% of the overall mark)

5. Indicative contents

In this module, we will examine the thought and ideas of a number of ancient Greek thinkers, who have been foundational in the history of Western philosophy, specifically Socrates, Plato and Aristotle, before we move on to reflect on two major medieval Christian philosophers, St. Augustine and St. Thomas Aquinas, who defined Christian philosophical thought for centuries. Then we will make the transition to the early modern Western world and discuss the theories of Thomas Hobbes and René Descartes, who are considered by many as the fathers of modern Western philosophy, before we move on to David Hume, Immanuel Kant and Jeremy Bentham, three of the most influential thinkers of the Enlightenment period. Finally, we will conclude the module with a look at a few major thinkers who are responsible for the birth of the contemporary philosophical strand of existentialism, Friedrich Nietzsche, Jean-Paul Sartre and Albert Camus.

6. Reading list

- Kenny, A., *A New History of Western Philosophy*, (Clarendon Press: Oxford, 2010).
- Handouts will be available online/distributed in class.





NC ITALIAN
UNIVERSITY
London

NCIUL is a partner Institution of The Open University

*7 Skylines Village - Limeharbour London
E14 9TS*

*Tel: (0044) 020 3846 1730
info@nciul.co.uk*

www.nciul.org