

**Programme Specification for Undergraduate Programme
Leading to:
BSc Politics and Sociology
BSc Politics and Sociology with Placement**



Applicable for all undergraduate students **starting at Level 4** on or after 1st September 2021

<u>Version No.</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Notes – QA USE ONLY</u>	<u>QA</u>
1	May 2021	Programme specification for 2021/22 created. PP2623 replaces PP2600; PP2006 removed; PP3607 added PP3608 replaced by PP3618 from 21/22	BJR
1.1	Oct 2021	Updated to reflect changes to Brunel University London Pathway College (BPC)	BGS
2	March 2022	Programme changes from 2022-23: PP2622 added; PP2616 removed; PP3013 and PP3607 removed	BJR

Undergraduate Programme	
1. Awarding institution	Brunel University London
2. Teaching institution(s)	Brunel University London
3. Home college/department/division	College of Business, Arts and Social Sciences, Department of Social and Political Sciences, Division of Politics and History.
4. Contributing college/department/division/ associated institution	Brunel University London Pathway College (BPC) offers the following Validated Programme Element/s which enable progression on to this programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation in Humanities, Social Sciences, Education and Psychology
5. Programme accredited by	N/A
6. Final award(s) and FHEQ Level of Award	BSc (Hons) Politics and Sociology (FHEQ Level 6) BSc (Hons) Politics and Sociology with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)
7. Programme title	BSc Politics and Sociology
8. Programme type (Single honours/joint)	Joint Honours
9. Normal length of programme (in months) for each mode of study	36 months Full time/48 months Thick Sandwich For students commencing their studies at BPC the normal length stated above will vary as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Foundation Year - September commencement: + 12 months Foundation Year - January commencement: + 9 months
10. Maximum period of registration for each mode of study	72 months FT/84 months thick sandwich
11. Variation(s) to September start	None for Standard Levels. See BPC Validated Programme Element Specifications for intakes for those programmes.
12. Modes of study	Full-time/thick sandwich
13. Modes of delivery	Standard
14. Intermediate awards and titles with FHEQ Level of Award	Certificate of Higher Education in Politics and Sociology (FHEQ Level 4) Diploma of Higher Education in Politics and Sociology (FHEQ Level 5) Diploma of Higher Education in Politics and Sociology with Placement (FHEQ Level 5) BSc (Ord) Politics and Sociology (FHEQ Level 6)

	BSc (Ord) Politics and Sociology with Placement (FHEQ Level 6)
15. UCAS Code	LLH2 (full-time) LL23 (thick sandwich)
16. JACS Code	L200/L300
17. Route Code	L200UPLTSOC
18. Relevant subject benchmark statements and other external and internal reference points used to inform programme design.	QAA UK Quality Code for Higher Education which includes the English Framework for Higher Education Qualifications within Part A on Setting and Maintaining Academic Standards Most Recent QAA Subject Benchmark Statement- Politics and International Relations; and Sociology Brunel 2030 Brunel Placement Learning Policy, as published under the 'Placements' section of the Managing Higher Education Provision with Others page
19. Admission Requirements	Details of entry requirements are provided on the University's and College website. Levels of English for non-native speakers are outlined on Brunel International's language requirements pages. For admission via Brunel University London Pathway College, see the relevant Validated Programme Element Specification.
20. Other relevant information (e.g. study abroad, additional information on placements)	Exchange programmes are available under the Erasmus scheme: http://www.brunel.ac.uk/international/exchanges-and-study-abroad-programmes
21. Programme regulations not specified in Senate Regulation 2. Any departure from regulations specified in Senate Regulation 2 must be stated here and approved by Senate.	N/A
22. Further information about the programme is available from the College website.	http://www.brunel.ac.uk/cbass/politics-history-law/politics/undergraduate-programmes

23. EDUCATIONAL AIMS OF THE PROGRAMME

- To allow students to study the cognate disciplines of Politics and Sociology at Undergraduate level.
- To provide a programme that prepares graduates for both employment and further study via the development of their methodological, cognitive and transferable skills.
- To develop students' understanding of the theoretical and empirical frameworks which underpin the disciplines of Politics and Sociology
- To enable students, through a Work Placement, to develop skills and knowledge relevant to work and professional development (4 yr thick sandwich mode)

24. PROGRAMME AND INTERMEDIATE LEARNING OUTCOMES

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding (K) cognitive (thinking) skills (C) and other skills and attributes (S) in the following areas:

Level	Category (K = knowledge and understanding, C = cognitive (thinking) skills, S = other skills and attributes)	Learning Outcome	Associated Assessment Blocks Code(s)	Associated Study Blocks Code(s)	Associated Modular Blocks Code(s)
4					
	K	A knowledge and understanding of the different empirical and theoretical approaches employed in the study of			PP1600 PP1601

		politics			
	K	Knowledge and Understanding of British politics.			PP1600 PP1068
	K	Knowledge and understanding of the writings of significant political thinkers			PP1600 PP1601
	K	Knowledge of key concepts and theoretical approaches within Sociology			SO1604 SO1700
	K	Knowledge of patterns of social diversity and inequality and how they affect the lives of individuals and groups			SO1700 SO1604
	K	Knowledge of the importance of comparative inquiry			SO1602 SO1700
	C	A capacity to reflect on their own learning and intellectual development, making use of constructive feedback			PP1600 PP1601 PP1068
	C	Ability to evaluate evidence and sources			PP1600 PP1601 PP1068
	C	Ability to use different methods of sociological and political inquiry to collect and analyse data from 'real-world' settings			SO1604 SO1700
	C	Present, analyse, and critically evaluate sociological and political data and/or evidence.			SO1604 SO1700 SO1602
	S	Skills in the communication of concepts and arguments			PP1600 PP1601 PP1068
	S	An understanding of the importance of, and an ability to use, communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information			PP1600 SO1602
	S	Skills in analysis and evaluation			SO1700 SO1604
5					
	K	A knowledge and understanding of the importance of comparative enquiry and an ability to evaluate different political systems.			PP2623
	K	Knowledge of the relationship between individuals, groups and institutions			SO2604 SO2605 SO2022
	K	Knowledge and Understanding of the European Union			PP2623 PP2611
	K	Knowledge of the causes, indicators and effects of social change			SO2604 SO2605 SO2022
	K	Advanced knowledge of how theories and methods in sociology can be applied to real-world issues and problems encountered in the workplace			SO2022 SO2605
	C	Enhanced ability to evaluate evidence and data			PP2611
	C	Ability to analyse and critique data and scholarly output and theories.			All Level 5 modules
	S	Developed transferable skills in			All Level 5

		writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgement			modules
6					
	K	Advanced understanding of key political issues and concepts			All level 6 modules
	C	Advanced ability to evaluate evidence and data			PP3070/ SO3100
	C	Analytical, evaluative, and critical capacities developed to a level where independent findings are produced.			PP3070/ SO3100
	S	An ability to work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise their time and work,			PP3070/ SO3611
	S	Able to express concepts and make convincing arguments on significant political issues			All level 6 modules
	S	Ability to use, communication and information technology for the retrieval and presentation of information in sophisticated format			All level 6 modules
	S	Advanced skills in writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgement			PP3070/ SO3611

Students taking work placement (BSc/DipHE with Placement)

	K	The work environment, its structural and operational context, and the issues that shape them DipHE(4 yr thick sandwich mode, work placement).			PP2555
	C	Analyse issues of professional development encountered in an employment context from an academic perspective DipHE(4 year thick sandwich work placement).			PP2555
	S	Adapt to the demands of an employment environment.			PP2555
	S	Reflect on professional and personal development issues arising from the employment experience			PP2555

Learning/teaching strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be achieved, including formative assessments

Core knowledge and understanding of are acquired by means of lectures and other tutor-led activities, seminars, group discussion and guided independent study. The programme progresses from a predominance of compulsory assessment blocks at level I, which provide the building blocks for the work at level II, which depends knowledge of political theory, comparative politics and an ability to evaluate different political systems in compulsory assessment blocks, but allows students to choose options from a very wide range of topics. Level III draws together knowledge and understanding of both empirical and conceptual understanding in the advanced EU assessment block. Knowledge and understanding at Level III is also developed by a third of the year being spent on a dissertation on a topic chosen by the student. In 4 year thick sandwich mode, a workshop and tutorials are provided, associated with the work placement.

Cognitive skills are generally developed concurrently with knowledge and understanding. Each assessment block, however taught and assessed, entails the deployment of the full range of the skills identified, although the degree of subtlety, assurance and individuality with which each is demonstrated will inevitably increase as a learner progresses through the programme. Seminars and feedback on coursework (for which there is a standard pro-forma) provide formal mechanisms for students to reflect on their own learning and intellectual development, and make use of constructive feedback. Learning and teaching methods identified above for the 4 year work placement programme of study.

A variety of teaching methods and strategies imparts other skills and attributes. Seminars assist in the development of communication skills. The use of coursework and especially the dissertation assists with Skills in the communication of concepts and arguments, the ability to work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise time and work, and the development of transferable skills in writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgement.

Summative assessment strategies and methods to enable learning outcomes to be demonstrated

Knowledge and understanding are tested by means of a range of assessment tasks, including: written examinations; written coursework; and the dissertation. In a 4 year thick sandwich work placement, students will complete a log book of the placement and an extended critical analysis, reflecting on professional development and its connection to their academic programme of study.

The range of assessment methods utilised tests cognitive skills through a shared emphasis on approaching a task or problem via a process of individual research, analysis and interpretation. All require clear, well-evidenced argumentation, and all call upon a degree of creative thought, imagination and independence of mind, although these are most extensively tested through more complex assignments, especially the dissertation, reflecting progression on the programme. Assessment noted above for the 4 year work placement programme of study.

The skills of effective and persuasive written communication identified are fundamental to a degree in Politics, and are directly assessed in all modules. The ability to work independently, demonstrating initiative and the ability to organise time and work is, similarly, an element essential to successful performance across the programme, and is assessed through evidence of the application of an appropriate range of knowledge and skills to a given task, but is especially tested in the level III dissertation. Transferable skills in writing, discussion, analysis, and independent judgement are a feature of the more independent and autonomous thought and research that characterise work at the higher levels, but opportunities for individual choice are available throughout the programme. There is a requirement that all coursework assignments are word-processed. Skills and understanding of the functioning of the workplace are assessed in the reflective workplace report for students taking the thick sandwich degree.

25. Programme Structure, progression and award requirements

Programme structures and features: levels, assessment blocks, credit and progression and award requirements

- **Compulsory block:** one which all students registered for the award are required to take as part of their programme of study. These will be listed in the left hand column;
- **Optional block:** one which students choose from an 'option range'. These will be listed in the right hand column;
- A **core assessment** is an assessment identified within an assessment block or modular block (either compulsory or optional) which must be passed (at grade D- or better) in order to be eligible to progress and to be eligible for the final award. All core assessments must be specified on the programme specification next to the appropriate assessment or modular block:

Where students are expected to pass the block at D- or better, but not necessarily all elements, then the block itself is core.

e.g. AB3000 Project (40)

Core: Block

Where only some elements of assessments are required to be passed at D- or better, these will be identified by listing each element that is core

e.g. ABXXX1 Title (XX credits)

Core: 1 & 4

Where students are expected to pass all assessments in a block then this will be identified. By setting the assessment this way, students are also required to pass the block by default. This will be identified thus:

e.g. ABXXXX Title (XX credits)

Core: All, Block

- A **non-core assessment** does not have to be passed at grade D- or better, but must be better than a grade F, in order to progress and to be eligible for the final award.

Foundation Year

Foundation Year structures are specified in the relevant Validated Programme Element Specifications. These documents also specify the progression requirements to FHEQ Level 4.

Level 4	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credit SO1804 Culture & Society (Politics) (20 credits)	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume SO1700 Making Sense of Culture & Society (20 credits)	Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits All modular blocks are 20 credits PP1600 Research Design and Qualitative methods in Politics PP1601 Modern Political Thought PP1068 Modern British Politics SO1604 Key Ideas in Sociology SO1602 Contemporary Society & Media	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits
Level 1 Progression and Award Requirements As per Senate Regulation 2	

Level 5	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	Optional Study block codes, titles and credit volume
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits All modular blocks are 20 credits PP2623 Comparative Electoral Politics PP2611 Explaining Politics: Quantitative Political Science in Practice SO2022 Sociology of Everyday Life: Issues in contemporary culture SO2604 Visual Cultures SO2605 Apocalypse! Crisis & Society	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits All modular blocks are 20 credits 20 credits from: PP2030 US Foreign Policy from World War II to the end of the Cold War PP2061 Issues in American Politics PP2613 National Security Intelligence PP2614 Ancient Greek Political Thought: Plato's Republic and Aristotle's Politics PP2615 Unity and Cultural Diversity PP2617 Social Welfare: Politics and Policy PP2618 Political Behaviour in Britain PP2622 Climate Politics PX2607 The State and Revolution
Level 2 Progression and Award Requirements As per Senate Regulation 2	

Level 5 – Sandwich Placement	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume PP2554 Politics Pre-Placement Study Block (0 credits)	Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits PP2555 Work Placement (120 credits) Core: Block	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits

<p>Level 2 Placement Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2 For BSc Politics with Placement, PP2555 will contribute 25% of the Level 2 part of the award (or 8.3 % of the overall degree calculation).</p>

Level 6	
Compulsory assessment block codes, titles and credits	Optional assessment block codes, titles and credits
Compulsory study block codes, titles and credit volume	Optional study block codes, titles and credit volume
Compulsory modular block codes, titles and credits PP3070 Politics Dissertation (40 credits) Core: Block OR SO3611 Sociology Dissertation Core: Block	Optional modular block codes, titles and credits All modular blocks are 20 credits 40 credits from: CO3602 Comedy, the Media & Society SO3610 Racism, Identity and Difference SO3609 Digital Cultures SO3604 Global Cities: Spaces & Culture CO3603 Changing Audiences 40 credits from: PP3001 Arab-Israeli Conflict PP3003 European Union Politics: Problems and Prospects PP3068 Media, Politics and Power in America PP3604 Public Policy Analysis PP3605 Parliamentary Studies PP3618 Terrorism and Counterterrorism PP3609 Advanced Applied Quantitative Methods PP3611 Karl Marx and the Critique of Political Economy PP3612 Elections, Parties and Voters in the UK PP3614 Researching Contemporary Issues in British Politics PX3609 Crisis and Critique

<p>Level 6 Progression and Award Requirements</p> <p>As per Senate Regulation 2 For BSc Politics and Sociology with Professional Development, PP2555 will contribute 8.3% of the overall degree weighting.</p>

Please note: this specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities that are provided. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods can be found in the modular block, assessment and study block outlines and other programme and block information. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University from time to time and whenever a modification occurs.