

## **PROGRAMME SPECIFICATION**

**1 Awarding Institution** University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

**2 Teaching Institution** University of Newcastle Upon Tyne

**3 Final Award** BA (Hons.)

**4 Programme title** Government and European Union Studies

**5 Programme Accredited by:** Not relevant

**6 UCAS Code** L241

**7 QAA Subject Benchmarking Group(s)** Politics

**8 Date of production/revision** April 2002

### **9 Programme Aims:**

- To cultivate a comprehensive, detailed knowledge of how the European Union works.
- To develop an analytical foundation for understanding the governments and politics of West European countries.
- To provide training to a high level in a Modern European Language.
- To instruct the student in the method of comparing and analysing different (European and non-European) political systems, political ideas and ideologies, policy-making processes and societies.
- To develop a thorough understanding of the skills and approaches useful for the study of politics.
- To develop a capacity to live and work in foreign, unfamiliar surroundings.
- To enhance student oral and written communication skills and to develop skills in working with individuals and groups in the UK and abroad.
- To engender the ability to undertake independent study of a politics topic.
- To enable the student to perceive the linkages between national, regional and global political and economic factors.
- To widen the student learning experience through multi-disciplinary studies.
- To meet the needs of stakeholders

### **10 (a) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes:**

Note: these learning outcomes are defined at the level of the typical graduate

#### *A Knowledge and understanding*

1. By the end of this course, students will have gained the ability to analyse the current politics of the European Union and many of its Member States. They will have formed the confidence to take these skills and independently explore in greater detail ideas and information they have learned. They will also have gained the ability to extend this analysis to other countries within Europe.

2. Students will have achieved an understanding of the complexities of the European Union and discern what impact it has on their society, economy, politics and culture.

*B Subject-specific/professional skills*

1. Students will gain some proficiency in expressing their thoughts in formal writing, oral presentations and group discussions. Students will gain a basic ability to use, for instance, spreadsheets, the Internet, library and information catalogues databases and word processing programmes.

2. Students will have gained a facility for speaking a particular European language and conducting formal and informal exchanges in that language.

*C Cognitive skills*

1. Students will have learned a set of skills and approaches necessary for the wider study of politics, such as the ability to make critical evaluation of arguments and evidence and present a reasoned and informed position.

2. In their written work and discussions, students will learn the facility for comparing aspects of different countries as well as being able to place these actors in the context of global and regional politics.

*D Key (transferable) skills*

1. Students will gain some proficiency in expressing their thoughts, planning their work and basic IT skills in the dissertation and other substantial written projects as well as oral communication.

2. Upon graduation, students will have developed the capacity to carry out independent research on a foreign country and should be able to locate data and information on the European Union, which might be useful in future careers.

3. Students will feel comfortable undertaking further language and multi-disciplinary studies.

4. Students will have learned how to live in a culture foreign to them and how to deal with new situations involving expected and unexpected challenges.

**10 (b) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes: Teaching and Learning Methods and Strategies**

**A** *Knowledge and understanding*

Core knowledge is imparted and understanding developed through lectures supplemented by handouts and sometimes by other visual media, such as videos and web sources. Seminars are used to check and improve students' understanding, to develop appreciation of issues through discussion and argument, and to enhance presentation and other oral skills. A1 and A2 are developed through compulsory modules at all three stages.

**B** *Subject-specific/professional skills*

Professional skills (B1) and their application to the study of politics are taught through lectures, seminars, workshops, exercises, and debates in skills modules at Stages 1 and 2. Student presentations and essays require effective extraction of information. The compulsory dissertation, project and simulation modules also enhance these skills in the

third stage. Compulsory language instruction in the first two years shapes students written, aural and oral skills in the foreign language (B2).

**C** *Cognitive skills*

C1 is developed throughout the curriculum and are inherent in the nature of our subject and its teaching. Students develop, evaluate and present evidence and arguments in essays, exams, projects, presentations and seminar discussion. Skills of comparing political systems are taught in a number of compulsory and optional politics modules involving lectures and seminars.

**D** *Key (transferable) skills*

Proficiency in independent research projects (D2) and ability to communicate effectively, to plan and to utilise IT in both written and oral formats (D1) is developed through the compulsory dissertation, projects and examinations while oral communication (also D1) is developed through seminars, presentations, debates and the compulsory third stage simulation. Compulsory language instruction and the year abroad enable students to feel confident about undertaking future language work and work abroad (D3 and D4).

**10 (c) Programme Intended Learning Outcomes: Assessment Strategy and Methods**

**A** *Knowledge and understanding*

- 1 EU Politics and member state politics – unseen written exams, essays, dissertation, projects
- 2 Linkage between EU system and aspects of society – unseen written exams, essays, dissertation, projects

**B** *Subject-specific/professional skills*

- 1 Communication proficiency and information sources - Presupposed in essays, projects, dissertation and other forms of assessment
- 2 Language proficiency: unseen exams and aural and oral exercises, written assessed course work

**C** *Cognitive Skills*

- 1 Wider political skills - Unseen written exams, essays, projects, compulsory dissertation
- 2 Comparative skills - Unseen written exams, essays, projects, compulsory dissertation

**D** *Key (transferable) skills*

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Written and oral communication;<br>Planning and organisation; Basic IT skills | Unseen written exams, essays, projects, presentations and dissertation  |
| 2 | Independent work  | Dissertation, project and other written coursework                      |
| 3 | Language skills   | unseen exams and aural and oral exercises, written assessed course work |
| 4 | Initiative and adaptability   | dissertation and project  |

### **11 Programme Curriculum, Structure, and Features:**

Duration: 4 years

Stages: 3

Number of credits per stage: 120

Number of credits per module: 10-40

Number of study hours per 10 credit module: 100

Requirements for progression: Satisfactory completion of each stage in accordance with University Progress Regulations

Map of learning outcomes onto curriculum: attached.

In Stage 1 students are required to take modules that will provide them with the foundation for their language study; accordingly, students have to take written, oral and aural modules in their chosen language (B2). They also are required to take modules that give them a grounding in the general study of politics as well as the European Union system, which involves a compulsory module POL 130 (A1, A2, and B1). In order to understand basic political concepts and to gain necessary skills for studying politics, students are required to take The compulsory skills module POL 120 Studying Politics I introduces the student to the concepts and techniques for studying politics (reading work with an eye to isolating key concepts, accessing information through catalogues and databases and working with computers to gain some Internet and spreadsheet skills) [B1, D1]. This module also includes training on team-work and oral assessment. Cognitive (C1, C2) and key skills (D2-D3) are developed throughout the through a compulsory Study Skills module, further reinforced by language module and optional politics modules.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>C/R/O</b>	<b>Credits</b>
POL120 Studying Politics I: Skills and Techniques	C	20
POL121 UK Government & Politics	R	20
POL122 Political Thought	O	20
POL123 Comparative Government	R	10
POL125 Territorial Politics in the UK	R	10
POL129 Political Thought: Ancient World & Middle Ages	O	20
POL130 Introduction to European Union	C	10
POL133 Introduction to International Politics	O	10
Language Modules	C	20-40

C = Compulsory

R = Part of a List of Required Modules

O = Optional

***Stage Two.***

In the Second Stage, the language modules provide further language training (B2). Through the compulsory Second Stage skills module students should be building their writing and research skills, which will enable them to undertake independent research projects. Students are also required to take POL 215 Politics and Policy of the EU and POL 216 Britain and the EU; these modules include theoretical perspectives, policy areas and relations with national governments which build upon their knowledge of the basic EU history and process (A1-A2). Again, professional (B1), cognitive (C1, C2) and key skills (D1-D3) are developed throughout the stage, and most explicitly in the compulsory Study Skills Project module.

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>C/R/O</b>	<b>Credits</b>
POL206 Political Thought: Liberalism & Conservatism	O	10
POL207 Political Thought: Socialism & Anarchism	O	10
POL208 Political Thought: Nationalism & Fascism	O	10
POL213 Electoral Behaviour	O	10
POL215 EU: Politics & Policy	C	10
POL216 Britain & the EU	C	10
POL222 Government & Politics of the USA	O	20
POL255 Environmental Politics	O	20
POL261 Politics of the Middle East	O	10
POL262 Studying Politics II: Traditions and Methods	C	20
POL263 International Politics: Global Transformations	O	10
POL264 Political Thought: Hobbes to Mill	O	20
POL265 The Politics of Sub-Saharan Africa	O	20
POL266 East Asia: Power & Culture	O	20
POL290 Learning from Work	O	10

Language Modules	C	20-30
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### ***Year Abroad***

There is no specified curriculum and assessment for the year abroad although students are required to take at least four courses and undertake the assessment for each. One of the key aims of the year abroad is for students to immerse themselves in the culture and language, and participation in the university modules and forms of assessment helps develop these skills (B2, D3-D4). The curriculum is not prescribed because host European universities differ widely in their strengths and interests (as well as what is offered from year to year), and the students should have the opportunity to sample that variety. However, students are encouraged to undertake modules that will help them expand and form new perspectives on the EU and the country they are studying in (A1 and A2); students will complete a dissertation on a Europe-related topic upon their return and undertake at least one other supervised research paper on the European Union (A1, D1-D2).

### ***Stage Three***

Students spend the first semester piecing together the research they have done for the compulsory dissertation (POL 332 Dissertation), which increases their knowledge of an aspect of European politics as well as enhancing their research, organisation, planning, writing, IT and cognitive skills (A1-A2, B1, C1, D1-D2). In the second semester students will write a project, a 4000 word research paper, on a particular problem/issue in the EU (POL 357 EU Project), which boosts their knowledge of the EU and its impact (A1-A2), as well as writing, research, planning, IT and cognitive skills (A1-A2, B1, C1, D1-D2).. Students are required to take POL 360 Politics of France and POL 361 Politics of Italy to gain specific knowledge about member state political systems (A1-A2, as well as B1, C1-C2). Finally, GEUS students are required to play in a game simulating European Union decision-making (POL 363). The simulation forces the students to use their written and verbal communication skills, group and interpersonal skills, EU and national political knowledge and ability to compare, research skills, planning skills and cognitive skills (A1-A2, B1, C1-C2 and D1-2). Other optional politics and language modules will help with professional (B1), language (B2) cognitive C1, and other research skills (D1-2).

<b>MODULE</b>	<b>C/R/O</b>	<b>Credits</b>
POL307 Project in International Politics	O	10
POL314 Project on African Politics	O	10
POL329 The Psychology of Politics	O	20

POL330 Terrorism & Counter-Terrorism	O	20
POL331 The Psychology of Decision-Making	O	20
POL332 Dissertation	C	30
POL335 Course of Directed Study	O	10
POL338 Course of Directed Study	O	10
POL341 Project on Environmental Policy	O	20
POL342 International Politics: Critical Perspectives	O	10
POL350 Contemporary Political Philosophy	O	20
POL353 Political Thought: Perspectives on International Affairs	O	10
POL354 Oil and Security in the Persian Gulf	O	10
POL355 Project Using Spreadsheets	O	10
POL356 Project on Electoral Behaviour	O	10
POL357 Project on the EU	C	10
POL358 Project on the Government & Politics of the USA	O	10
POL360 The Government & Politics of France	C	10
POL361 Government & Politics of Italy	C	10
POL362 Political Thought: Hegel & Marx	O	10
POL363 EU: Decision-Making Simulation	C	20
POL364 Third World in Global Development	O	20
POL366 Project in Contemporary Political Philosophy	O	10
POL367 Africa & the Politics of Development	O	10
POL368 Japanese Politics	O	10
POL369 Party Politics	O	20
Language modules	O	20-30

## 12 Criteria for Admission

GCSEs required: All candidates must satisfy the University's General Entrance Requirements and Matriculation Regulations at <http://www.ncl.ac.uk/calendar/>

A level subjects and grades: BBC from 18 units including two A levels, AVCE (Double Award) accepted if offered with an A level. A Grade B or above in a modern language is required at GCSE level.

Alternative Entry qualifications for candidates offering Access courses, modules in Arts and Social Sciences desirable (where graded, at Credit level).

Admissions policy

The admissions policy is based on a number of considerations:

- the applicant's predicted grades (if he or she has not yet sat her exams);
- the applicant's school reference;
- the applicant's personal testimonial; and,
- the applicant's earlier academic performance (esp his or her GCSEs or other indicators of language performance)

The decision as to whether to accept a candidate and, if so, what offer to make are based on all of these considerations.

Arrangements for non-standard entrants: We recognise that students will apply to our degree programmes with a range of qualifications. We consider each application on an individual basis, taking into account the information on the UCAS form including past academic performance and potential. We welcome applications from students with non-standard qualifications other than the ones described above, and are pleased to advise anyone interested with regard to choosing an appropriate preparatory course of study.

Any Additional Requirements: None

## 13 Support for Students and their Learning:

### *Induction*

In advance of the start of the year, the University sends new students a pack of information. The Department also sends pre-registration information to both new and returning students, including degree programme handbooks and module handbooks. The University devotes the first week of the new academic year to induction. The Department organises its own programme of meetings and events for Induction Week. The main features of the Department's Induction Week for **all students** (new and returning undergraduates) are:

- meetings of all students with their personal tutors
- student registration for the academic year
- students' selection and registration of their modules
- welcome, information and advice meetings specifically for each stage of each degree
- briefing sessions on modules



In addition, the following is provided for **new undergraduates and GEUS students in particular**:

- a Faculty Induction meeting covering such matters as the careers service, student welfare, etc
- an introduction to, and tour of, the Library
- a 'Meet the Staff' session
- a meeting with a representative of the School of Modern Languages

**Returning undergraduates** also receive

- talks on careers (including talks held shortly after Induction Week) provided by the University Careers Service
- information on the 'Students into Schools' project

#### *Study skills support*

The degree includes two required 20-credit Study Skills modules. The objective of POL 120 Studying Politics I: Skills and Techniques is to introduce students to the skills and techniques fundamental to the study of politics, including background quantitative and computer skills, qualitative techniques and critical and literary skills. POL 262 Studying Politics II: Traditions and Methods deepens students' understanding of research traditions through a focus on epistemology and methodology and provides the background and opportunity for students to conduct self-defined research.

#### *Academic support*

All teaching staff are available in office hours to discuss academic progress with students; many are also available at other times and by e-mail and telephone. The Degree Programme Director is available to discuss issues affecting progress on the degree as a whole while the personal tutor offers advice on module selection, building on the general advice offered in induction week and in the Degree Handbook. All essays are returned with both quantitative and qualitative feedback; in the first semester of Stage 1, this takes the form of individual discussion with the seminar tutor.

#### *Pastoral support*

Every Politics student is assigned for the duration of their studies to a personal tutor, who has specific responsibility for support and guidance. The personal tutor has five main functions:

- to provide advice on academic matters
- to provide advice on non-academic matters affecting the student's work or situation within the University
- to be a source of help and support
- to represent the tutee in his/her dealings with the university
- to write helpful and accurate references

All full-time members of academic teaching staff act as personal tutors. Assignment of students to personal tutors is by the Head of Department. The student has the right, stated in the Degree Handbook, to ask the Head of Department for a change of personal tutor. A network of specialised support agencies provides much of the non-academic help and advice for students, but the personal tutor often provides the initial linkage of the student to the network.

The Department emphasises that tutors must be accessible, amicable, approachable and accurate in keeping records. All tutors are required to display their office hours and contact details (e.g. email address, phone number) outside their offices. Personal tutors are also encouraged by the Department to use email and the Student Support and Tutoring (SST) system to maintain regular contact with their tutees. The tutorial absence tracking system notifies personal tutors of unexcused absences, and they are expected to chase up persistent absentees.

Students are offered appropriate opportunities for career development and support. We appoint a member of staff and a student to liaise with the Careers Service with which we have a Service Level Agreement.

#### *Support for Special Needs*

The Degree Handbook describes the support facilities available for students with special needs, including the Disability Support Service, the Student Counselling Service, the Student Advice Service, University Student Office and the International Office. Personal tutors provide a link between the student and these support facilities. All ground floor rooms in the department are accessible to wheel-chair users.

#### *Learning resources*

The Department aims to make efficient and effective use of its own resources and those of the University to provide students with a learning experience which is both appropriate to the student profile and productive in its outcomes.

The Department recognises that full-time academic staff are its most important teaching resource. The Department ensures that all degree programmes and most modules are led by specialist staff whose teaching is enhanced by research. The teaching skills of full-time academic staff are regularly refreshed through training courses.

The Department is materially well equipped to discharge its teaching tasks. All seminar rooms are equipped with OHPs, screens and whiteboards, and our lecture room has a networked PC coupled with a multi-media projector. A portable display projector has recently been purchased for use with a laptop computer in seminar rooms by students and staff.

The Department is fortunate in the excellent library and IT facilities provided by the University to support its teaching provision. We believe that the subject provision within the Robinson Library is appropriate to the requirements of the curriculum, and that a high quality library service is delivered to users. In addition, Government and European Union Studies students have access to the Language Centre for videos, tapes, instruction and other materials relevant to their language training.

## **14 Methods for evaluating and improving the quality and standards of teaching and learning**

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

- Stage questionnaires
- Module questionnaires
- Biennial course review
- Peer observation of teaching
- Internal subject review
- External Examiner reports
- Staff meetings
- Annual review of progression rates, degree classes achieved, graduate employment statistics

Committees with responsibility for monitoring and evaluating quality and standards

- Board of Studies (includes student representatives)
- Teaching and Learning Committee
- Staff Student Committee (includes student representatives)
- Employers' Forum
- Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee
- University Teaching Committee
- Examination Boards

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

- Staff Student Committee and student representation on Board of Studies
- Module and stage evaluation questionnaires

## **15 Regulation of Assessment**

### ***Assessment rules and Honours classification***

- Minimum pass mark is 40% for each module
- Most modules are assessed by a combination of unseen written examination and coursework, although projects and dissertations are 100% coursework
- Information on assessment is available in the degree programme and module handbooks
- All stage 1 and stage 2 modules must be passed before students can proceed. There are two resit opportunities
- Degree classification is based on the weighted average result for stages 2 and 3, with stage 3 results accounting for twice the weight of stage 2
- Honours marks are based on the following University scale:

Mark

Degree Class

> 70%	First
60-69%	Upper second
50-59%	Lower second
40-49%	Third
<40%	Fail

### **Role of external examiners**

The external examiners are leading members of the academic community appointed by Faculty Teaching and Learning Committee and their role is to:

- Approve assessment on modules which count for honours, including approving examination papers
- Review samples of examination scripts and coursework to check standards and assessment procedures
- Attend the Examination Boards
- Report back to the University

### **16 Indicators of Quality and Standards**

With a standard offer of BBC, the degree attracts academically strong students, a large majority of whom progress well on the course and graduate with at least an upper second-class honours. The graduates from the degree are successful in entering a wide variety of occupations; the employment rate is particularly high. Politics teaching received 23 out of 24 marks in the Quality Assurance Agency review in October 2001.

### **17 Other Sources of Information**

This specification provides a concise summary of the main features of the programme and the learning outcomes which a typical student might reasonably be expected to achieve and demonstrate if she takes full advantage of the learning opportunities provided. More detailed information can be found in the degree programme handbook and in module documentation. The accuracy of the information contained in this document is reviewed by the University and may be checked by the Quality Assurance Agency for Higher Education.

### **Key information about the programme can be found in:**

- Degree Programme Handbook
- The Module Handbooks
- The Regulations of the University of Newcastle Upon Tyne
- The University's Undergraduate Prospectus and departmental brochure
- Subject Review Report (April 1998, follow-up December 1999)
- The Department's website ([www.ncl.ac.uk/politics](http://www.ncl.ac.uk/politics))

## MAP OF LEARNING OUTCOMES ONTO CURRICULUM

This table explains how the learning/knowledge outcomes of the Government and European Union Studies Degree relate to the intended outcomes of the individual modules that are required for this programme. The table distinguishes between each stage. The compulsory modules are in **bold**. Those modules in the first stage where students have a limited choice in order to fit their language requirements are indicated by an asterix (\*).

<i>Learning/Knowledge Outcome</i>	<i>Stage 1 Modules</i>	<i>Stage 2 Modules</i>	<i>Stage 3 Modules</i>
<b>Knowledge and understanding of government and politics of the EU and at least 3 member states:</b>			
<b>European Union</b>	<b>POL 130</b>	<b>POL 215</b> <b>POL 216</b>	<b>POL 357</b> <b>POL 363</b>
<b>The UK</b>	<b>POL 121*</b> <b>POL 125*</b>	<b>POL 216</b>	
<i>France</i>			<b>POL 360</b>
<i>Germany</i>	POL 123*		
<i>Italy</i>			<b>POL 361</b>
<b>Knowledge of self selected specialisms within the discipline:</b>			
<i>Political Systems Pathway</i>		POL 222, POL 261 POL 265, POL 266	POL 368, POL 364 POL 314, POL 358
<i>International Politics Pathway</i>	POL 133	POL 263, POL 255 POL 261, POL 265	POL 342, POL 353 POL 330, POL 354 POL 364, POL 367 POL 307, POL 355 POL 314, POL 341
<i>Political Thought Pathway</i>	POL 122, POL 129	POL 264, POL 206 POL 207, POL 208 POL 266	POL 350, POL 353 POL 362, POL 366
<b>A range of cognitive and other skills:</b>			

<b>Cognitive</b>	All compulsory and optional modules	All compulsory and optional modules	All compulsory and optional modules
<b><i>Written and oral communication</i></b>	<b>POL 120</b> POL 121* POL 123* POL 125*  <b>POL 130</b>	<b>POL 262</b>  <b>POL 215</b>  <b>POL 216</b>	<b>POL 360</b> <b>POL 361</b> <b>POL 363</b>
<b>Planning</b>	POL 120	<b>POL 262</b>	<b>POL 332</b> <b>POL 357</b> <b>POL 363</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>POL 120</b>	<b>POL 262</b>	<b>POL 332</b> <b>POL 357</b> <b>POL 363</b>
<b>Problem solving</b>	<b>POL 120</b>	<b>POL 262</b>	<b>POL 363</b>
<i>Small research exercise</i>		<b>POL 262</b>	<b>POL 357</b> <b>POL 363</b>  <b>POL 332</b>
Knowledge of a modern foreign language:	<b>Compulsory language modules in French, Spanish, German and Portuguese</b>	<b>Compulsory language modules in French, Spanish, German and Portuguese</b>	optional

# BA HONS GOVERNMENT AND EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

## Standards Template

Names	3	2ii	2i	1
Make an contribution				Clear capacity to n and discerning use material, which m independent contr subject
the e e			Shows <i>very good</i> knowledge of the European Union system and has the very good foundation for understanding the politics of West European countries, <i>beyond the taught programme</i>	Shows <i>significant</i> European Union s excellent foundati understanding the European countries <i>taught programme</i>
other gramme		Show <i>good</i> knowledge and understanding of other aspects of politics and a <i>basic facility</i> to express and comprehend a Modern European language, as taught	Show <i>very good</i> knowledge and understanding of other aspects of politics and a <i>good proficiency</i> to express and comprehend a Modern European language, as taught	Show <i>excellent</i> kn aspects of politics <i>proficiency</i> to exp comprehend a Mo language, as taught
the	Shows <i>basic</i> knowledge and understanding of the European Union system and has the <i>basic</i> foundation to understand the politics of West European countries, and of more specialised areas, as taught	Shows <i>good</i> knowledge and understanding of the European Union system and has the <i>good</i> foundation to understand the politics of West European countries, and of more specialised areas, as taught	Shows <i>very good</i> knowledge and understanding of the European Union system and has the <i>very good</i> foundation to understand the politics of West European countries, and of more specialised areas, as taught	Shows <i>excellent</i> k understanding of the system and has the foundation to unde of West European more specialised a
ognitive s	Shows <i>basic</i> ability to develop, evaluate and present evidence and arguments	Shows <i>good</i> ability to develop, evaluate and present evidence and arguments	Shows <i>very good</i> ability to develop, evaluate and present evidence and arguments	Shows <i>excellent</i> a evaluate and prese arguments
ices and heir	<i>Basic</i> use of a wide range of information services; and a basic achievement in language skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading a modern European language.	<i>Good</i> use of a wide range of information services and facility in learning a foreign language, and a substantial achievement in language skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading a modern European language.	<i>Very good</i> use of a wide range of information sources and facility in learning a foreign language, and proficient level of achievement in language skills of speaking, writing, listening and reading a modern European language.	<i>Excellent</i> use of a information source learning a foreign highly proficient l achievement in lan speaking, writing, reading a modern language.

## Statement of Standards – BA GOVERNMENT AND EUROPEAN UNION STUDIES

**First Class** graduates will have an *excellent* knowledge and understanding of the essentials of the European Union system and have the excellent foundation for understanding the politics of West European countries, as well as other aspects of the political discipline. They will have shown knowledge and understanding of these topics beyond what is taught and will be able to adopt a critical stance, making perceptive and discriminating judgements of good depth of material. They will have excellent abilities to interpret information and discriminate between the relevant and the irrelevant and have shown a capacity for original thought.

**Upper Second Class** graduates will have a *very good* knowledge and understanding of the essentials of the European Union system and have an excellent foundation for understanding the politics of West European countries, as well as other aspects of the political discipline. They will have shown knowledge and understanding of these topics beyond what is taught and will be able to provide well-organised, detailed and coherent accounts within these areas, showing discrimination between relevant and irrelevant materials.

**Lower Second Class** graduates will have a *good* knowledge and understanding of the essentials of the European Union system and have an excellent foundation for understanding the politics of West European countries, as well as other aspects of the political discipline. They will be able to use information to provide competent and relevant accounts of topics within these areas and they will be able to discriminate between relevant and irrelevant materials.

**Third Class** graduates will have a *basic* knowledge and understanding of the essentials of the European Union system and have the excellent foundation for understanding the politics of West European countries, as well as other aspects of the political discipline. They will be able to provide accounts of topics in these areas and will show a basic ability to discriminate between relevant and irrelevant material.

**All Honours** graduates in Government and European union Studies will have gained a range of key skills including written and oral communication, planning and organisation, basic IT skills and initiative and adaptability. In addition, they will have experience both of working independently and as members of a team and they will have taken some responsibility for their own learning and intellectual development. Finally, they will have made considerable effort to learn a modern European language+.