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Programme Specification

Please note: This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes that a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if he/she passes the programme. More detailed information on the learning outcomes, content and teaching, learning and assessment methods of each module can be found in the programme handbook. The accuracy of the information contained in this specification is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

BA (Hons) in War and Conflict

1. Awarding Institution/Body	University of Kent
2. Teaching Institution	University of Kent
3. School responsible for management of the programme	Politics and International Relations
4. Teaching Site	Canterbury
5. Mode of Delivery	Full-time Part-time
6. KentVision Academic Model	<i>To be completed in due course, once approved by the University</i>
7. Programme accredited by	N/A
8. a) Final Award	BA (Hons)
b) Alternative Exit Awards	BA non-honours degree in War and Conflict (for students who successfully completed Stage 2 of the programme, achieved 300 credits overall including at least 60 credits at level 6 or above in Stage 3, and meet Credit Framework requirements.) Diploma in War and Conflict (for students who have failed Stage 3 but have successfully completed Stage 2) Certificate in War and Conflict (for students who have failed Stage 2 but have successfully completed Stage 1)
9. Programme	War and Conflict
10. UCAS Code (or other code)	L252
11. Credits/ECTS Value	360 credits (180 ECTS)
12. Study Level	Undergraduate
13. Relevant QAA subject benchmarking group(s)	Politics and International Relations
14. Date of creation/revision <i>(note that dates are necessary for version control)</i>	March 2010, Revised July 2013, Revised FSO Dec 2017, revised September 2019
15. Intended Start Date of Delivery of this Programme	September 2020

16. Educational Aims of the Programme

The programme aims to:

- Offer a thematic pathway in areas and issues relating to the study of war and conflict constructed around a progressive core based on the strong offerings in the School of Politics and International Relations in the areas of war and conflict.
- Offer a broad based approach to the study of war and conflict from the disciplines of history, anthropology, international law, sociology, political science and international relations. This will give students access to the key areas of war and conflict offered by other Schools of the University, enhancing the inter-disciplinary nature of the programme.
- Place questions of political and international order and decision-making at the centre of social-scientific analysis;
- Enable students to understand and use the concepts, approaches and methods of politics and international relations and to develop an understanding of their contested nature and the problematic character of inquiry in the discipline;
- Develop students' capacities to think critically about political and international events, ideas and institutions;
- Encourage students to relate the academic study of politics and international relations to questions of public concern;
- Provide a curriculum supported by scholarship, staff development and a research culture that promotes breadth and depth of intellectual enquiry and debate;
- Assist students to develop cognitive and transferable skills relevant to their vocational and personal development

17. Programme Outcomes

The programme provides opportunities for students to develop and demonstrate knowledge and understanding, qualities, skills and other attributes in the following areas.

The programme outcomes have references to the subject benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations [2015].

A. Knowledge and Understanding of: (SBS 4.13-4.14)

1. understand the nature and significance of war, conflict and politics as a human activities
2. apply concepts, theories and methods used in the study of politics, international relations, strategic studies, history, criminology and international law to the analysis of war and conflict
3. demonstrate knowledge and understanding of different political systems; the nature and distribution of power in them; the social, economic, historical and cultural contexts within which they operate; and the relationships between them
4. comprehend how war, conflict and politics are mediated to understand and evaluate different interpretations of political issues and events.
5. understand the political significance of multiple polities coexisting and of political boundary drawing and transforming practices
6. demonstrate a knowledge and understanding of the origins, evolution and contemporary dynamics of the international system and the challenges to it
7. place the study of war and conflict in a historical context
8. evaluate different interpretations of world political events and issues

Skills and Other Attributes

B. Intellectual Skills: (SBS 4.15)

1. Gather, organize and deploy evidence, data and information from a variety of secondary and some primary sources;
2. Identify, investigate, analyse, formulate and advocate solutions to problems;

3. Construct reasoned arguments, synthesise relevant information and exercise critical judgement
4. Reflect on, and manage, their own learning and seek to make use of constructive feedback from peers and staff to enhance their performance and personal skills
5. Manage their own learning self-critically

C. Subject-specific Skills: (SBS 4.13-4.15)

1. Understanding the nature and significance of conflict as a human and global activity;
2. Application of concepts, theories and methods used in the study of conflict, peace and security to the analysis of political ideas, institutions, practices and issues in the global arena;
3. Evaluate different interpretations of world political events and issues;
4. Describe, evaluate and apply different approaches to collecting, analysing and presenting issues in international relations.
5. Knowledge of contending and comparative approaches to theories and concepts of international relations.
6. Understanding the nature of conflict in relations between and within states.

D. Transferable Skills: (SBS 4.15)

1. Communicate effectively and fluently;
2. Use communication and information technology, including audiovisual technology, for the retrieval and presentation of information, including, where appropriate, statistical or numerical information;
3. Work independently, demonstrating initiative, self-organization and time-management; Progress through the degree programme to become mature, independent learners who can demonstrate initiative, self-organisation and time-management attributes;
4. Critically analyse and disseminate information
5. Collaborate with others to achieve common goals.

Teaching/learning and assessment methods and strategies used to enable the programme learning outcomes to be achieved and demonstrated

Teaching and Learning:

Acquisition of A1-8 is through a combination of lecture/seminars in year/level 1, and subsequently developed through compulsory foundation and elective specialist modules providing an opportunity to develop a critical engagement with political phenomena, knowledge in the discipline of Politics and International Relations, relation of the thematic nature of conflict and peace in anthropological and sociological concepts as well as in the analysis of international law through small-group seminars based on lecture topics.

Intellectual skills are developed through the teaching and learning programme outlined below. Each module, whatever the format of teaching, involves the critical reflection of key themes, verbal discussion and the written analysis and interpretation of the relevant material. Lectures and teacher-led seminars and project work promote B1-5. Students are introduced to ways in which different approaches to the study of conflict can be employed to interpret a range of international security issues. Lectures encourage a critical awareness of the key concepts associated with each approach and an appreciation of the diverse ways of interpreting them. The lectures provide students with an outline of the respective topic. Essays allow students to demonstrate sustained ability.

Subject specific skills: All students receive initial guidance on how to identify, locate and use material available in the library and online resources. Comprehensive reading lists are provided for each module at outset, as are guidelines for the production of essays. Discussion of theoretical and/or conceptual issues are integrated into all modules.

Transferable/key skills are generally incorporated within modules and related to relevant assessments as appropriate. Examples of strategies include: student and teacher-led seminars;

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self-directed learning and the use of research-based teaching materials and methods. All modules require regular written work and regular feedback on this is given to the students to help develop their power of presentation, analysis and communication. Skill D3 is learnt through the management of time to meet deadlines and in planning out projects.

Assessment: Assessed through a combination of unseen written examinations, coursework and project work, discussion of issues, formative assessment of presentations in class. Effective communication of ideas, problem solving and research skills are continually taken into account in assessing all areas of a student's work, and regular feedback and the final mark reflects this.

For more information on the skills developed by individual modules and on the specific learning outcomes associated with any Certificate, Diploma or BA/BSc non-honours awards relating to this programme of study, see the module mapping table, located at the end of this specification.

18. Programme Structures and Requirements, Levels, Modules, Credits and Awards

This programme is studied over three years full-time or six years part-time.

The programme is divided into three stages, each stage comprising modules to a total of 120 credits. Students must successfully complete each module in order to be awarded the specified number of credits for that module. One credit corresponds to approximately ten hours of 'learning time' (including all classes and all private study and research). Thus obtaining 120 credits in an academic year requires 1,200 hours of overall learning time. For further information on modules and credits refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>

Each module and programme is designed to be at a specific level. For the descriptors of each of these levels, refer to Annex 2 of the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfoannex2.html>. To be eligible for the award of an honours degree students must obtain 360 credits, at least 210 of which must be at Level 5 or above, including at least 90 credits at level 6 or above at Stage 3.

Alternative Exit Awards

Students successfully completing Stage 1 of the programme and meeting credit framework requirements who do not successfully complete Stage 2 will be eligible for the award of the Certificate in War and Conflict. Students successfully completing Stage 1 and Stage 2 of the programme and meeting Credit Framework requirements who do not successfully complete Stage 3 will be eligible for the award of the Diploma in War and Conflict. Students successfully completing Stage 2 of the programme and achieving 300 credits overall including at least 60 credits at level 6 or above in Stage 3 and meeting Credit Framework requirements will be eligible for the award of a BA non-honours degree.

For further information refer to the Credit Framework at <https://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html#exit-awards>.

Compulsory modules are core to the programme and must be taken by all students studying the programme. Optional modules provide a choice of subject areas, from which students will select a stated number of modules. The normal expectation is that the termly module load will be equally balanced across the terms.

Where a student fails a module(s) due to illness or other mitigating circumstances, such failure may be condoned, subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and provided that the student has achieved the programme learning outcomes. For further information refer to the Credit Framework at <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/credit-framework/creditinfo.html>.

Where a student fails a module(s), but has marks for such modules within 10 percentage points of the pass mark, the Board of Examiners may nevertheless award the credits for the module(s), subject to the requirements of the Credit Framework and provided that the student has achieved the programme learning outcomes. For further information refer to the Credit Framework.

KV Code	Code	Title	Level	Credits	Term(s)
Stage 1					
Compulsory Modules – 75 credits					
POLI3350	PO335	Making Sense of Politics	4	30	1
POLI3250	PO325	Introduction to Conflict Analysis and Resolution	4	15	2
POLI3340	PO334	Global Politics in Question	4	30	2

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Optional Modules –45 credits

Students must select at least **15 credits** from Level 4 Politics modules.

The remaining **30 credits** may be taken from Level 4 Politics modules, or from the available Wild modules.

Stage 2

Compulsory Modules – 75 credits

POLI6900	PO690	Contending Approaches to World Politics: Concepts and Theories	5	15	2
POLI6570	PO657	Political Research and Analysis	5	30	1
POLI6600	PO660	International Conflict and Cooperation	5	15	1
POLI6610	PO661	Fact, Evidence, Knowledge and Power	5	15	2

Optional Modules – 45 credits

Students must select at least **15 credits** from the list of Politics and International Relations modules (at suitable levels in accordance with the Credit Framework requirements).

The remaining **30 credits** may be taken from the list of Politics and International Relations modules (at suitable levels in accordance with the Credit Framework requirements), or from the available Wild modules.

Stage 3

Optional Modules – 120 credits

Students must select at least **90 credits** from Level 6 Politics modules.

The remaining **30 credits** may be taken from the list of Politics and International Relations modules (at suitable levels in accordance with the Credit Framework requirements), or from the available Wild modules.

19. Work-Based Learning

Disability Statement: Where disabled students are due to undertake a work placement as part of this programme of study, a representative of the University will be available to meet with the work placement provider in advance to ensure the provision of anticipatory and reasonable adjustments in line with legal requirements.

20. Support for Students and their Learning

- School and University induction programme
- Programme/module handbooks
- Library services www.kent.ac.uk/library/
- Student Support www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/
- Student Wellbeing www.kent.ac.uk/studentwellbeing/
- Centre for English and World Languages www.kent.ac.uk/cewl/index.html
- Student Learning Advisory Service www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/about/slas.html
- PASS system www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/ga/codes/taught/annexg.html
- Academic Adviser system www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/advisers/index.html
- Kent Union www.kentunion.co.uk/
- Careers and Employability Services www.kent.ac.uk/ces/

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- Counselling Service www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/wellbeing/student.html
- Information Services (computing and library services) www.kent.ac.uk/is/
- Undergraduate student representation at School, Faculty and Institutional levels
- International Recruitment Office www.kent.ac.uk/internationalstudent/; International Partnerships Office www.kent.ac.uk/global/partnerships/
- Medical Centre www.kent.ac.uk/studentsupport/medical-centre.html
- School Student Support Office
- School Skills Hub

21. Entry Profile

The minimum age to study a degree programme at the university is normally at least 17 years old by 20 September in the year the programme begins. There is no upper age limit.

21.1 Entry Route

For current information, please refer to the University prospectus

- A Level – BBB
- International Baccalaureate – 34 points overall or 15 points at HL

21.2 What does this programme have to offer?

- An insight into the nature and significance of conflict as a human and global activity
- A solid knowledge and understanding of the way governments play in the making of foreign and security policies.
- An excellent grounding in the interaction between different approaches to the conceptual and issue based investigation into the origins, nature and resolution of conflict and the various aspects of international security from the perspective of structural theories, strategic studies, international law, anthropological and sociological approaches.
- The study of conflict from the perspective of international law.
- An understanding of the sociological explanations of violence.
- Cosmopolitan staff and student body
- Research-informed teaching
- Solid introduction to the discipline
- Wide choice of specialised modules
- Extra-curricular learning opportunities
- A friendly campus with high student morale and dedicated teaching staff
- The vast majority of our students are successful in finding employment within the first six months of graduation or go on to further study

21.3 Personal Profile

- An interest in politics, international relations and international conflict and security issues.
- A willingness to engage in informed debate about current, and often controversial, issues
- A willingness to acquire or develop IT skills
- A commitment to develop the skills required to analyse political problems

22. Methods for Evaluating and Enhancing the Quality and Standards of Teaching and Learning

22.1 Mechanisms for review and evaluation of teaching, learning, assessment, the curriculum and outcome standards

- Student module evaluations

- Annual programme and module monitoring reports
<http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexe.html>
- External Examiners system <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexk.html>
- Periodic programme review <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/taught/annexf.html>
- Annual staff appraisal
- Peer observation
- Quality Assurance Framework <http://www.kent.ac.uk/teaching/qa/codes/index.html>
- QAA Higher Education Review <https://www.qaa.ac.uk/reviewing-higher-education/types-of-review/higher-education-review>

22.2 Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards

- Student Voice Committee
- School Education Committee
- Faculty Education Committee
- Faculty Board
- Education Board
- Board of Examiners

22.3 Mechanisms for gaining student feedback on the quality of teaching and their learning experience

- Student module evaluations
- Student Voice Committee
- Student rep system (School, Faculty and Institutional level)
- Annual NSS

22.4 Staff Development priorities include:

- PGCHE requirements
- HEA (associate) fellowship membership
- Annual appraisals
- Institutional Level Staff Development Programme
- Academic Practice Provision (PGCHE, other development opportunities)
- Professional body membership and requirements
- Programme team meetings
- Research seminars
- Conferences
- Study leave
- Equality, Diversity and Inclusivity (EDI) awareness

23. Indicators of Quality and Standards

- Results of periodic programme review (2017)
- QAA Higher Education Review 2015
- Annual External Examiner reports
- Annual programme and module monitoring reports

23.1 The following reference points were used in creating these specifications:

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- QAA Benchmarking statement for Politics and International Relations [2015]
- School and Faculty plan
- University Plan <https://www.kent.ac.uk/about/plan/> and Learning and Teaching Strategies <https://www.kent.ac.uk/uelt/strategies/lta.html>
- Staff research activities
- Kent Inclusive Practices (<https://www.kent.ac.uk/studentssupport/accessibility/inclusive-practice.html>)

24. Inclusive Programme Design

The School recognises and has embedded the expectations of current equality legislation, by ensuring that the programme is as accessible as possible by design. Additional alternative arrangements for students with Inclusive Learning Plans (ILPs)/declared disabilities will be made on an individual basis, in consultation with the relevant policies and support services.

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Module mapping table to be amended as appropriate to the programme specification. Where the programme includes many optional modules, it is acceptable to include only the compulsory modules in the table.

Programme Title: War and Conflict BA

	Stage 1								Stage 2								Stage 3							
	POXXX	PO325	POYYY		Module 5 name	Module 6 name	Module 7 name	Module 8 name	POZZZ	PO657	PO661	PO660	Module 5 name	Module 6 name	Module 7 name	Module 8 name	Module 1 name	Module 2 name	Module 3 name	Module 4 name	Module 5 name	Module 6 name	Module 7 name	Module 8 name
Programme Learning outcomes																								
Knowledge and Understanding:																								
A1	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
A2	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
A3	X	X									X	X												
A4		X	X								X	X												
A5		X	X						X			X												
A6		X	X						X			X												
A7		X	X						X			X												
A8	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
Intellectual Skills:																								
B1	X	X	X							X	X	X												
B2	X	X	X							X	X	X												
B3	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
B4	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
B5	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
Subject-specific Skills:																								
C1		X	X						X		X	X												
C2		X	X						X	X	X	X												
C3	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
C4	X	X	X							X	X	X												
C5		X	X						X		X	X												
C6		X	X						X			X												
Transferable Skills:																								

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D1	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
D2	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
D3	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
D4	X	X	X						X	X	X	X												
D5	X		X						X	X														